

South Downs Harness Club



Our Members Voluntary Code of Practice For when we are driving Our Horses Out and About

We recognise that carriage driving, along with other equestrian pastimes allow participants to enjoy a wide range of activities including driving on the highways, rights of way and open spaces. We also recognise that training and good practice are important for our enjoyment as well as our safety and the safety of others.

When we are driving on the highways, rights of way and open land, we will always:

Consider the welfare of our horses:

- › By only walking & trotting on hard surfaces and highways
- › By taking note of the recent weather conditions and how this affects the surface on the route we plan to use (ice, mud, hard ruts etc.) and driving accordingly
- › By selecting routes that our horse is easily fit enough to manage

Consider the safety of ourselves, our horses and our passengers at all times:

- › By always having current and appropriate 3rd party insurance - as a minimum
- › By checking our harness is safe and well-fitting every time we drive
- › By regularly checking and servicing carriages, especially brakes if they are fitted
- › By always driving out with a competent groom
- › By making sure that there is a groom holding the horse, preferably with a lead rope, when the driver gets off the vehicle
- › By everyone wearing Hi-Viz items, as this allows others to see us, including low flying aircraft
- › By juniors wearing a current standard hard hat and adults choosing to do so as well
- › By carrying a spares kit – so we can repair harness or vehicle to a level to be safe enough to get home or to reach a safe place
- › By educating others, where appropriate on aspects of equine driving.

Consider the safety of others:

- › By being the good example, by always acknowledging other users, even if they haven't slowed down or been considerate themselves
- › By not going above a sensible trot on a public right of way or highway
- › By not appearing to be racing on a public right of way or highway
- › By being the good example and slowing to a walk or coming to a halt when passing others, especially other horses and dog walkers
- › By setting down our groom should it be in the interests of safety for others as well as ourselves
- › By only going on the highway with a legal carriage, e.g. having reflectors fitted
- › By avoiding driving on the highway in poor light whenever possible (e.g. heavy rain, mist, fog, low sun etc.)
- › By using good lights, (white in front, red behind) if we have no option but to drive in the dark
- › By not driving faster than the slowest turn-out when driving in company
- › By not driving too close to the carriage in front when driving in company