EAST SUSSEX & KENT
EQUESTRIAN ACCESS GROUP

ESKEAG

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

TWO MEETINGS BY COMMITTEE

The committee has been busy holding two productive meetings and making progress on several key projects to improve off-road riding access across **East Sussex** and **Kent.**



MEET YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

SUMMARY OF 01/07/26 MEETING

RIGHTS OF WAY (ROW) & MAINTENANCE

- **ESROW Updates:** East Sussex Rights of Way (ESROW) is currently working to clear bridleways, with recent work noted at **Arlington Reservoir.**
- **Community Engagement:** Group raised questions about connecting with ESROW and identifying local citizen groups.
- **Safety Issue:** The bridleway gate between Whatlington and Battle Golf Club is dangerous and has caused injury to a rider. Being raised with relevant **stakeholders.**

COMMITTEE & REPRESENTATION

- **New Member:** Stella Bellam has joined the committee.
- **Representation:** Stella to look into the Rights of Way Plan (ROWP) to represent ESKEAG.

STRATEGY

- Hazel working on draft strategy for 2026–2029 to provide our stakeholders with information and key points. Feedback needs to be shortened. Will circulate draft by end **Sept.**

SUMMARY OF 25/8/26 MEETING

HORSEBOX & TRAILER PARKING BATTLE GREAT WOODS



- Following the group's request, parking provision for horse riders has been expanded. There is now enough space for three trailers and one 3.5-tonne horsebox, provided everyone parks carefully. New signage also makes it clearer to car drivers that this area is dedicated horsebox and trailer parking.

OTHER FORESTRY ENGLAND SITES

- We have had successful meetings regarding provision and access at a number of sites, including Bedgebury, Clowes Woods, Friston Forest and Abbots Woods.
- We are continuing to raise questions around suitable parking and safe access for riders.
- FE Pass members will be receiving emailed news regarding Friston Forest Soon!

MOUNTING BLOCK PROJECT

One of our key projects is the development of safe, substantial mounting blocks at suitable locations.

- The project has progressed to the point where installation is planned to begin at Bedgebury Forest.
- A kind donation from South East TREC will contribute towards the initial project costs; further funding is still required.
- We have been investigating timber donations, manufacturing and installation.
- Proposed locations currently include:
  1. Bedgebury – supported by South East TREC's contribution
  2. Clowes Woods
  3. Battle Great Woods
  4. Friston Forest



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NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY 24/9/26

Kent members – this one's on your doorstep!
East Sussex members – we'd love you to make the trip.
Everyone welcome!

RESERVED: THE QUEEN'S HAWKHURST
The Queen's Inn, Rye Road, Hawkhurst, Cranbrook, TN18 4EY
7PM (VENUE MAY CHANGE)