

HORSE SENSE for MOTORISTS

Motorists and riders both have a right to use Britain's roads - a right to safe and enjoyable travel. Both share a responsibility to understand each other's needs.

Riders would prefer not to use the roads - but it is often necessary to reach bridleways and other facilities off the road. It may not always be obvious to vehicle drivers why horses and riders are doing what they are doing, but there is usually a good reason.

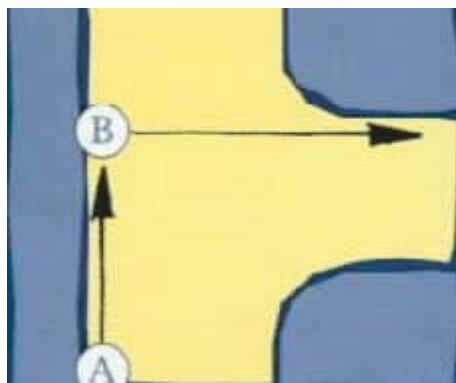
This leaflet aims to help motorists understand the needs of riders and their horses, to counter the intolerance that can sometimes develop - improving safety for all.

It may not be obvious at first, but there are usually good reasons for riding in double file -

- the horse on the inside may be young and nervous and needing the security of a steadier horse between them and the traffic.
- the inside rider may be a child or a novice who needs escorting

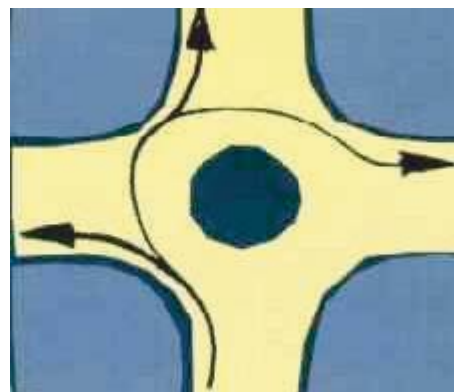
Riders, however, are advised to ride in single file where the road narrows and when approaching bends. Riders are also advised to keep to the left of the road even when turning right - it is unsafe to position a horse between lines of traffic where they can panic, sandwiched with no escape route

Manoeuvres



When turning right a rider should make the following manoeuvres:

Taking the shortest route across the road at point B



Riders should not be expected to signal right when approaching a roundabout. When on a roundabout, riders will normally signal right only when approaching exits they DO NOT intend to use. Riders will keep to the left within the roundabout until reaching their exit, when they should signal left.

Signalling



Riders should signal their intentions but drivers should be aware that horses are unpredictable and a rider on a young or frightened horse may have their hands full!





Riders are often able to see and hear further ahead and may request a motorist to slow down or stop when they are aware of a potential danger or if they sense an impending action or reaction from their horse.



Tips for Safer Motoring Around Horses

- Watch out for horses being led or ridden on the road, taking extra care at left-hand bends and on narrow country roads
- Drive slowly past horses
- Give them plenty of room and be ready to stop
- Do not scare animals by sounding your horn or revving your engine
- Look out for horse riders' signals and be aware that they may not move to the centre of the road prior to turning right
- Riders of horses and ponies are often children so take extra care
- Treat horses as a potential hazard and expect the unexpected!
- Mutual courtesy and care between motorists and riders is important to prevent intolerance and improve safety always acknowledging a courtesy does make a difference even if - for a rider - a wave of acknowledgement is not always possible. If two hands are needed to keep control, a nod and a friendly smile are the least a motorist should expect.