



## Horseytalk.net BRIDLEWAYS WATCH

### Rider injured on a country road near Guildford, all because a Footpath was not a Bridlepath.

Says June "I was riding my horse at a walk along Littleton Lane and my foot was struck by a passing car injuring my leg. I think it would be useful for the Safety Officer to be aware. I reported the matter to the police in Guildford."

"Incidentally, if the footpath I am trying to get changed to a bridlepath gets the green light, it will save me having to use the same single track road (Littleton Lane) where the incident took place."



### Accident and death caused by riders not using a crossing on Ashdown Forest due to self closing bridleway gates

While preparing for a public inquiry concerning the proposed fencing for Chailey Common in East Sussex, Natural England's local office was asked for the specification they require for bridlegates installed under Higher Level Stewardship, since the current HLS handbook says

"Specifications will be provided, if applicable, for the minimum standard of work for items in your Capital Works Plan. If you do not follow these specifications, we cannot pay you for the work..... All capital works must be completed and maintained to the standard required to perform their intended function for the duration of your agreement. This includes replacement as necessary."



The specification requires bridlegates to be hung so that they self-close. Hence our problems

Was the BHS consulted about this specification?

On the Ashdown Forest in East Sussex the non-self-closing gates put in for the conservation grazing caused few problems for riders but two gates have been put in that are self-closing and they have caused problems for many riders.

A road accident occurred on 7 November 2009 involving a mother and her teenage son crossing the A22 from Pippingford North Driveway across to Chelwood Vachery. The boy rode ahead and had almost completed crossing the road when his horse was hit by a car travelling south. The accident resulted in the horse being put down due to massive internal bleeding about 2 hours later. The elderly driver of the car has also since died as a result of the shock and injuries from the accident.

The riders chose to cross the road there and not at the designated crossing in order to avoid the self closing gate at the designated crossing.