



## Horseytalk.net BRIDLEWAYS WATCH

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#### CATTLE ARE DANGEROUS

Bridlegates are dangerous. Cattle grids are dangerous.

**So, too, are cattle.**

When will the National Trust, Natural England and every other authority, which is happily fencing in open land for grazing, realise that cattle are dangerous.

**For walkers:** For walkers with dogs

And, of course, for riders no matter how old or experienced they are.

**Says Tasha** "The gates on Headley Heath are not just the danger, so

are the cows left to roam freely around the heath, given at any moment to leap out and say "moo" when least expected."



**Says Adrienne Yentis** "A friend of mine recently was riding on the heath and she came across a group of cattle strung out across the bridlepath with no way through – the only way off was to turn round. Fortunately her horse remained calm throughout. But you can imagine how a nervous horse might react." (*pictured left*)

**Says Naomi Smith** "Further 'inconvenience' has been twice riding along a narrow bridle path unable to have a clear and safe view ahead and coming upon a group of cattle. I was lucky not to have come upon them suddenly and was able to turn around; forced to retrace my steps since there was no way past."

" My point here is that it is all too possible to round a corner on horseback and come upon a group of cattle with no prior warning - this WILL result in a horse being badly spooked at best, bolting at worst - it is only a matter of time."

**Says Michelle McCormack** "I share a horse which is stabled in Headly and I have enjoyed hacking over the Heath for the past nine years. The owner of the horse that I am currently sharing has asked me to avoid the gates as the

horse is easily spooked, she is scared for both my well-being and the well-being of her horse. Due to the size and character of the horse, attempting the gates while still on him is not an option as he panics due to the gates closing too quickly. To get off the horse, puts the rider at risk, as negotiating the gate and a spooked horse, due to cows, or cyclists etc can be very dangerous. This therefore means I am no longer able to ride on Headly heath as I cannot go anywhere without using the gates. I understand your reasoning for introducing the cows onto the heath, but surely there must be safer option available, as I do not feel you have taken all users of the heath into consideration."



On Penwith Moors in Cornwall, local riders have encountered problem after problem with cattle. [www.savepenwithmoors.com](http://www.savepenwithmoors.com)

"One horse rider, with her children on a leading rein, couldn't negotiate the gates or the cattle so had to abandon their ride on the moor."

"I encountered the cattle face to face last night while out with my dog and they were very skitty and nervous."

"Very briefly, at about 1130 hrs on Sunday with a friend we were not prepared to dismount and open the gate nearest the pond nor the one above it due to cattle congregating very close to the gates on the moor side. We had to take an alternative route involving road work and were unable to access the moor at the top of Devil's Lane due to the non-availability of anything to remount from (my horse is 17.2hh). In any event I would not have been able to exit the moor at the appropriate gates due to the cattle still congregating there. I have no issue with cattle in general but I would not have wanted to put my horse in such close proximity to these beasts due to the potential for serious injury to the horse from those huge horns, in the event of something going not according to plan !!!"

**Have you had problems with cattle?**

**Have you been injured as a result of cattle or do you know of any riders who have been injured?**

**Please tell us.**

It will help us make the case that CATTLE ARE DANGEROUS