EAST SUSSEX & KENT



EQUESTRIAN ACCESS GROUP

Campaigning for improved equestrian access and connection of bridleways

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

APRIL 2026

Thank you to all our members for your continued support, engagement and enthusiasm.

Together we are making progress!

These notes are from the meeting held on 15 April 2026

OUR COMMUNITY

A great response on Facebook with **600+ members** and growing!
Your support and shared experiences are helping us highlight the need for safe, accessible off-road riding.

SURVEY UPDATE

Our surveys are now complete and currently being analysed by Hazel.
Early findings show:

- A lack of safe off-road routes
- Increased reliance on dangerous roadwork
- Strong demand for safe horsebox parking and connected bridleways

A full summary will be shared soon.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- Horse Road Safety Meeting – POSTPONED
  Brightling Village Hall
  (New date to be confirmed)
- **Combe Valley Stakeholder Group**
  23 June – invited by Combe Valley Countryside Park
- **ESKAG Quarterly Meetings**
  Next date to be confirmed

GET INVOLVED

- Share your experiences
- Log your rides on Map My Hack (BHS)
- Help us build evidence for better access
- Stay informed and have your say!

Join the conversation on Facebook
Search: East Sussex & Kent Equestrian Access Group
(Copy & paste into your browser)

UPDATE HIGHLIGHTS

FORESTRY ENGLAND SITES

- **Battle Great Woods** – works complete. 2–3 horsebox/trailer parking bays available. Exploring the possibility of a mounted block.
- **Abbots Wood & Butchers Hole** – remain closed, with works underway. We are monitoring progress.
- **Bedgebury** – only two hacking routes available for horses, shared with walkers/cyclists.
- **Hempstead** – questions raised on box parking and height restrictions at entrance.

ACCESS & RIGHTS OF WAY

- **Combe Valley Link Road** – key question for the next phase: ensuring a wide enough buffer path for horses alongside the road.
- **Park Woods, Hellingly** – application to record a bridleway is underway (thank you to Caroline Wood).
- **Toll Rides** – exploring the potential for managed access routes on private land.

OTHER KEY DISCUSSIONS

- **Bewl Water** – establishing who is responsible for maintaining bridleways (Bewl, ESCC, KCC?).
- Parking weight restrictions at Camber – contact to be made with ESCC (RingGo).
- Engaging with farmers/landowners via Facebook – Hazel writing template letters.
- Encourage all members to use Map My Hack (BHS) to record and promote definitive riding routes.

NEW SITES TO INVESTIGATE

- Brede Woods (Woodland Trust)
- "Cysters"?
- Darvell
- Plumpton College

Plus other suggested local sites.

THANK YOU

This is a community-led campaign, and every member plays a vital role.
Together, we are working for safer, connected off-road riding across East Sussex & Kent.

LOOKING AHEAD

We will continue to work behind the scenes, engage with landowners, councils and organisations, and push for better access for all equestrians.
Better access. Safer riding. Stronger together.



Have news, ideas or places to share? Message us on Facebook – we'd love to hear from you!