

TAUNTON DEANE BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

Restoring and extending routes across the Taunton Deane area of Somerset

Useful Links

Our website: <https://tauntondeanebridlewaysassociation.weebly.com/>

Email:
tdbridlewaysa2021@outlook.co.uk

Our facebook page: "Taunton Deane Bridleway Association"

The committee can be contacted by Facebook messenger

Report a horse related incident: Use the BHS Horsei app or this link <https://www.bhs.org.uk/our-work/safety/report-an-incident>

No BHS membership required

Join us: <https://tauntondeanebridlewaysassociation.weebly.com/sign-up.html>

Reporting a concern

TDBA is a small group of volunteers and need the help of all members and riders to improve bridleways.

You can contact the committee directly on Facebook messenger and Somerset County council's access officers on this link:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-with-a-public-right-of-way/>

From the Chair

Well, it's been a strange period for us all with only a few months in the summer when we could do anything and even that was beset by covid restraints and conditions.



With the continued uncertainty about meetings, the Committee have decided to hold the AGM by Zoom and bring it forward to Monday 29th November.

All members are welcome to join us via Zoom - please use Facebook Messenger to confirm your attendance.

A key part of the AGM will be reviewing the subscription cost and nominating new officers.

The present officers are:
Chairman Ann Finn; Membership Tina Beattie;
Treasurer Karen Langford (Karen wishes to resign due to family commitments), Dominique Ricci, Lucy Squire and Ali Wallace.

Kate Hooper, Mandy Hartley and Christine Nichol have also resigned due to altered circumstances. These ladies have all done a lot for TDBA and we owe them all a huge thank you.

So we now have vacancies on the committee and I'd be pleased to receive any offers to join us. We are particularly looking for people in the Quantock and Wellington area to support with bridleway cover.

At our last committee meeting we discussed our subscription which has remained the same for many years although our costs have gone up considerably. Affiliation to the BHS has increased from £40 to £100 which includes insurance for our events. There are fees for research into evidence for DMMOs too and costs associated with running our Pleasure Ride. **These costs enable us to raise and spend money on grants for improvements and maintenance to bridleways in Taunton Deane.**

We would like to raise the subs to £10 a year from January



BHS - DOBBIN Initiative

A key BHS initiative this year has been their DOBBIN webpages. With the fast approach of the 2026 deadline for DMMOs based on historic evidence, this new tool helps a lot with collection of historic evidence and its presentation as a DMMO. They are doing online training days in its use which are very useful. If you ride any unrecorded routes you should try to get them on the Dobbin map. They may already be there, in which case you can see what research has already been done and add to it yourself. The association would like to thank the Heritage centre in Taunton. The staff are very helpful. Please also contact the association for help.

Up and coming BHS training days can be found here:

<https://www.bhs.org.uk/enjoy-riding/events-and-competitions/results?cat=Access+Training>

2022, which is in line with other bridledways associations, with discounts proposed for BHS and BRC members.

We would love current members to join us to share their view. You can also offer proposals for the agenda via Facebook messenger.

Thanks to our committee member Domini we now have a new website <https://tauntondeanebridlewaysassociation.weebly.com/> We will aim to keep this updated regularly.

We have included links in this newsletter to help you to report bridleway issues and concerns. My team are a small group of volunteers and will always try to help. However, if there is anything you can do locally to help with obstructions this is always valued and the committee can offer guidance.

I hope you enjoy reading some of the progress we have made in the following pages.

Happy and safe riding into the Autumn.

Ann Finn

Chair



Bridleway BW 30/30, Quantocks.

This bridleway has been damaged by 4x4 vehicles. The work is complete but the planned bollards to stop illegal 4x4 access could not be installed as the landowner objected to this.

Another Quantock problem is a lost bridleway near to Broomfield. It on the definitive map but there is no sign of it the ground. We are touch with the warden about this one.

Southey Moor Bridleway

To the south of Taunton Deane is the Southey moor bridleway which we put up for restoration. The work involved restoring a way across a very boggy stretch of moor and improving some dangerous muddy sections. The warden reported that the work had been completed, but our local member Elaine says it is still unfit to ride. When the lockdown is lifted and Elaine is fit enough we plan to walk it and assess what still needs to be done.

West Lane and Rodwell Lane, North Curry

We have had some clearance and repairs done to West Lane, North Curry, which we restored a couple of years ago. Another route in North Curry, Rodwell lane needed some clearance of fallen trees, for which we contacted the landowner. More work is needed at the entrance to Rodwell Lane as the ground is very rutted by rainwater runoff and possibly motorbikes. We hope to be able improve this along with replacing the gate latches.

Dairy Lane, Bickenhall

Problems were reported on Dairyhouse Lane , Bickenhall where a notice forbidding access to horse riders was put up. Riders continued to use it and provided the association evidence of 25 years continuous use. The association asked two supportive adjoining landowners to dedicate the track as a bridleway. This is currently underway.

The Herepath closure at Bickenhall continues to be problem but the Rights of Way office is still negotiating with Forest England . We have the backing of the Somerset Local Access Forum on this.

Section of Herepath, Netherclay Lane.

Ann is preparing a Dmmo for a section of the Herepath opposite Netherclay Lane. It was bought from the Crown Estate by Taylor Wimpey for ultimate development and they promptly posted notices saying that no right of way was accepted on it. As it is an old road and a definitive footpath I am using the DOBBIN site to do the DMMO. Local riders are encouraged to continue to use this bridleway as much as is practicable.

The SLAF are concerned about the lack of consideration of Rights of Way improvements when Planning Applications for large scale developments are submitted. As a statutory body, it should be consulted and this is not happening so we need to watch out for these applications and make recommendations to the Planning department.

Section of Herepath, Orchard Portman.

A series of works have been undertaken with our local access officer to ensure that the bridleway remains in good repair. This has included increased signage, removal of multiple obstructions and the repair of a significant and dangerous hole.

Bridleways Association Chair Ann has also met with a local mountain biking association to improve warning signage, alter a biking run and develop a social media campaign.

Members are encouraged for horse and rider to wear hi-viz on and off road to support others in passing horses well, such as cyclists and bikers. Consider politely communicating your needs to others to help them pass you safely.

Forestry England (National)

Forest England do not include horse riding in the Forest Activities section of their advertising . Along with other Access groups, Ann has written to them about this and raised it on SLAF. Their website shows how people use the Forests but again horse riding is not mentioned. If you ride in a local woodland or forest , **write to them and ask why your area is not shown . Neroche, King's Cliff, and Quantock are our local forest areas.** <https://www.forestryengland.uk/managing-people>. They need to be aware of the number of riders who use the forests. We must tell them.

A358 Impact

Another development which will affect bridleways is the upgrading of the A358.

The route has been finalised and we have attended many Zoom meetings about it. A consultation is underway currently to gauge opinion on the plans. Part of the plan which affects riders is the intention to build part of the new carriage way on the route of an existing bridleway. It's been assured that the bridleway will be replaced but so far, there is no suggestion where the new track will be. The bridleway groups are pushing hard for all off-road routes to be multi-user with a surface suitable for horses

Dillington Fun Ride

The BHS have brought in new Health and Safety procedures, as well as covid protocols, which affect all events run using their insurance. This was enough to prevent a ride taking place in 2020.

However in 2021, more than 40 riders, children and adults, came to Dillington Park to enjoy our Ride in perfect riding weather.

It was good to see so many youngsters being lead or accompanied by Mums and dads on foot or on bikes, enjoying their first organised Ride out in the beautiful Dillington countryside.

It was a first experience for some of the adults too, who set off nervously but came back elated that they had done the Ride. I'm sure many of us remember that sense of achievement!

It was a great success due, not least, to the efforts of TDBA committee members and their families, members of South Somerset Bridleways Association who helped set up the route, and the Rights of Way department, who cut back the overgrowth on part of the route, and staff of Dillington Estate who also made sure the route was clear of both overgrowth and animals.

Bridleway Committee Members

Our committee members cover areas of Taunton Deane.

Ann Finn - Chairman. Stoke St Gregory.

Karen Langford - Treasurer. North Curry.

Tina Beattie - Membership & Facebook .
Stoke St Mary & Neroche Herepath.

Dominique De Moulin Ricci - Website.
North Curry

Ali Wallace - Netherclay and Neroche
Herepath
Lucy Squire - Netherclay and Neroche
Herepath.