

**Ride Yorkshire Foundation
Blamire House
Everingham
York YO42 4LQ**

Sir Greg Knight, MP
18 Exchange Street
Drifffield
YO25 6LJ
sothcott@parliament.uk

Dear Sir Greg,

Changes to the law under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 meant that on 1 January 2026, public rights over thousands of routes would have been extinguished if they were not yet formally recorded on the definitive map, the legal record of rights of way. Recording these rights of way is particularly important as they already exist in law.

On 16 February 2022 the Government announced that it would repeal the 2026 cut-off date and is committed to finding a legislative opportunity to do so, as evidenced by statements made by Lord Benyon on 1/11/2022 and Trudy Harrison on 19/10/22. To date, however, the Government has not found such an opportunity.

We are particularly fortunate in parts of the East Riding in having access to a good and largely well-maintained network of off-road routes, but in England and Wales as a whole equestrians have access to only 22% of public rights of way. Accessing this limited network by road is increasingly risky because of ever-increasing amounts of motorised traffic, so the more that existing bridleways and byways can be connected by currently unrecorded routes, the safer the network will be for equestrians and other vulnerable users. The British Horse Society and other organisations and individuals are working hard to identify and record the routes over which rights exist.

I am Director of the Ride Yorkshire Foundation, whose primary aim is to encourage riders to enjoy open countryside with their horses through use of public rights of way, and I would be grateful if you could please confirm that you will support this repeal being enacted at the earliest possible date.

Yours sincerely,



Janet Cochrane (Dr)
Ride Yorkshire Foundation
Blamire House
Everingham
York YO42 4LQ
Janet.cochrane@rideyorkshire.org