

From:**Sent:** 16 June 2019 09:23**To:** Wendy Strangeway**Subject:** Re: Notification of planning application NYM/2019/0294/FL - land adjacent to Whisperdale Cottage, Whisperdale

Dear Mrs Strangeway,

Thank you for consulting me as the representative of the British Horse Society (BHS) since the development of this area into intensive pheasant rearing has had adverse effects upon the bridleway users. The density of pheasants firstly when they are first released is such that the majority of riders can no longer use the bridleway as the stocking densities are so high. It is like riding through an open air intensive chicken shed. Then once the birds are fledged the constant flapping up of birds as one rides along is such that the horse is constantly startled which is most unsettling for the rider. I got over the problem by shouting like a banshee to get the pheasants to fly before I got to them; not an activity that one should have to engage in when trying to find quite enjoyment of the countryside.

If the National Park Planners are minded to approve this application is there any chance of putting in a condition, such as limiting the numbers of pheasants reared? I have been told some 44,000 poults (this might not be the correct number) were reared during the 2018 season. Far too many for the natural environment to absorb, resulting in lack of song birds, not only in Whisperdales but the forestry edges as well; and an exodus of pheasants over the hill into Harwood Dale as well. At the other end of the process, their shooting was not the odd shot but constant shooting all day every day for what seemed like a never ending period.

I have nothing against informal shooting but this industrial approach is ruining the ambiance of this part of the National Park.

Yours sincerely,

Catriona Cook MBE (Mrs)
BHS Regional Access Officer