

APPLICANT RESPONSE TO BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY

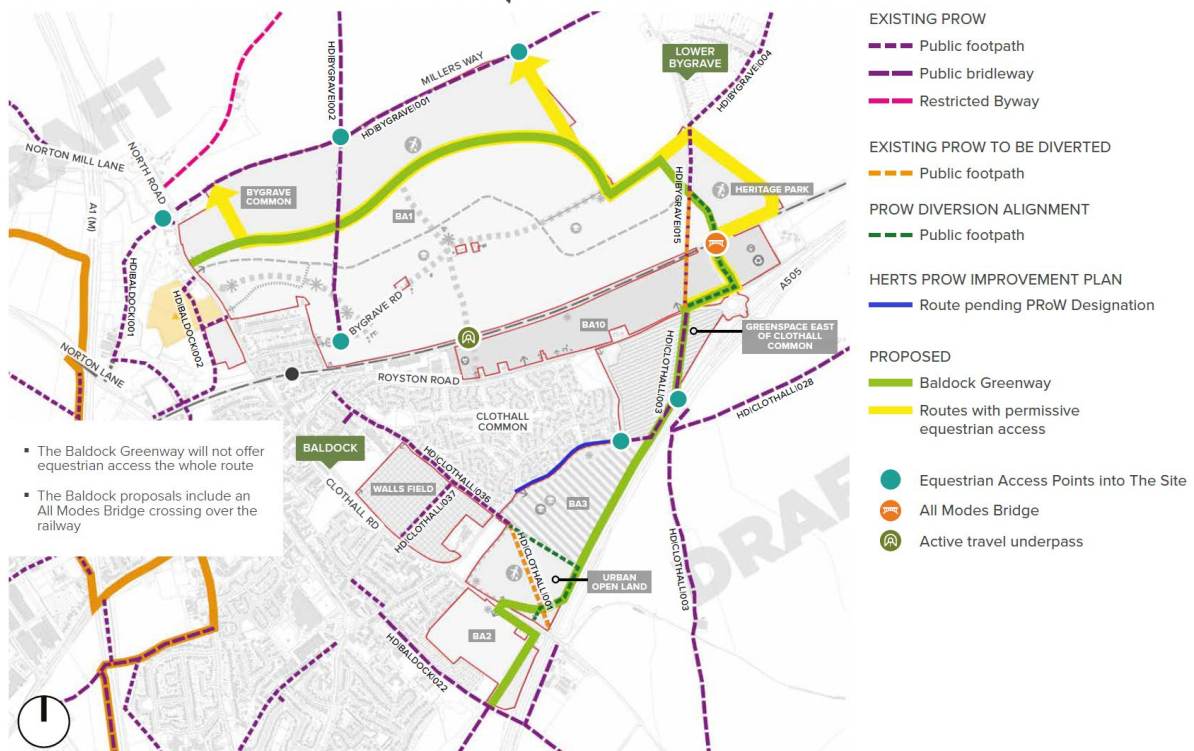
Thank you for your detailed and constructive comments on the Baldock Strategic Sustainable Extension. We recognise the strategic importance of Baldock within the wider Rights of Way network and appreciate the time you have taken to outline opportunities to improve off-road access for equestrians and other vulnerable road users.

The Outline Planning Application (OPA) **Parameter Plans and Development Specification** already secure a proportionate level of equestrian access as part of the site-wide Green Infrastructure and movement strategy. This includes:

- **The Baldock Greenway**, a new multi-user route designed to accommodate walkers, cyclists and equestrians, providing safe, off-road east-west connectivity across the allocation.
- **A new multi-modal bridge across the railway line**, which will deliver a step-change in permeability and create a direct connection between bridleway networks north and south of the railway.
- **Enhancements to existing PRow**, including improved surfacing, legibility and landscape setting, ensuring that current bridleways and footpaths are retained and strengthened.

These measures represent a significant uplift in off-road access for equestrians and other vulnerable road users, and they form part of the embedded mitigation within the OPA. This is demonstrated in the plan below which indicates the additional equestrian access proposed.

BALDOCK PERMISSIVE EQUESTRIAN ROUTES



We acknowledge the British Horse Society's wider set of requests relating to off-site upgrades, status changes and new connections beyond the Baldock Strategic Sustainable Extension boundary. While these proposals highlight genuine opportunities to strengthen the regional equestrian network, they fall outside the remit of the Outline Planning Application and the obligations that can reasonably be placed on the applicant. These off-site interventions — including upgrades within Ivel Springs, changes to Norton Road, A507/A505 crossing solutions, and bridleway status alterations across the wider Baldock–Letchworth–Clothall network — are matters

that must be considered by North Hertfordshire Council, Hertfordshire County Council (as the Highway and Rights of Way Authority), and through the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP). We will ensure that these requests are formally brought to their attention so they can be assessed strategically alongside county-wide access priorities and future funding mechanisms.

We welcome continued engagement with the British Horse Society as the project progresses, including in relation to the BA1 Design Code.