

Download our free leaflet "[Rights of Way that are out of repair or whose surface is damaged or disturbed](#)" which will give you more details on what to do when you come upon problems. This leaflet applies to England and Wales only.

Timing.

Make hay while the sun shines and try to ride in the warmer period of the day. If you can't, don't be deterred as many people successfully enjoy riding in the early hours of the morning but remember if you do, to be well prepared and dress yourself and your horse appropriately so you can be seen and will be warm enough.

Shooting.

For those who ride in areas popular for shooting, there are laws set in place to protect everyone and eliminate the likelihood of accidents involving firearms as much as possible. The following are some points which you may find to be of interest.

It is not a specific offence to shoot across a public right of way, but to do so could amount to common law nuisance, wilful obstruction of the highway under HA 1980 s137, a breach of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 or intimidation. It is an offence under HA 1980 s 161(2) to discharge any firearm or firework within 50ft of the centre of a highway which is a carriageway, if as a result (in either case) any user of the highway is injured, interrupted or endangered.

If you are planning to ride around areas where you know shooting is likely and you are concerned it may affect your ride, perhaps try and contact the owner of the land or the local groups and ask politely if you can find out the times they are likely to be out.

In conclusion, make the most of winter, it is a beautiful season, and arguably one of the best times to experience off-road riding without the intense heat, insects and hustle of the summer months. Go out and enjoy it!