East Sussex & Kent Equestrian Access Group

Strategic Aims 2026–2029

Our purpose

We are the voice of riders and other equestrians in East Sussex and Kent, working to increase and protect access to safe off-road riding. We are a volunteer group, funded by donations and affiliated to the British Horse Society (BHS). We facilitate communication between grassroots riders and the bodies that manage land and access, such as Forestry England, other landowners, local authorities and the BHS.

Our five aims for 2026–2029

1. **Protect existing access.** Keep current bridleways, byways and permissive routes open, safe and well maintained, and respond quickly when access is threatened.
2. **Grow the network.** Secure new and better-connected off-road routes, including permissive rides on Forestry England and other land, and support claims to record historic routes as public rights of way.
3. **Be the riders' voice.** Represent equestrians' views clearly and constructively to landowners, councils, Forestry England and the BHS, and make sure riders are consulted on changes.
4. **Keep riders informed and involved.** Share news, route information and opportunities to help, and make it easy for any rider to report problems or raise concerns.
5. **Build a strong, sustainable group.** Grow our volunteers and supporters across both counties, keep donations steady and use funds openly and wisely.

How we will work

We work in partnership, not opposition: we build lasting relationships with landowners and access bodies so riders' needs are part of their plans. We follow BHS guidance and use its access resources. We encourage responsible riding so equestrians are welcomed as good neighbours by walkers, cyclists and land managers.

What success looks like by 2029

- No net loss of off-road riding routes in East Sussex and Kent.
- New or improved routes opened, with riders able to link rides together more easily.
- Regular, two-way contact with Forestry England, both county councils and the BHS.
- A growing network of riders who know how to get involved and report issues.
- An active volunteer team and reliable donations that keep the group running.