

## HORSE RIDING AND CARRIAGE DRIVING

### On Scotland's Towpaths

Horse riders and carriage drivers have a right of responsible access to most land in Scotland, including towpaths alongside canals.

Riding, driving or leading your horse on towpaths brings challenges but properly managed they can provide safe areas for all.

By following this simple guidance, you can help make sure that you stay safe, along with your horse and other access users, as well as people who are working on and beside the canals.

Follow local signage and guidance!



### Other Users

Please understand the canal towpath that you will access before you venture out, some lengths of Scottish canal towpaths may be unsuitable for equestrian access. Assess the risks in your own mind before you go, consider the breadth of the towpath, height of bridges, who else is using it, eg fishermen, cyclists, disabled, as well as people pushing prams and with dogs.

Many canal banks are used by fishermen. Be wary of their equipment, which can be spread across paths and into undergrowth, also take note when they are casting their lines, it's their enjoyment too!

### Safety First

Is your horse suitable for a trip along a towpath? Most canals have sheer sides and if by chance your horse does fall in, it is possible that you may not be able to get it out of the water easily. Stay clear of locks.

Think about pace! Towpath surfaces are often unsuitable for faster riding. Always give way to more vulnerable users. When moving over to allow someone past, try and move on to the vegetation away from the canalside, vegetation can overgrow the side of the canal and could give a false impression of safe footing.

If you are riding in groups, please take extra care.

There may be occasion when you would like to lead your horse. Always lead your horse with a bridle on, never lead with only a headcollar and rope.

If you are a carriage driver, you must be able to turn, reverse or unhitch if you meet an obstacle, vehicle or canal works traffic.

### Dogs

If you take your dog with you keep it under close control at all times. Responsible dog walking is included in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.



## Dung

Horse dung can be an issue on any multi use path, eg if a cyclist hits a large pile in darkness. If your horse dungs, please kick it to the side of the path, but not into the canal.

If you have transported your horse by trailer or lorry, park safely, without blocking gateways or carparks. Do not leave any mess!

Please use this leaflet in conjunction with the BHS Scotland "Are YOU Riding Responsibly leaflet" which is on the BHSS website

Take Care and Enjoy!

## Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly



**KNOW THE CODE  
BEFORE YOU GO**  
outdooraccess-scotland.com

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

- **take responsibility for your own actions**
- **respect the interests of other people**
- **care for the environment.**

Visit [outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://outdooraccess-scotland.com) or contact your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.

This leaflet is produced with the support of:

Scottish Natural Heritage [www.snh.org.uk](http://www.snh.org.uk)

British Waterways Scotland [www.britishwaterways.co.uk/scotland](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/scotland)

Advice can also be found on the BHS Scotland website  
[www.bhsscotland.org.uk](http://www.bhsscotland.org.uk)

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