



## MID COTSWOLD TRACKS & TRAILS GROUP

*Helping to improve our  
tracks and trails ...  
from this generation  
to the next*

### 2015 SPRING DIARY (2) - and MORE AUTUMN CATCH UP HELLO EVERYONE

*Here's a little bit more of what has been happening.*



#### HORSE LOGGING WITH THE COTSWOLD CONSERVATION BOARD

David from the Cotswold Conservation Board asked us if we could help advertise a Horse Logging course they were planning for the 21st Feb. We put it to our fb page and shared to others, and we hear that the response was good and the course was full. If anyone else would like to try this, contact [david.molloy@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](mailto:david.molloy@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk) and they will look at setting up another date.



**Mapping** - we have just agreed to pay the £20 licence fee for the Memory Map system, and this will allow us to map routes and flag items on routes (bad gates, mud, crops etc.) which can be loaded to Adrian's new BHS mapping system. He demonstrated some of the riding routes he has already prepared. Ultimately it is planned that

you will be able to go to the BHS website and find riding routes all across the country. These will also work to iphone or android, indicating exactly where you are on the map at any time, and indicating any problems you might encounter etc. The maps will be able to be updated regularly by approved BHS local groups, and we want to be part of this.

**Painswick Beacon.** David Allott is Chair of the Beacon's conservation group. He is keen to try to get some new multi-user routes around the Beacon to give some additional loops and give people an option to avoid the golf links at particularly busy times if they would like to. He is planning a "walk round" to chat to interested parties about exactly where to route the new paths.



**STOP PRESS: BRIDLEWAY CLEARANCE PARTY HERE SAT 7th, 21st, 28th Mar and 11th April** to learn more contact [david@lloydstone.plus.com](mailto:david@lloydstone.plus.com)



**Westonbirt Bridge.** Westonbirt Arboretum is planning a spectacular Treetop Walk, which sounds like fun. Unfortunately they have routed it directly above a bridleway. MCTTG has concerns about the noise and the movement above the horses' heads. We have written to the Director and to the PROW dept and will be attending a meeting on March 10th to see what can be done to make it a little bit safer. Please let Pat have your comments [midcotswoldtrails@gmail.com](mailto:midcotswoldtrails@gmail.com)



## BHS ACCESS CONFERENCE AT STONELEIGH:

The same week as our AGM, I attended the BHS Access Conference in Stoneleigh, along with Mike Halpin who is involved with the Tetbury Rail Lands Regeneration Trust Project. Subjects were:

*Riders of the Urban Age* - Keith Hackett, (BHS Merseyside Vice Chairman)

*Digital Mapping using Memory Map* - Adrian Bigg, BHS RABO South West

*Ride Around England and Fundraising Tips* - William Reddaway

*The Boviguard system, Epping Forest* - Jeremy Dagley, Head of Conservation, Open Spaces Dept, Epping Forest.

Debate "Is the use of unsealed highways by motor/mechanically propelled vehicles denying access to horse riders?". Supporting: Patricia Stubbs, Peak Horsepower. Opposing: Geoff Wilson, Land Access and Recreation Association (LARA) North Regions.

We were invited to participate in two "break-out" sessions and I chose the Mapping with Adrian and "Access Issues" - a chance to talk with Mark Weston (BHS Access Director) of Access and Geri Coup (BHS Access Special Projects Officer).

**Tetbury Land Regeneration Trust - Greenway Project.** There is a proposal to try to open the old railway track from Tetbury to Kemble as a multi-user greenway. There are ten land owners and various issues to consider, but we were asked if we would be involved, and have sent a letter of introduction to their committee, offering to assist in any way we can. Mike Halpin is our contact for this.

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## RODBOROUGH and MINCHINHAMPTON -

**NEW CATTLE GRIDS:** Way back in April 2009 a local rider asked us to help with the planning of the seven proposed new cattle grids on the commons.

The grids were requested by the graziers because the cattle wander down on to the main roads in the valleys either side.

However, no proper consideration for equine use of the gates had been included in the original plans, either ridden or driven, and parts of the proposals were totally unsuitable. MCTTG attended a site meeting visiting all seven proposed sites and explained the difficulties with the existing plans - which included pedestrian width side gates, some access up very steep stoney banks, lack of carriage access or turning spaces etc. The original plans were scrapped and the project looked at afresh. We obtained the British Standard for cattle grids and shared the technical information from that with the Highways Dept., National Trust, the graziers and the newly appointed structural engineer. This has been a long, drawn-out process (I think 10 years in total) involving planning applications, special permissions for works on Common Land, ownership searches on small strips of land adjacent to the highway, objections, appeals, re-submissions etc. etc. After all this, eagle-eyed Lois (BHS Glos Access Officer) later spotted that a couple of the technical plans had been changed throughout the process from our original advice, and some of the gate widths and latching systems were no longer to the British Standard recommendations. **NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS !!!!** We are told that the first three gate installations have begun. Swells Hill is being installed, and Lodgemore and The Street have had the bypass areas prepared ready for their installation. We are not sure on the other four yet - but believe there was an issue with underground pipes and cables at one of the sites. More news as we get it.....

