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Bringing Horses
and People Together

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The
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Date: 22nd August 2026

► **Naomi Reynard Planning Officer**

North Herts District Council
North Herts Council
Council Offices
Gernon Road
Letchworth Garden City
SG6 3JF

Dear Ms Reynard

Response to 25/03080/HYA, GA2 Land North-east of Great Ashby, Stevenage

My name is Brian Worrell, and I'm making a further comment on behalf of the British Horse Society, the UK's largest equestrian charity with over 125,000 members and representing 3.2 million horse riders and horse carriage drivers nationwide and contributes over £9 billion per year to the UK economy.

BHS Herts continues to **object** to this application for the following reasons:

1. None of our previous submissions have been addressed, particularly since equestrians are not included once. This is a significant omission in an area that has a large number of active equestrians. Larger livery and stable yards include Dane End Farm, Tilekiln Farm, Chesfield Equestrian Centre, Bennington Lordship Farm, Lords Farm, Walkern Livery Stables and Westonbury Livery Stables with a combined total of over 190 horses, all using the prowl network in and around this site. There are also a significant number of smaller and individual stables. The number of horses registered by DEFRA Equine Passport Service in the post code area of this development is over 1300.
2. Existing bridleways that are planned to be used by walkers and cyclists make no reference to the HCC document Non-Motorised Routes: A Design Guide which identifies specific requirements for multi-user paths. It is vital that these guidelines are implemented such that all users have the recommended surfaces.

3. Once again, it appears that the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) has not been consulted, a statutory requirement, as none of the improvements have been included. These improvements have been expressly outlined to improve the public rights of way network and remove gaps and anomalies. These are required by the NPPF, either the 2024 approved version Section 105, Page 30, or the December 2025 draft Section TR8, Page 72. Hence opportunities for s106 or CIL funding are being missed.
4. Specifically, the RoWIP includes the following:
 - (a) Footpath Weston 029, RoWIP 4/263 requests an upgrade to bridleway
 - (b) Footpath Weston 044, RoWIP 4/94 and 4/95 requests an upgrade to bridleway
 - (c) Footpath Weston 027, RoWIP 4/194 requests an upgrade to bridleway
 - (d) Footpath Weston 026, RoWIP 4/262 requests an upgrade to bridleway

Until these matters are resolved, the BHS Herts **object** to this planning application. I am willing to meet with the planners and applicants if it will assist in this resolution.

I would appreciate a response to this submission, even if only an acknowledgement that it has been considered. Thank you.

Brian Worrell
BHS Herts Access
22 August 2026

Yours sincerely



Brian Worrell

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