

ADVICE ON

Responsible Riding and Carriage Driving

The
British
Horse
Society



Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work with courtesy, care and consideration for others and for the land.

- Leave only hoofprints and guard against fire.
- Help others to see you: wear hi-viz aids, even off-road.
- Keep dogs under close control. This usually means on a short lead which is not possible from horseback so it may be best to leave dogs at home.
- Observe byelaws where displayed at the entrance to a site.
- Take the BHS Ride Safe training if you ride on roads.

Care for the land

- Keep to the bridleway or byway unless on land with designated open access for horses. Check the Ordnance Survey map if there is doubt.
- Do not jump fences, hedges or walls – you may cause damage.
- Horses' hooves can damage surfaces after wet weather. Avoid routes where this happens if possible.
- Avoid areas with heritage or conservation value which may be very fragile.

Courtesy to other users

- Pass others at walk and slow down well before you reach them, they may be frightened of horses or uncertain how to act.
- Be able to stop in the distance that you can see ahead.
- Acknowledge courtesy shown by other users.
- Adopt 'Share the Trail': each encounter with another user is a chance to build cooperation – a smile and a short chat can work wonders!
- Encourage cyclists to call out when approaching horses. Many cyclists are unsure what to do around horses.

Consideration for farmers

- Ride slowly past all livestock.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- Do not ride on crops or cultivated land (except on public rights of way), including stubble (which may be sown with a new crop) and young grass.
- Keep to walk if faster paces may damage the ground.

Access Department

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