



## HorseTalk.net BRIDLEWAYS WATCH

5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010

### Rejoice. Rejoice.

After nearly 20-years of promises, East Sussex County Council have just decided to take decisive action and improve the condition of one of the worst bridleways in the County.

It is the bridleway known as Chalvington 33, which runs from Poundfield Corner to Selmeston Croft, near Golden Cross. . Except, they are only going to repair half the length of the bridle way, approximately 450 metres, which runs from Poundfield Corner to the junction with public footpaths, known as Chalvington and Ripe 30 and Arlington 21. The remainder of the bridlepath from its junction with the footpaths to Sheepcote Lane at Selmeston Croft, a further 550 metres, will remain closed.



Which, obviously, looks as though they are doing it more to help ramblers than riders. All riders will be able to do is ride down the bridlepath from Poundfield Corner to the junction with the footpaths, turn round and come back again. Local farmer, rider and founder of the recently launched Low Weald Bridleways Action Group, Nick Coleman, however, is thrilled at the news.

"It's time to celebrate," he says. "Twenty-years it has taken to get them to improve the condition of half the bridleway. At this rate, by the time they have finished my grand-children will be in a position to cut the tape at the opening ceremony." But, as ever with East Sussex County Council, work on repairing the one-half of the bridleway is already running behind schedule – and work hasn't even started yet.

On January 28 2010 , the Council's Rights of Way Officer, Sophie Coleman, wrote to Nick telling him work would start in "three weeks time".

The three weeks was up on February 18.

Says Claire McCaffery-Clarke, BHS Regional Development Officer, London and South East, "One and a half cheers for ESCC – this is positive news – admittedly it is only half of what local riders have been campaigning for but I hope that ESCC will continue with the repairs to the remaining half."

"I would like to congratulate Nick Coleman and everyone else who has rallied round to support this campaign. However, it is imperative that riders continue to put pressure on ESCC to fulfill their statutory legal duty to maintain and protect bridleways."

- Have you had problems with bridlegates?

- [Please e-mail us and tell us your story](#)

- The more we can prove how dangerous these gates are, the more chance we will have of getting them modified or, better still, re-moved