3354782

Emma Mahon

[redacted]



1 October 2026

To: Gloucestershire County Council / Relevant Rights of Way Officer

Objection to Proposed Footpath Through Livery Yard and Farm Yard

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally object to the proposal to create a public footpath/access route through the livery yard and farm yard.

I understand that an alternative route already exists through the area, and I believe that allowing members of the public to walk directly through the livery and farm yard would create unnecessary and potentially significant safety risks for both members of the public and the horses kept on the premises.

A working livery yard is not comparable to an ordinary public footpath. Horses are large, powerful and, by their nature, **unpredictable prey animals**. Even horses that are normally calm can react suddenly to unfamiliar people, children, dogs, bicycles, unusual noises or unexpected movements. A frightened horse can cause serious injury to a person or another animal, even without intending to do so.

The proposed route would therefore put members of the public in close proximity to horses and normal livery-yard activities. This creates the potential for an incident involving a horse becoming frightened, escaping, kicking, striking out or otherwise reacting unpredictably. It could also put the horses themselves at risk of injury or distress.

There are also practical concerns about people using the route while horses are being handled, moved, brought in from fields, turned out, loaded, exercised or otherwise cared for. These activities cannot always be stopped simply because a member of the public is approaching the yard.

Security concerns

There are also significant security concerns associated with creating public access directly through the livery yard. The yard contains horses' tack, riding equipment, feed, rugs and other valuable personal property belonging to individual horse owners.

Introducing unrestricted public access through the yard would increase the number of unknown people passing directly through an area where these belongings are stored and accessed. It could make it considerably more difficult for owners and yard staff to monitor who is on the premises and could increase the risk of theft, loss or interference with horses, tack and equipment.

Horse owners should be able to reasonably expect a livery yard to remain a controlled environment, both for the security and welfare of their animals and for the protection of their personal property.

I am therefore particularly concerned about the welfare, safety and security of **the public, the horses and the property kept on the premises**.

In particular, I ask the Council to consider:

- The existing alternative route already available to pedestrians.
- The number and type of horses using the livery yard.
- The unpredictable nature of horses and the potential consequences of a horse being startled.
- The proximity of pedestrians to horses and yard activities.
- The potential presence of children, dogs and other factors that may cause horses to react.
- The movement of horses through the yard and the need for staff and owners to carry out normal yard activities safely.
- The welfare of the horses as well as the safety of members of the public.
- The security of horses, tack, equipment, feed and other personal property kept within the yard.
- The difficulty of monitoring unknown members of the public passing through an operational livery yard.
- The potential consequences should an incident occur.
- Whether creating a public right of way through an operational livery yard is necessary when an alternative route is already available.

I believe that public access should not be introduced through an area where there are foreseeable risks associated with horses, security and normal agricultural/equestrian activity, particularly where those risks could be avoided by retaining or using an alternative route.

I therefore respectfully request that the proposal to route a public footpath through the livery yard and farm yard is **not approved**, and that the existing alternative route is retained as the safer and more appropriate option.

I would be grateful if this objection could be formally recorded and taken into consideration when the proposal is determined.

Yours faithfully,



Sue Higgins

[redacted]

1 October 2026

To: Gloucestershire County Council / Relevant Rights of Way Officer

Re: Objection to Proposed Footpath Through Livery and Farm Yard

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to register my objection to the proposal for a new public footpath through the livery and farm yard.

My daughter keeps a horse at the yard, and I am there most weeks to see her and help out, so I know the place well from the inside, not just as someone passing by.

What strikes me every time I visit is how much is going on in that yard at any given moment: horses being led out, tacked up, loaded onto trailers, turned out into the paddocks, or simply standing tied up having their feet done. None of that is predictable from the outside, and a horse in the middle of a task does not stop just because someone walks past with a dog or a pushchair.

I would be genuinely worried for anyone using a footpath through there, especially families with small children or dog walkers. Horses can startle at things people would not think twice about, and when they do, the consequences can be serious, both for the person and for the horse.

There is also a practical side to this that is easy to overlook. The yard holds valuable tack, feed, rugs and equipment, as well as other people's horses. Having members of the public walk straight through on a regular basis would make it far harder for anyone to know who is meant to be there and who is not.

I understand that an alternative route already exists around the site. I cannot see what is gained by sending a path directly through a working yard when that option is available, and I would ask the Council to retain the existing route rather than create a risk that does not need to exist.

I would be grateful if my objection could be recorded as part of the consultation.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

