

Strategic Planning and Projects Group
North Herts District Council
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Sunday 03 May 2026

Please Reply to:

The Old Ram and Hurdle
Luffenhall
Walkern
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG2 7PX

**Re: Ickleford 230 Dwellings SG5 3RS North Herts District Council Ref:
26/00558/HYA**

Dear Paul Chaston,

According to the figure available from the DEFRA National Equestrian Passport Agency, there are 620 horses kept within the immediate area of this proposed development.

Equestrians are classified by the Department of Transport as vulnerable road users, together with cyclists and walkers.

Many of the local roads are used by Equestrians to exercise their horses, and most of these roads have a national speed limit of 60 m.p.h.

This development will result in increased vehicular use of the local roads and increase the danger to horse riders.

I refer to the following two national policies and the Highway Code:

NPPF (Section 100 includes Equestrians)

This is government policy to inform locally prepared plans for housing and other development. Its purpose is to inform the policies that go into local planning authority-developed local plans, and subsequently, it is a material consideration in the planning process.

"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".

Rights of Way Improvement Plan

It is a statutory requirement for local authorities to have a Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Patron His Majesty The King

Bringing Horses
and People Together

The British Horse Society

Abbey Park,
Stareton,
Kenilworth,
Warwickshire CV8 2XZ

Email enquiry@bhs.org.uk

Website www.bhs.org.uk

Tel 02476 840500

Fax 02476 840501

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Highway Code

Section 215 of the Highway Code 2022 Edition Page 85 states, *"Be particularly careful of horse riders and horse-drawn vehicles, especially when approaching, overtaking, passing or moving away. Always pass wide and slowly. When you see a horse on a road, you should slow down to a maximum of 10 mph. Be patient, do not sound your horn or rev your engine. When safe to do so, pass wide and slow, allowing at least 2 metres of space. Horse riders are often children, so take extra care and remember riders may ride in double file when escorting a young or inexperienced horse or rider. Look out for horse riders' and horse drivers' signals and heed a request to slow down or stop. Take great care and treat all horses as a potential hazard; they can be unpredictable despite the efforts of their rider/driver. Remember, there are three brains at work when you pass a horse: the rider's, the driver's, and the horse's. Do not forget that horses are flight animals and can move incredibly quickly if startled."*

We would like to see Horse Rider Warning Signs along the Bedford Road A600 between Hollwellbury and the Hitchin Hill Roundabout, as well as traffic calming along it, such as a 20 MPH speed limit enforced by speed cameras and average speed cameras.

We approve and applaud the developers' inclusion of a new spur Bridleway off Ickleford 006 Bridleway to exit opposite Ickleford 005 Bridleway on the Bedford Road, and also a Signalled Pegasus Crossing situated on the Bedford Road between the two Bridleways.

However, it is important that the new spur Bridleway is recorded as a Bridleway on the Definitive Map and that both the new Bridleway and Pegasus Crossing are included within a legally enforceable s106/CIL Agreement.

We would also like to see a signalled Pegasus Crossing on the Bedford Road A600 between Holwell 005 Bridleway and Ickleford 004 Bridleway, with a realignment of either of/or both of the Bridleways to allow a straight crossing across the Bedford Road A600.

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In addition, the section of the Ickleford 006 Bridleway which passes through the development site must be secured on both sides with wooden posts and three-rail fencing with Equi-fencing attached to it so that Equestrians can safely continue to use the Bridleway during the development stage and after completion of it. If any temporary closures are to be made to the bridleway, then an alternative path must be provided.

The new Bridleway must be constructed in accordance with the specifications of the Hertfordshire County Council Rights of Way Department and the British Horse Society.

Contractors must be made aware that horse riders use the bridleway and must ensure that horse riders can continue to use it safely at all times.

We would also refer you to the Rights of Way improvement Plan, specifically to the upgrading of Pirton 006, (Holwell 013 11/149 11/150 11/356 11/356), upgrading of Pirton 005 (11/151 11/129) and (11/359 11/360 11/361) to that of Bridleway Status

If you require any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Peter J Natt BHS Access and Road Safety Officer - Hertfordshire

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