



SHOOTING AND DEER STALKING

This is an important land management function and contributes to the Scottish tourist economy. It takes place throughout the year. Please heed any signage and take extra care.

ORGANISING AN EVENT OR RUNNING A BUSINESS

You should get permission from the land manager if you're organising an event that needs facilities or services, or is likely to hinder land management or interfere with other people's enjoyment of the outdoors.

You can exercise access rights for some commercial purposes where the activities are the same as those enjoyed by the general public under the new law. Consider helping with looking after the resource used by your business, eg this may include clearing droppings regularly.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF LAND MANAGERS

Land managers must respect the needs of users. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code encourages them to work with others to integrate access and land management.

Know the Code before you go

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors - responsibly! 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

For further information on the Scottish Outdoor Access Code please visit www.outdooraccess-scotland.com or for a free copy of the full Code phone Scottish Natural Heritage on 01738 444177 or email pubs@snh.gov.uk



This leaflet is produced with the support of Scottish Natural Heritage
www.snh.org.uk

Advice can also be found on The BHS Scotland website
www.bhsscotland.org.uk

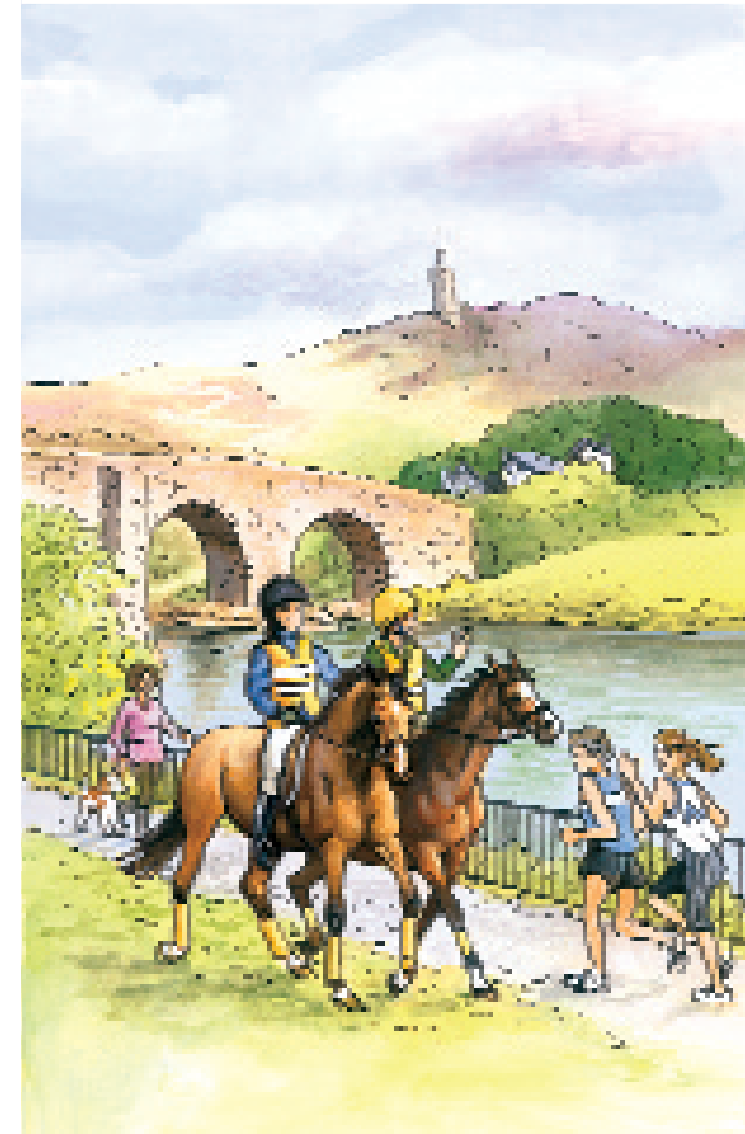
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Are you riding responsibly?
The Scottish Outdoor Access Code



This guidance applies to Scotland only

Horse riders and carriage drivers can now experience a new freedom to access land in Scotland under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. This establishes a statutory right of non-motorised responsible access to most land including moorland, forests, farmland and canal banks, and even open spaces in towns.

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code describes how you can do this and in this leaflet we explain the basic principles of the Code for riders and drivers, but we advise everyone to read and understand the Code. It's vital that you appreciate your responsibilities to get the most out of your new right of access. By planning and foresight you can maximise your enjoyment and minimise problems.

LAND MANAGEMENT

In many instances the land on which you will take access will be worked in some way - this means it's someone's livelihood. Do not disrupt ongoing land management, such as ploughing. Access rights do



not apply on land in which crops have been sown or are growing, including cereals, vegetables, fruit, and grass being grown for hay or silage where it's at a late stage. You can access field margins or unsown ground, as long as you're careful not to damage the crop.

PATHS AND TRACKS

Access on firm, well-drained surfaces and wide paths or tracks causes few problems. On multi-use or shared routes be aware that some people are afraid of horses, so be cheery and polite. If an issue arises dismount if necessary, but give way to walkers, or find an alternative route.

Consider the condition of any paths, tracks or fields before accessing them, and on an ongoing basis whilst you're using them. Please avoid muddy, wet or boggy ground. It's useful to look behind you to make sure you're not causing damage and take an alternative route if horse use is causing erosion.

FARM ANIMALS AND WILDLIFE

Take care not to alarm farm animals and wildlife. Some animals will act aggressively, so before entering fields check which alternatives are available. Leave gates as you find them, and don't enter fields where there are grazing animals that might be a danger.

FIELD MARGINS

Field margins are included within access rights, but can be an important wildlife habitat, for example for ground nesting birds. Land managers may be involved in agri-environment schemes, eg protected beetle banks. Take note of any signage including suggested alternative routes, and be aware of ground conditions.

HOUSES AND FARMYARDS

Access rights don't extend to enclosed areas around houses and gardens. In some estates or larger houses, please avoid managed policies. Respect the privacy of those who live there. Access rights don't extend to farmyards, but if a right of

way exists or access has been taken on a customary basis through the farmyard in the past this should continue.

JUMPS AND SCHOOLING

You should get permission before using custom-made gallops, jumps or carrying out repetitive schooling. In some areas, there is and will remain managed access, for instance in some country parks, and you may need to apply for a permit and show insurance. In these cases you should follow local guidance and follow the rules.

DOGS

It is difficult to keep your dog under control when you're thinking of your horse, but never let it chase livestock and stay well away from ewes in lamb or with lambs, or cows with calves or any other young animals. This also applies during the bird breeding season on moorland, forests, grassland or on the shore. Remember also to remove your dog's faeces.

