

Newsletter

Autumn 2024

Going for Gold Olympic Challenge Ride

This was our latest challenge to ride 128 miles during July and August to commemorate 128 years since the start of the modern Olympics and quite a few riders did well to complete this so well done everyone! It was quite a challenge with the wet weather we've experienced this summer plus quite a few riders had horses out of action too.



Helen Phillips happy horse



Julie Williss and friends at Cannock Chase

Delamere Forest News

We meet up with Forestry England every six months to discuss any issues that affect equestrian users and had a meeting last month. There's a new trail coming to the Whitefield area of the forest, which was part of the planning conditions attached to the Forest Holidays development. The trail will include a range of wellbeing, fitness and play with timber equipment set in a natural surface and some signage and seating. Civils works will begin on the trail surface soon and we'll post something on our Facebook page as it may be advisable to avoid riding through this area while works are ongoing. We have been consulted and the proposed locations appear acceptable and the equipment will be set well back off the paths. There will be quite a bit of vegetation clearance as a lot of the paths are becoming overgrown with some tree cutting where overhanging and this will improve access for riders. If you find any trees down or low branches obstructing routes, the best thing is to report these to delamere@forestryengland.uk with a photo and what3words location. The policy is to keep the main routes clear but the minor routes are not priority. We have also been encouraged to report any anti-social behaviour such as dog issues or electric bikes to both Forestry England and the Police via their website or by ringing 101. We would also recommend that riders report any incidents to the BHS too via the Horse i app.

MCBA Website

We are developing a new website following the hacking last year and hope to be able to launch this soon. We need some new photos so if you have any good shots of routes you ride, preferably wearing high viz please forward these. We also hope to include more advice about where to ride so again please let us have any information on routes you ride.

Evening Visit to Cotebrook Shire Horse Centre

17 members and guests attended an evening tour of the stud with the owner Janet King which was a fascinating insight into the development of the stud which has been breeding champion shires for over 50 years. Janet is passionate about the future of this magnificent and gentle rare breed and the stud successfully shows many horses each year. We saw 18 horses including the lovely stallion Leonardo and five foals and had the chance to meet many of them. As well as horses we saw some other rare breeds including red deer, polecats and wild cats and we finished off the evening with tea and cake in the Lakeside cafe. If you haven't been before it's well worth a visit and it's open all year round.



Justin with this year's foals



Leonardo the lovely stallion

Whitegate Way

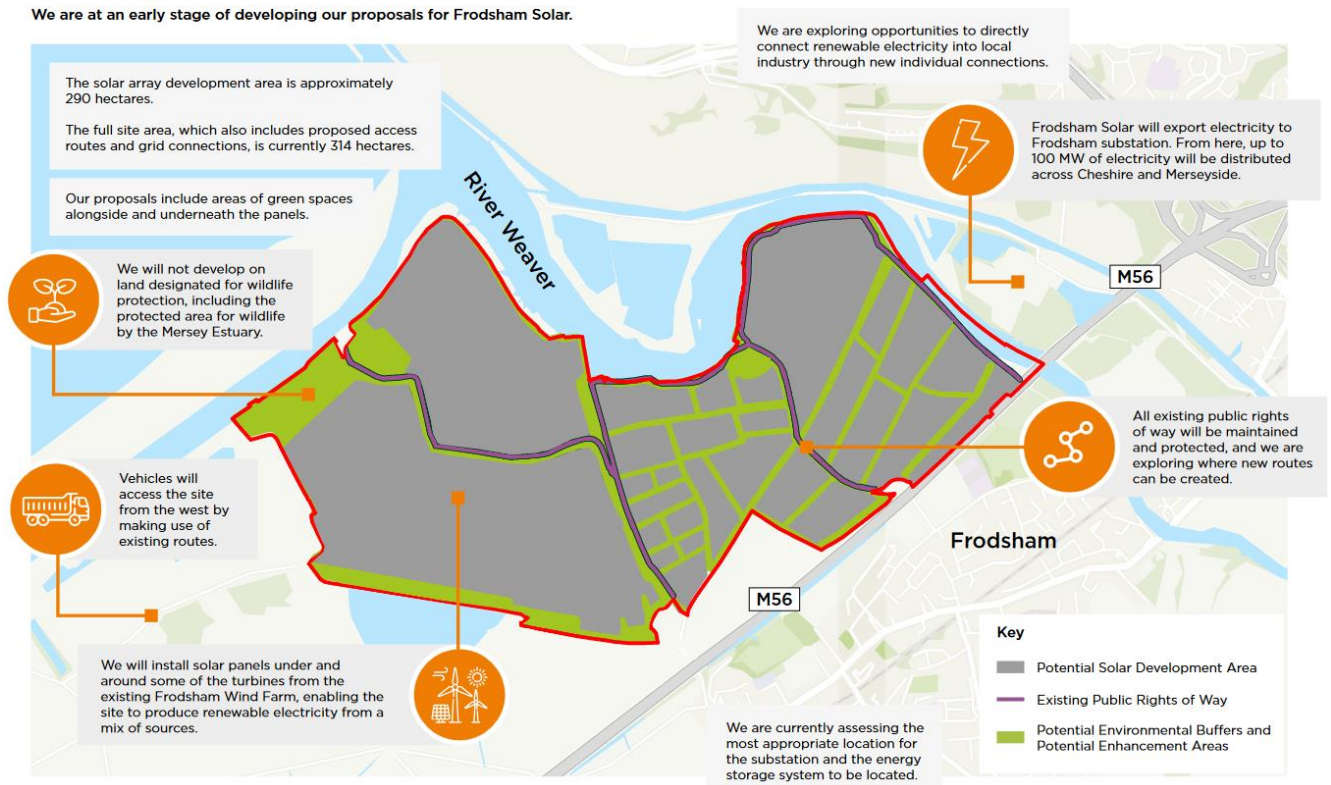
We have met with representatives from Cheshire West and Cheshire Council recently and now have permission to install a timber mounting block similar to those in Delamere Forest. We will need to secure the funding and the Council will carry out the surfacing works first. This should be well used as most riders appear to use the picnic tables at the moment. We are also trying to get some better signage for the area designated for horse box parking.

FRODSHAM MARSHES – PROPOSED SOLAR DEVELOPMENT

A large solar farm is proposed on Frodsham Marshes and an indicative layout is shown below. We have been asked about the number of equestrians who ride or carriage drive in this area and any suggestions for improvements. If you ever ride here or know anyone who does please let us know. We know that some riders are discouraged by having to cross the A56 and M56 and riding past the wind turbines. We have suggested some horse box parking and some surface improvements to the restricted byways and if you have any other comments please get in touch.

Our Proposals

We are at an early stage of developing our proposals for Frodsham Solar.



Incorporation

As reported at the AGM earlier this year, the committee are still considering establishing MCBA as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). As a CIO, MCBA would become a legal entity in its own right, thereby minimising the liability of its volunteer committee members. This status will bring with it changes to the format of our constitution but not our aims and will require us to report on an annual basis to the Charity Commission. It is quite involved to do this and if anyone has had experience of this, we would like to hear from you.

2025 AGM

We are looking for a speaker for our 2025 AGM which is usually held at the end of January and if you have any suggestions on topics or speakers please do let us know.