

Patron Her Majesty The Queen

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The
British
Horse
Society

Bringing Horses and People Together

High Peak Borough Council
Buxton Town Hall,
Market Place,
Buxton,
Derbyshire,
SK17 6EL

23 November 2022

Dear High Peak Borough Council Planning

Ref: HPK/2022/0456

The response below is from the British Horse Society however our volunteers in the county may also respond at a local level.

The British Horse Society is the UK's largest equestrian Charity, representing the UK's 3 million horse riders. Nationally equestrians have just 22% of the rights of way network. Developments present challenges and opportunities for equestrians: this development proposal could be instrumental in providing a vital link for the Pennine Bridleway, a national trail and promoted route inclusive of horse riders, cyclists, pedestrians, mobility scooter and wheelchair users. The NPPF para 100 states: "Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails" therefore the potential route of the Pennine Bridleway is to the developer's advantage here.

DEFRA has recorded a population of 768 horses just in the immediate SK13 postcode area (2021) and of course the Peak District welcomes 13 million visitors annually which includes all user groups with 'taking your horse on holiday' an increasingly popular activity. The equestrian industry generates £4.7 billion of consumer spending: £5,548 per horse (BETA, 2019) is contributed to the economy benefitting local economies where equestrian activities thrive.

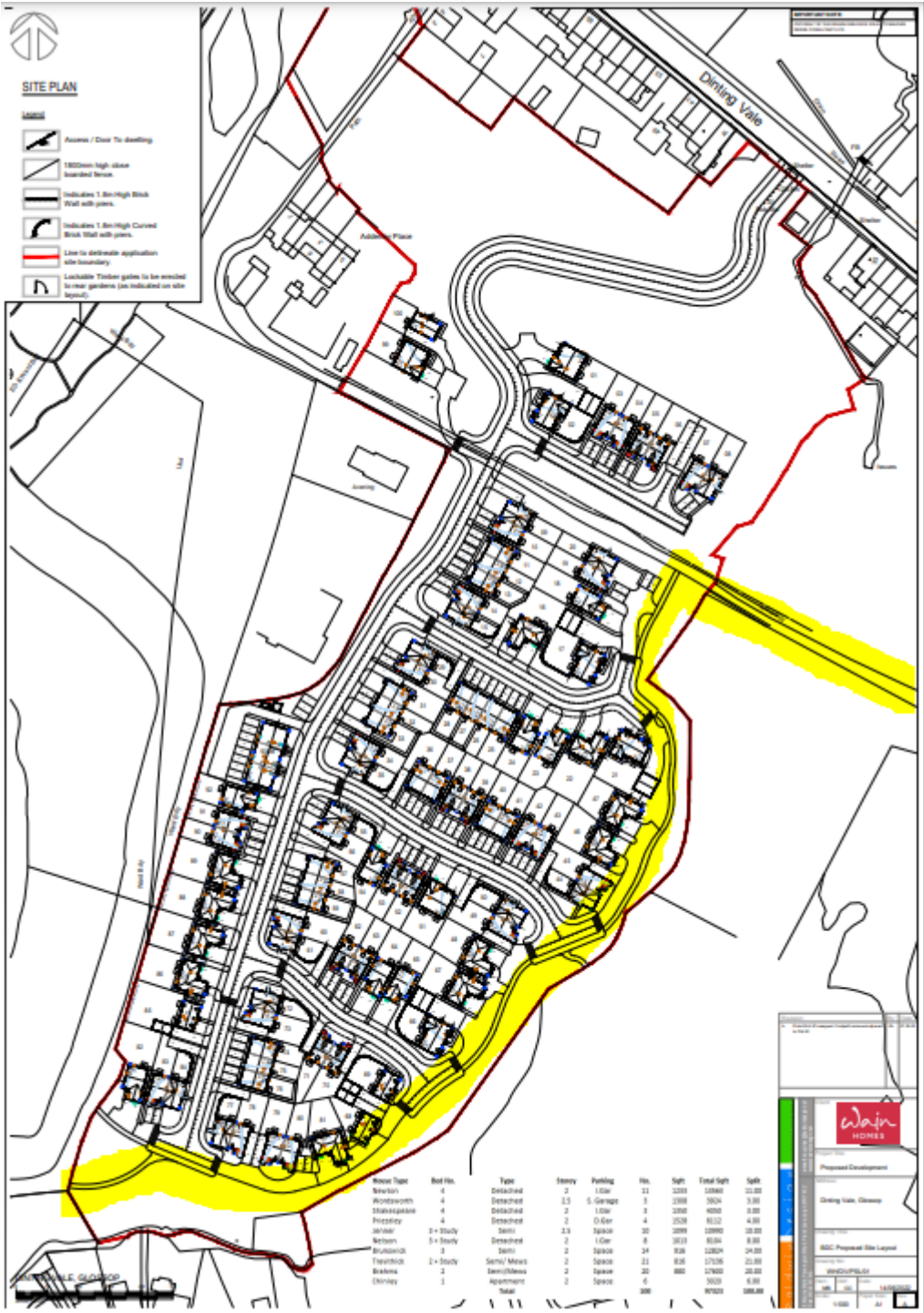
The Transport Assessment mentions the LCWIP and how the development will contribute to this, however active travel includes equestrians. Jesse Norman in House of Commons debate on Road Safety, 5 November 2018: "We should be clear that the cycling and walking strategy may have that name but is absolutely targeted at vulnerable road users, including horse-riders". The lengths of the NCN managed by Sustrans, mentioned in the Travel Plan, include equestrians as there is a *Paths for Everyone* commitment. Therefore, this development could realise the aspiration to join the Pennine Bridleway through Glossop, which, since it opened in 2012, has been missing from the 205 miles of the long distance trail.

In 2021, reported road incidents involving horses and riders/handlers in Derbyshire rose from 24 the previous year to 73. The Transport Assessment highlights the importance of 'safe access' for cyclist and pedestrians however, as vulnerable road users, it follows that equestrians could expect to share safe routes also. The highlighted area in the copy of the Site Layout plan below shows the route that would be most appropriate to

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help link the Pennine Bridleway, avoiding the increasingly busy roads. This request has been shared with local
bridleways groups, the Trans Pennine Trail Officer and the Derbyshire County Council Pennine Bridleway Officer



Wendy Bannerman
Access Field Officer East and West Midlands
British Horse Society