



British Horse Council Summer Meeting

Recreational Update

Friday, 28 June 2024



Access to safe off-road routes

- 3,481 DMMO applications made by BHS volunteers
- Successful representations against Cornwall Council to ensure that they register DMMO applications; reducing delays and ensuring routes are saved from extinguishment in 2031.
- Removal of two sets of large metal gates on byways following Court action in Yorkshire.
- Over 600 BHS routes, linking bridleways and other byways have been uploaded onto the OS App so that horse riders can have access to connected off road routes across the UK.
- Collaboration with the MOD to promote horse riding routes on MOD land and raise awareness of what riders may encounter when using them.



Routine Hoof Care and Access to Farriery and Hoof Care Providers

- Reports of horse owners being unable to access farriers
- Low numbers of new entrants to the farriery profession, particularly in Scotland
- To future proof hoof care in the UK, we need to assess the availability of qualified farriers.
- Working in partnership with NEWC, BEVA and the British Farriery and Blacksmiths Association, an online survey has been launched to learn about routine hoof care and owner / carer experiences when accessing farriery and hoof care services in the past 12 months.
- The survey is open until September across the UK and Republic of Ireland, 2,500 responses have been received so far.
- Access the survey here:
<https://forms.office.com/e/QjLDuMJqk3>



Suitably Mounted

Gathering and reviewing scientific evidence

- What factors should be considered when matching people to horses or ponies? A survey led by Dr David Marlin.
- Scientific evidence detailing what weights horses and ponies can carry.
- Review of policies and rules, how are they assessed and enforced.

Examples of best practice

- Great Yorkshire Show – horse welfare stewards
- Hartpury – working with students and supporting their mental health and wellbeing
- RDA – weight chart guidance to match horses to riders
- Riding schools – working with clients

