

We wish to report several problem gates encountered on a Horse Ride near Roadford Lake around the area of North Breezle on 9th September 2014

We followed the Bridleway, shown on the attached map, along the stone track leading away from the lake. The first couple of gates were fine no problems and easy to do. After crossing a large field we came across a Gate (marked with a red star), which was tied up with baler twine, photo attached. As you can see it was the thicker baler twine and had been wrapped around the Bridleway Latch several times. It was not possible to untie from the horse and I had to dismount. On releasing it, I then found the gate difficult to open as (photo attached) it was also tied up with the baler twine around the hinge post as well. After releasing it all, I found nothing wrong with either the gate latch or the hinges and didn't appear to be a reason for the baler twine being there.

The next problem gate (green star) we came to was located near to the farm barns. As you can see from the photo, the gate has a chain low down despite having a bridleway latch, which works, on it and also it was only supported on one gate hinge, the upper bit being tied on with baler twine. Again I had to dismount and when releasing the gate it dropped and needed to be lifted in order to go through.

The third gate was located in the farm yard next to the milking shed by the sound of the machinery located in it. The noise worried the horses and with the gate being located next to the shed, surrounded by various batteries and rubbish, with no proper latch only a string loop, I had to dismount again.

These gates need urgent attention. Although I was able to dismount, there will be people, who for multiple reasons cannot dismount, for example my Mum who has had a hip replacement and finds it impossible to mount without a raised mounting block. As for people with large horses or kids it would be extremely difficult.

1st Problem Gate – Breezle Bridleway



2nd Problem Gate – Breezele Bridleway





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