

# EQUESTRIAN ACCESS GROUP SCOTLAND

The  
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Society

Equestrian Access Group 2021

A photograph of two riders on horses in a forest. The rider on the left is wearing a blue helmet, a yellow high-visibility vest over a blue shirt, and dark riding pants, riding a black and white pinto horse. The rider on the right is wearing a dark helmet, a yellow high-visibility vest over a pink shirt, and dark riding pants, riding a white horse with a black blaze. They are both smiling and looking towards each other. The background is a lush green forest with a large stack of logs on the right side.

THINK NATIONAL • ACT LOCAL • RIDE OUT

# Thank You

## For Your Support

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The British Horse Society is the UK's largest and most influential equestrian charity. We protect and promote the interests of all horses and those who care about them, including the 2.7 million people in the UK who ride or who drive a horse-drawn carriage. We're supported by over 100,000 members.

We have just under 130 affiliated Equestrian Access Groups throughout the UK, Scotland and Northern Ireland and

our oldest group is 38 years old this year!! If you have just renewed your affiliation, we would like to thank you for your continued affiliation to the BHS and if you have just affiliated your group, welcome to the family! You are now part of a fun, innovative, sociable way of getting groups of equestrians together whilst helping to protect where you ride.

To hear about some of these great stories visit [bhs.org.uk/access-and-bridleways](https://bhs.org.uk/access-and-bridleways)

This pack contains all the information you will need while you remain affiliated with us. If you have any queries, please contact us at [access@bhs.org.uk](mailto:access@bhs.org.uk) or 02476 840515.

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# SCOTLAND - THINK NATIONAL, ACT LOCAL

## BHS Scotland tackles equestrian access through the National Access Forum (NAF) and over 30 Local Access Forums (LAF) where we represent equestrians.

Through these statutory forums and other national bodies like Scottish Outdoor Access Network (SOAN), or Scottish Outdoor Recreation Alliance (SORA) we get to comment on, learn about and influence issues at national and local level as they emerge. The partners we work with include; other recreational bodies -Ramblers, ScotWays, Canoeists, cyclists and mountaineers.

Public bodies - Forest and Land Scotland, Nature Scot, national parks and Sportscotland among others, and land management bodies including Scottish Land and Estates, the National Farmers Union and deer, fishery, sporting and heritage groups.

Thank you for affiliating your EAG – the more we have the more impact we can make. EAGs are a catalyst to local fundraising and our best victories in securing more safe off-road riding come through our energetic groups and local BHS access representatives.

As an affiliated EAG you can access local consultations which affect you, online guidance, literature and professional support from the BHS all free of charge to help you achieve your aims.

### SCOTLAND

Please contact Helene Mauchlen, BHS National Manager for Scotland, on [helene.mauchlen@bhs.org.uk](mailto:helene.mauchlen@bhs.org.uk)

# BENEFITS

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# BENEFITS

Whether you hold the standard or premium affiliation, these packages have been tailored to offer you as many benefits as possible.

- **Support, technical and legal assistance**  
Both nationally from HQ and from your local BHS
- **50% discount off access and rights of way training**  
Available to EAG members
- **Public liability insurance\*** for premium groups only
- **Ride Out Fund**
- Eligibility to apply for your local projects
- **Exclusive Access to our online Riding Out Knowledge Base**  
visit [bhsaccess.org.uk](https://bhsaccess.org.uk). Contact the team for a login
- **Promotion of your group**  
Listing on [bhs.org.uk](https://bhs.org.uk) and a chance for your stories to be shared
- **Free communications**  
Receive specialist e-newsletters to keep your group up to date on all access news and events relevant to you
- **Digital BHS EAG logo**  
For use on your website and social media
- **Discounted BHS membership**  
We are pleased to be able to offer a 30% discount on the first year of British Horse Society Membership for anyone who is a part of your group
- **Template resources**  
For your group to use ranging from booking forms to posters

# THE RIDE OUT FUND

The Ride Out Fund (formerly the Paths for Communities Fund) provides funding for projects which open and/or enable safe off-road equestrian access throughout the UK.



Baughurst bridleway in Hampshire was boggy and dangerous, therefore required resurfacing. The BHS Ride Out Fund and BHS Hampshire Committee covered the cost of the sub-base material and the remainder was funded by Hampshire County Council Area Access Team, who also did the work.

The original plan was to improve the 6 worst-affected sections of the path, however once these had been excavated and backfilled there was sufficient material to resurface most of the route. Local riders are thrilled with the result: "It's brilliant what they've done!" and so is the landowner "...we're so pleased with what the BHS has done with this path.

\*: Public Liability insurance with an indemnity of £30,000,000 arranged via South Essex Insurance Brokers Ltd (SEIB) is a benefit included for Premium BHS affiliated Equestrian Access Groups only.

\*30% discount applies on the first year of the British Horse Society membership for anyone who is a part of your group. The policy will provide year round cover for equestrian activities including clearance parties, fundraising and pleasure rides that are arranged by your group. Excess of £250 applies to each and every third party property damage claim. Terms, conditions and territorial limits apply. BHS are an appointed representative of South Essex Insurance Brokers Limited who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

A close-up photograph of two horses' heads touching in a stable. The horse on the left is light-colored with a dark muzzle, and the horse on the right is a darker shade of brown. They are both wearing blue halter collars. The background is a blurred green field. A red banner is overlaid on the top left, and a red logo box is on the top right.

NEED MORE MEMBERS?

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# NEED MORE MEMBERS?

Membership of our EAGs ranges from 3 to 650. They are the most important part of your group, as without these, there wouldn't be a group! Ask yourself the following:

- 1) Are your group's aims and objectives clear?
- 2) Do you have a public point of contact?
- 3) What could you achieve with more members?
- 4) Who can be a member?
- 5) What would people get in return for joining your group?
- 6) Will you charge a membership fee? Some larger groups charge an annual fee to help raise funds for the groups work.

## ADVERTISE!

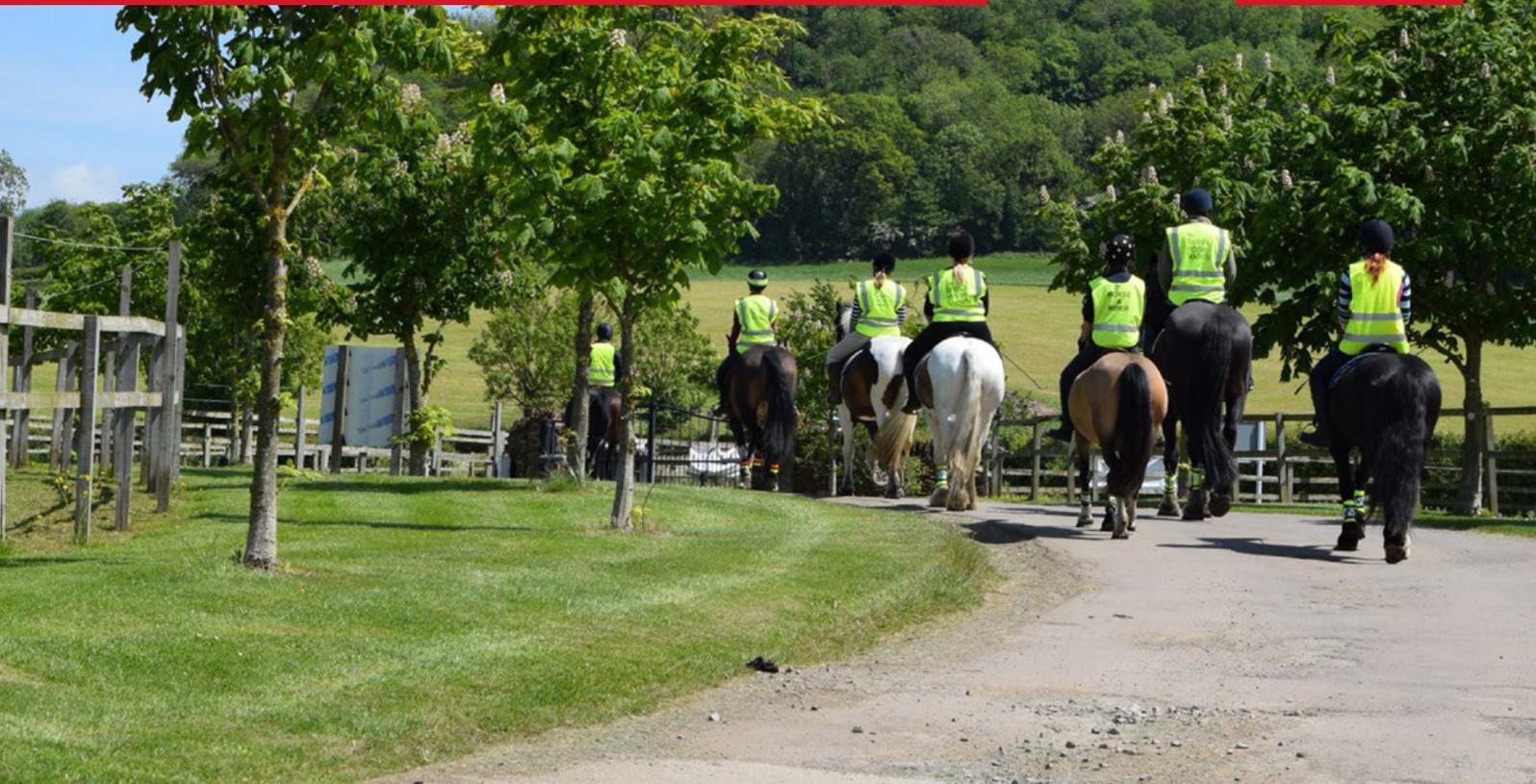
Decide on the price (if any) you wish to charge your members. How do they become a member? List your typical activities and successes, make the joining process clear....then **ADVERTISE!**

- Use the free BHS templates at [bhs.org.uk/volunteer-resources/communications](https://www.bhs.org.uk/volunteer-resources/communications) to design a poster. Hand them out to all the BHS Approved Establishments within a 30 mile radius of your base and in veterinary practices, livery yards, libraries, cycle shops, outdoors shops, feed merchants etc.
- Ensure you are advertised on the BHS website and like the BHS Riding Out UK Facebook page
- Liaise with the Access Department and your BHS Regional or National Manager to do a mail out to BHS members within a 30 mile radius of your patch (you draft the letter we will approve and send.)
- When you hit membership goals do something fun to create a buzz and increase awareness of your group
- Let us know your annual membership numbers
- We can offer guidance on data protection and storing info

# HOW TO ORGANISE AN EVENT

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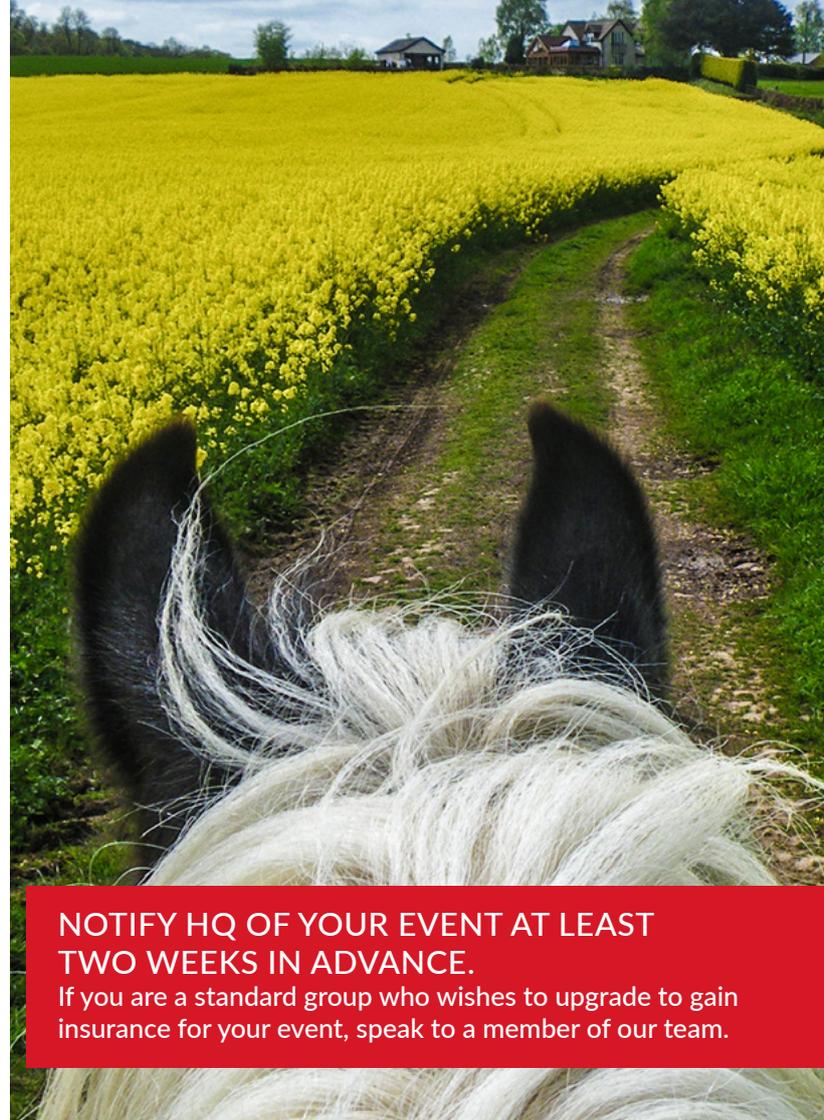
# HOW TO ORGANISE AN EVENT

Due to Coronavirus, certain measures may have to be in place to ensure your events are COVID-19 secure. We regularly send out updated guidance but please email [access@bhs.org.uk](mailto:access@bhs.org.uk) for the latest version or support.

**Visit our website for event support documents to assist you in you in organising your event:**  
[www.bhs.org.uk/volunteer-resources/event-support-documents](http://www.bhs.org.uk/volunteer-resources/event-support-documents)

Always ensure that you have permission from the landowner if you're organising a pleasure ride. If the ride or carriage drive is solely on public rights of way, it is still courteous to approach the landowner to inform them of the details of the ride.

Publicise your event! Using the template provided, make posters to advertise your fundraiser on free notice boards in newsagents, tack shops, supermarkets, BHS approved establishments, village halls etc. This free publicity will hopefully make lots of people aware of your event, and it will be a roaring success.



**NOTIFY HQ OF YOUR EVENT AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE.**

If you are a standard group who wishes to upgrade to gain insurance for your event, speak to a member of our team.



GET YOURSELF HEARD

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## GET YOURSELF HEARD

It is important that you get your message out there in order to raise awareness of your group. Through social media and marketing you can gain new members and receive public donations. BHS HQ can provide support and guidance if you want some help raising awareness of your event.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Create a facebook page for your group! Facebook is a great place to share information to members quickly and easily. You can also follow the BHS Riding Out UK Facebook page where you can share advice, view breaking rights of way stories and updates from HQ.

### PICTURES

Photographs are a key part of any marketing, and are the first thing that will catch a readers eye. Ensure images that you use are high resolution and that they are wearing suitable riding attire, a riding helmet and Hi-Viz.

Always obtain relevant photograph permissions before posting on social media and gain written permission by a parent or guardian if a rider is under 18.

**Please contact HQ for our image guidelines document or to get appropriate images approved for use.**

### REMEMBER

**Anything you do or say publicly including in the press, reflects not just on your group, but also on The British Horse Society and the wider equestrian community.**

INSURANCE

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# INSURANCE

(FOR PREMIUM GROUPS ONLY)

As an affiliated Equestrian Access Group, your group will automatically receive Public Liability Insurance with an indemnity limit of £30,000,000, arranged via South Essex Insurance Brokers Ltd (SEIB). The policy will provide cover for equestrian events and activities arranged by your group. If you are unsure if a particular event would be covered please contact SEIB on 0345 450 0634. Further details and key facts about your public liability insurance can be found in the policy summary included in this pack.

## Insurance FAQ

**Will a premium affiliated Equestrian Access Group be covered if non-members are participating in a charity pleasure ride?**

Yes the group will be covered for all it's organised activities, so if non-members compete, the policy does apply. However, we do ask that you check that all non-members participating have their own public liability cover in place to protect the non-member against a claim made against them personally.

The British Horse Society Ltd are an appointed representative of South Essex Insurance Brokers Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.



**STANDARD GROUP AND NEED INSURANCE?**  
Contact the team about upgrading your affiliation

# INCREASE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

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Accredited Professional

# INCREASE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Here at the BHS, our Access and Rights of Way team arrange a number of training days designed to give people a sound understanding of the laws and issues surrounding rights to ride and carriage drive in the UK and enable your group to be as effective as possible when protecting routes in your area. We also have free online 2026 training, designed for those wanting to begin 2026 research.

Any member of the BHS or member of an affiliated EAG can come along to training days for a discounted rate of £5 per person.

There are **three levels** of training available for English and Welsh legislation:

- **Level one:** Basic highway law and local plans
- **Level Two:** User evidence, documentary evidence, definitive maps and wider access
- **Level Three:** Advanced highway law
- **Public Inquiry Training** (2 day course) includes a mock inquiry with a real inspector
- Restoring the Record
- Specialist courses on planning and commons

## BOOK TODAY

The full training schedule is available at [www.bhs.org.uk/enjoy-riding/events-and-competitions/results?cat=Access+Training](http://www.bhs.org.uk/enjoy-riding/events-and-competitions/results?cat=Access+Training). Days are added throughout the year on a demand basis, confirmed by the team at HQ.

### SCOTLAND

Contact Helene at [helene.mauchlen@bhs.org.uk](mailto:helene.mauchlen@bhs.org.uk)

### NORTHERN IRELAND & REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

contact Susan Spratt at [susan.spratt@bhs.org.uk](mailto:susan.spratt@bhs.org.uk)

**For more details** about training, to request a specialist training day in your area, or if you have any questions, please email [access@bhs.org.uk](mailto:access@bhs.org.uk) or contact your regional Access and Bridleways Officer.

If you'd like to attend any of our training days, please visit our website and book online at [bhs.org.uk](http://bhs.org.uk)

# FUNDRAISING

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## FUNDRAISING



Whether new to fundraising or an experienced pro, raising money by putting on events can be a great way to generate the funds needed to make your next big project a reality. Why not:

HAVE A BBQ  
HOLD A SALE

VIRTUAL COFFEE MORNING

HOST AN ONLINE QUIZ

HOLD AN EVENT FOR RIDE OUT UK

Organise a joint event with the local BRC, PC or RDA

RUN A PLEASURE RIDE

TAKE PART IN THE 70km RIDEATHON

### Our fundraising campaign.

Ride Out UK is the BHS' largest fundraising campaign to raise money for the Ride Out Fund.

The aim for the Ride Out Fund is for it to grow through donations and fundraising events across the UK, so it can continue to benefit vital access work in the years ahead. As an EAG you can apply for grants from the fund.

# RIDE OUT FUND

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# BHS RIDE OUT FUND



Photo: Lincolnshire County Council

As an affiliated EAG you can apply for funding to assist with local access issues. The BHS has a pot of money set aside for this purpose. Each year fundraising takes place around the country to top it up. Several projects have been funded, from bridge restoration to dredging and opening new routes. Apply using the application form online or emailing [access@bhs.org.uk](mailto:access@bhs.org.uk)

At HQ, we are often able to tap into pots of money for national projects, although local projects require local

(and/or regional) funds. If you investigate all your potential funding pots and find some you feel would suit your project, contact the Fundraising department, [funding@bhs.org.uk](mailto:funding@bhs.org.uk) who would be happy to provide whatever level of support and advice you need to make your project a successful one.

Read our free fundraising guide online at [www.bhs.org.uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk)

SAVE THE DATE

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# SAVE THE DATE

Every month you will receive our monthly Ride Out eNews, remember to send in your achievements / stories / newsletters to [access@bhs.org.uk](mailto:access@bhs.org.uk) so we can publicise your hard work.

## SPRING



Why not organise a clearance party so that your local equestrian routes are in good condition to use as the days get longer and the weather gets brighter?

Ride Out UK 2020 launches in May. Join in the fun and organise a fun ride for your members and raise money for the BHS Ride Out Fund which you too can apply for funding from! Contact [access@bhs.org.uk](mailto:access@bhs.org.uk) for inspiration and ideas, register your event so we can help with promotion and to receive your free rosettes to hand out to your participants.

## SUMMER



Why not organise a BBQ and village meeting complete with a demonstration and talk to showcase what your group does in the local area and highlight your aims? (People don't have to be 'horsey' to get involved).

## AUTUMN



Enjoy the scenery as Autumn takes hold, why not organise a group hack or guided ride for your members?

## WINTER



With short days and chilly weather, why not organise a Christmas meal for your group. Get together, share your success stories and discuss plans for next year. Invite your local BHS Committee along or attend one of their meetings – or even hold a joint event!

Fancy something different? Play the brilliant [Bridleway Treasure Hunt Game!](#)  
Download it at [bhs.org.uk/treasure-hunt](https://bhs.org.uk/treasure-hunt)

# RIDE OUT UK

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The British Horse Society's

# RIDE OUT UK



Ride Out UK is the BHS' national campaign to raise awareness of the work the BHS and it's affiliated groups does to protect and extend Riding Out throughout the UK, engage with the public, increase participation and fundraise for the Ride Out Fund.

BHS Committees, Approved Centres and affiliated EAG's organise fundraising events during the campaign, ranging from bake-offs and BBQ's to pleasure rides and clearance parties.

**For more information on events organised, visit the BHS Regional pages on the website.**

The British Horse Society run fundraising competitions

to reward those who donate the most as well as a photo competition to encourage people to saddle up.

Need a hand? The Access team are on hand to help you plan your events and can help you find and plan a route for a ride or provide a few ideas for your event.

[www.bhs.org.uk/access-and-bridleways/ride-out-uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk/access-and-bridleways/ride-out-uk)

FAQ's

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## Who should I inform of our planned event?

Notify HQ at least two weeks before your event. A short email to [access@bhs.org.uk](mailto:access@bhs.org.uk) detailing location, type of event and estimate amount of riders is sufficient.

## What can I do if a route has become blocked / inaccessible

Read the free BHS guidance available on [www.bhs.org.uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk) for advice specific to where you live.

## Where can I find new places to go or hold an event?

Read the BHS advice notes, 'Finding New Places to Ride and Carriage Drive'

## I have a vision of joining my local routes together to make a circular/linear route. How can I make this idea a reality?

The first thing to do is contact the BHS Access Department. We coordinate route projects for the National Equestrian Route Network, and would be glad to hear from you via email at [access@bhs.org.uk](mailto:access@bhs.org.uk), or on **02476 840515**. We can advise and support you on where to find local sources of funding.

## I want to organise a Ride Out UK event, where do I start?

Once you have decided on an event, day and time, register your event with us by emailing [access@bhs.org.uk](mailto:access@bhs.org.uk)

# STATISTICS

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Equine Access Group 2021

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It is important to arm yourself with up to date knowledge to make a statement as efficient and impacting as can be. Here are a few vital statistics that are always good to include to back up any points you are making:

- There are 2.7 million people who ride in the UK
- The estimated horse population, including both private and professional ownership, is just below one million horses (944,000).
- Of riders who ride once a week or less, 46% cited access to safe off-road riding as a factor that would increase their riding opportunities in the UK.
- In England the public rights of way network amounts to 188,700km: 146,600km of footpaths, 32,400km of bridleways, 3,700km of byways and 6,000km of restricted byways. Therefore only 22 percent of the 188,700 kilometres of Public Rights of Way in England carry rights for horse riders and 5% for carriage-drivers.
- Only 21 percent of the 33,000 kilometres of Public Rights of Way in Wales carry rights for horse riders; carriage drivers can only use six percent.
- Most routes do not link to form an off-road circuit.
- Only 0.24 hectares have been made available for equestrian use in England under the CROW Act 2000, compared to 153,246 hectares for walkers.

To increase the effectiveness and relevance of your statement by adding local statistics, get in touch with your local BHS.

All statistics and source references are correct as of January 2020. For their sources and more statistics please visit [www.bhs.org.uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk)

# CONTACTS

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WE'RE HERE  
FOR YOU

# CONTACTS

## British Horse Society Headquarters

The British Horse Society,  
Abbey Park,  
Stareton,  
Kenilworth,  
Warwickshire,  
CV8 2XZ  
t: 02476 840500

## Other BHS Departments

Reception  
Access and Rights of Way  
Approved Establishments  
Bookshop/Merchandising  
British Riding Clubs  
Disclosure and Barring Service and Safeguarding  
Equestrian Qualifications Limited (EQL)  
Education  
Marketing/Communications/Press Office  
Membership  
Safety (including reporting horse incidents)  
Welfare and Passports

02476 840500  
02476 840515  
02476 840509  
02476 840513  
02476 840518  
02476 840746  
02476 840544  
02476 840508  
02476 840505  
02476 840506  
02476 840516  
02476 840517

# ACCESS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

## Mark Weston, Director

Policy matters, legal and technical enquiries,  
lobbying and strategic planning.  
e: mark.weston@bhs.org.uk  
t: 02476 840560

## Heather Clatworthy, Senior Executive

All general access matters, legal and technical  
enquiries, policy matters, funding and  
volunteer support  
e: heather.clatworthy@bhs.org.uk  
t: 02476 840580

## Anne Scott

Administrators - contact for general enquiries and  
support, event notifications, renewal processing  
e: access@bhs.org.uk  
t: 02476 840515

## Helene Mauchlen

Scottish National Manager  
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t: 07808 141077

[www.bhs.org.uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk)



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