



2 METRES

10

**DEAD SLOW**  
HORSES ARE UNPREDICTABLE

PASSING HORSES WIDE AND SLOW CAN PREVENT  
THE DEATH OF DRIVERS, RIDERS AND HORSES.





BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY  
SAFER DRIVERS, RIDERS, HORSES

Alan Hiscox  
Director of Safety





# HORSEPOWER

The  
British  
Horse  
Society





# 2024

The  
British  
Horse  
Society

3,118 reports of road  
incidents involving  
horses

58 Horses killed

97 Horses injured

80 Riders injured

81% of these incidents  
were because vehicles  
passed too close or  
too fast to the horse.







1 in 5





# VULNERABLE ROAD USERS

- Oxford dictionary definition of vulnerable:
- *“Exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally.”*





# VULNERABLE ROAD USERS

- Highway Code 2022
- *Road users most at risk from road traffic are in particular ..... horse riders.*
- *Road users most likely to be injured in the event of a collision are.....horse riders.*





# VULNERABLE ROAD USERS

- Are we vulnerable because we chose a particular mode?
- Does that mean we are simply more vulnerable because what other road users might or might not do?





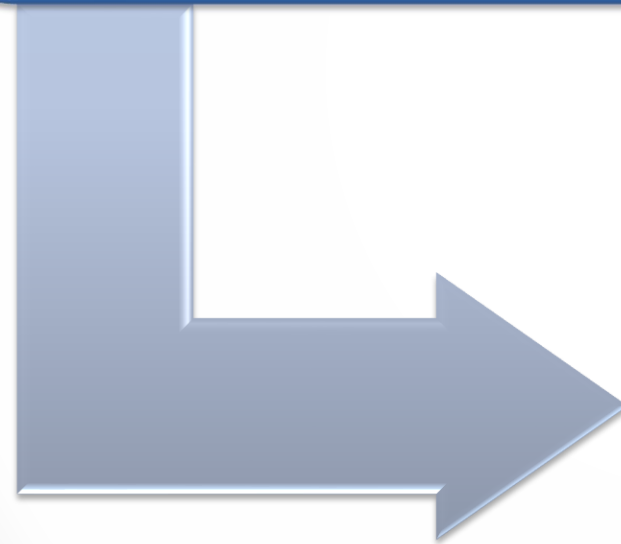
# VULNERABLE ROAD USERS

Are we protecting the most vulnerable  
or putting them off?





Department of  
Transport.



“Every road user  
has a right to feel  
safe on the road”







**SAFER  
DRIVERS**

**SAFER  
RIDERS**

**SAFER  
HORSES**





# SAFER DRIVERS



# DEAD SLOW

- Safe Systems Approach
- Safe Speeds : Rural Roads
- Safe Road Users : Behaviour Change



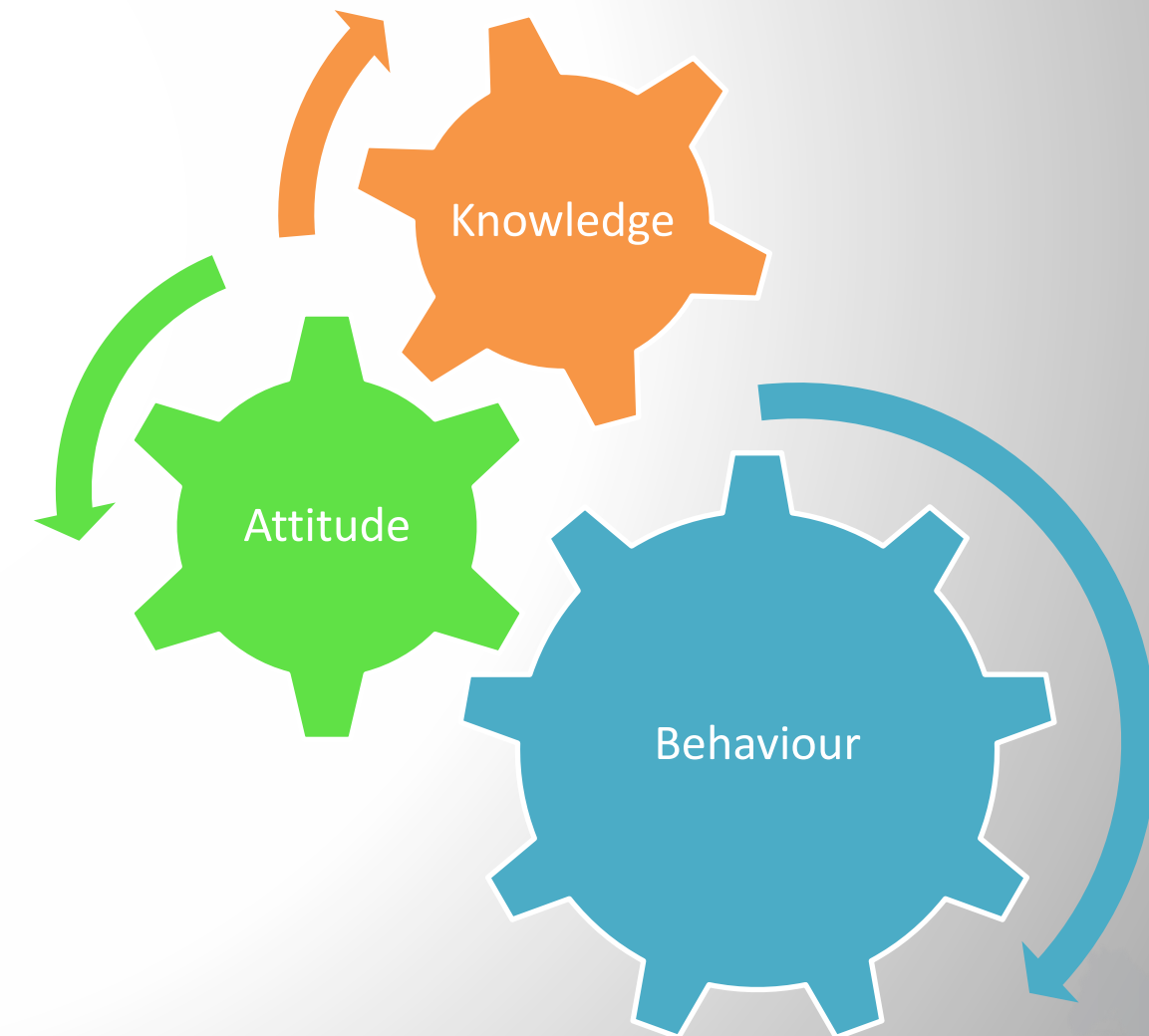
Multi Agency Collaboration

- Safe Roads/Roadsides



# DEAD SLOW

- Informing drivers how to pass horses safely.
- Influencing driver behaviour if they see a horse on the road.













Antics of Mr Mo







2 METRES



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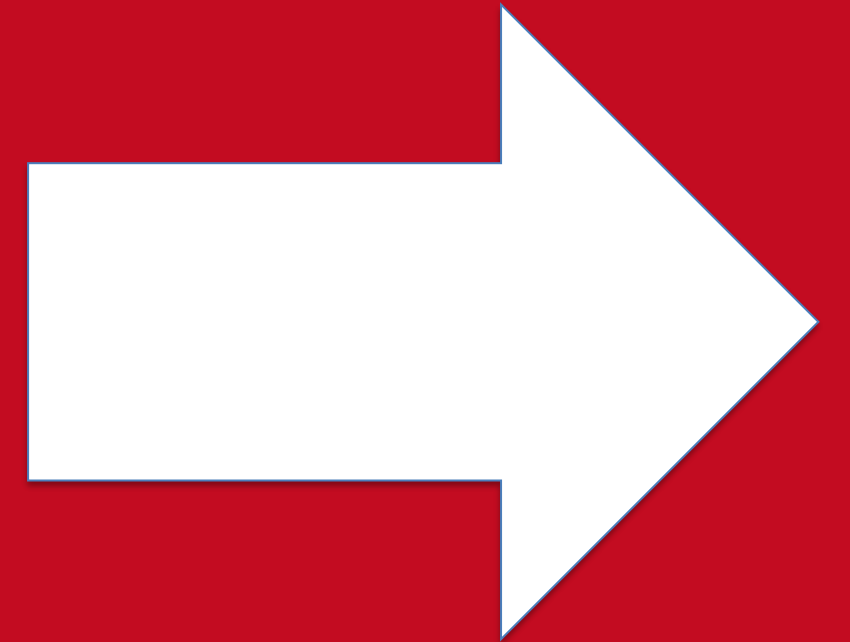




# SAFER DRIVERS

The  
British  
Horse  
Society

If I see a horse on the road,  
then I will...



# SAFER DRIVERS

Slow Down to a maximum 10mph

Be patient, I won't sound my horn  
or rev my engine

(When safe to do so) Pass the horse wide and  
slow (at least a cars width, 2m, if possible)

Drive slowly away





# SAFER DRIVERS

The  
British  
Horse  
Society

Horses have  
to use the  
roads



# SAFER DRIVERS

There are 3 brains working – the rider, the driver, AND the horse

Working to a risk assessment which is thousands of years old





# SAFER DRIVERS

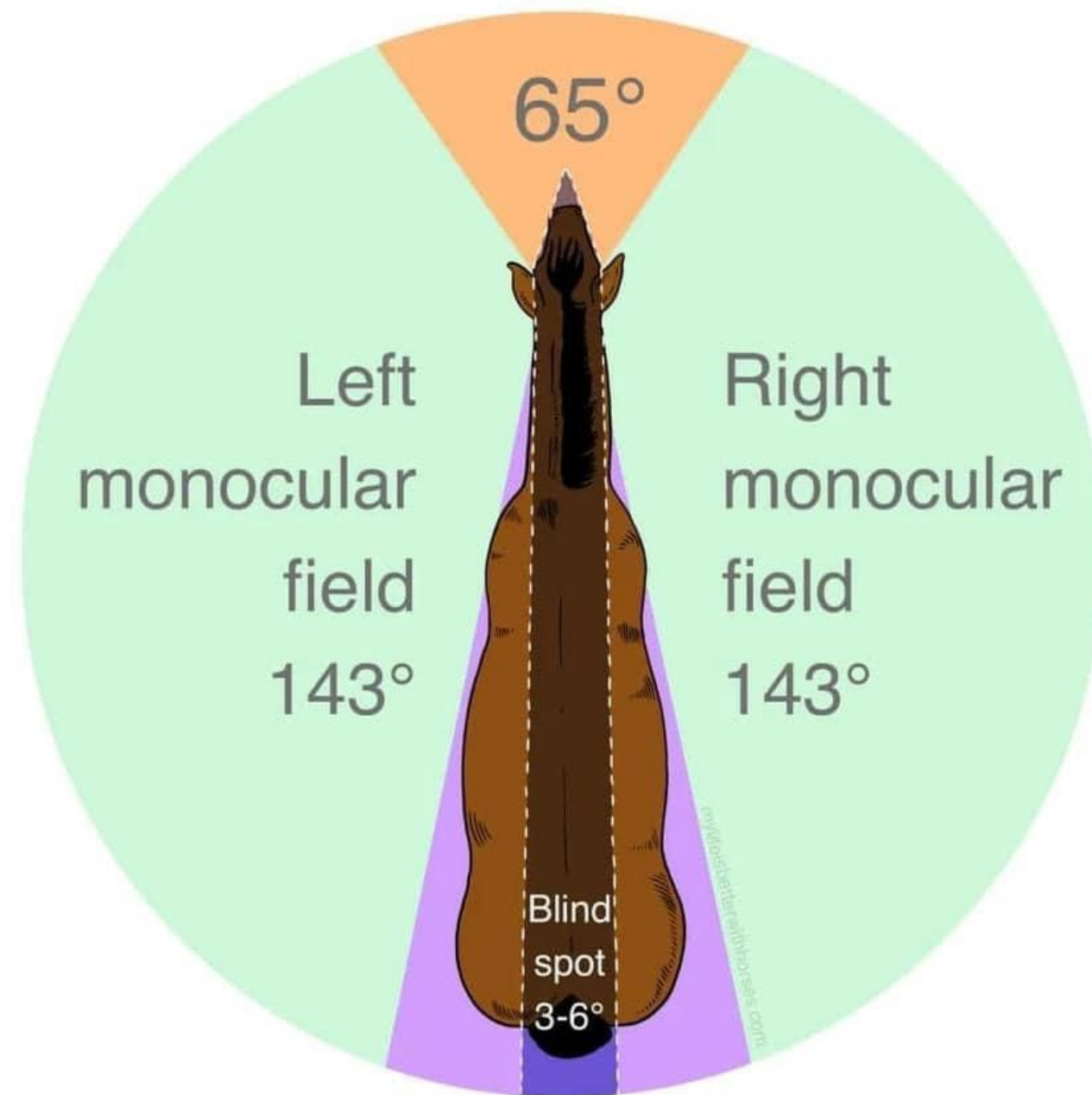
Even the best trained horse can react to something on its nearside.

Bird? Paper? Dog? Lawnmower?

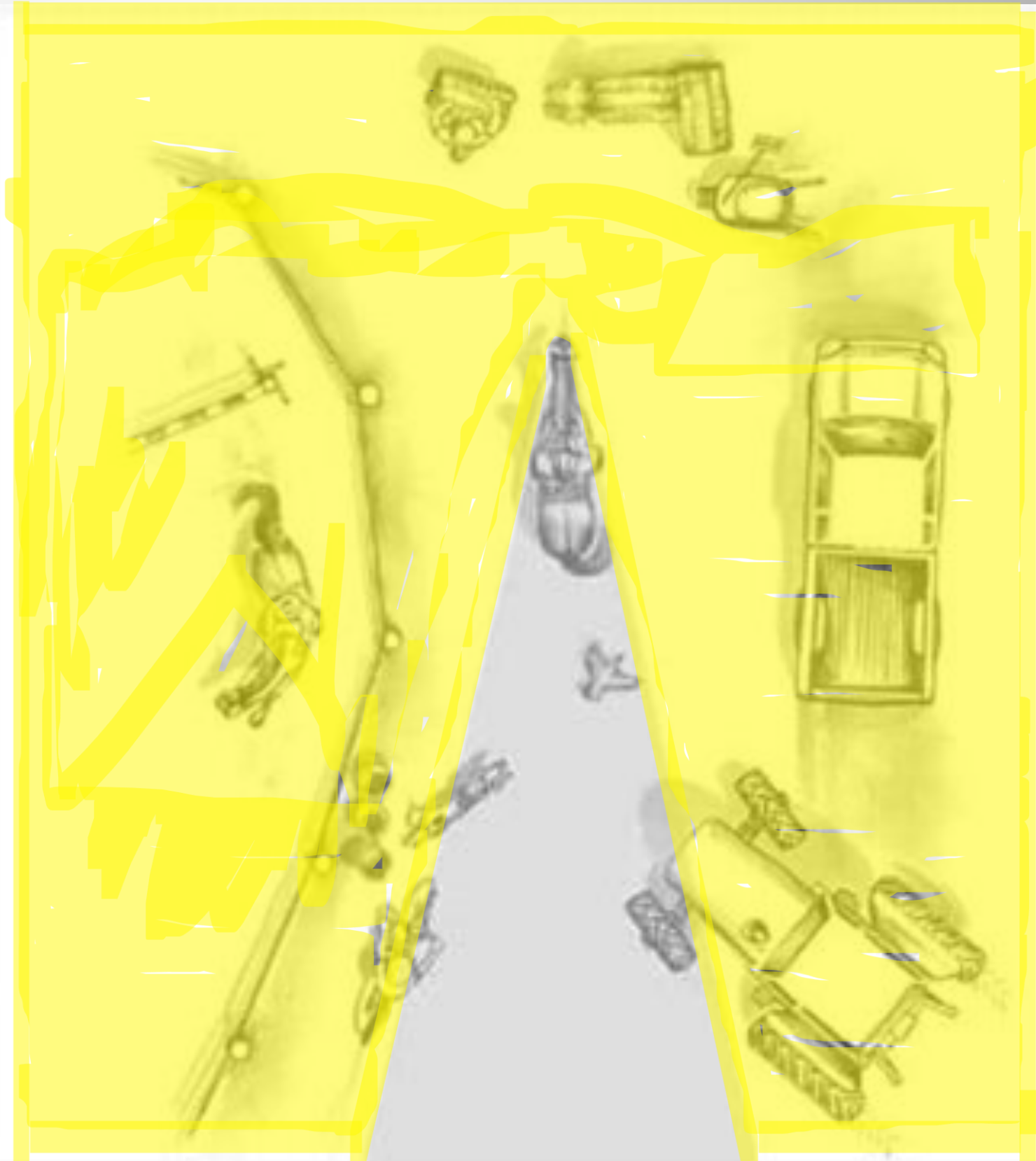
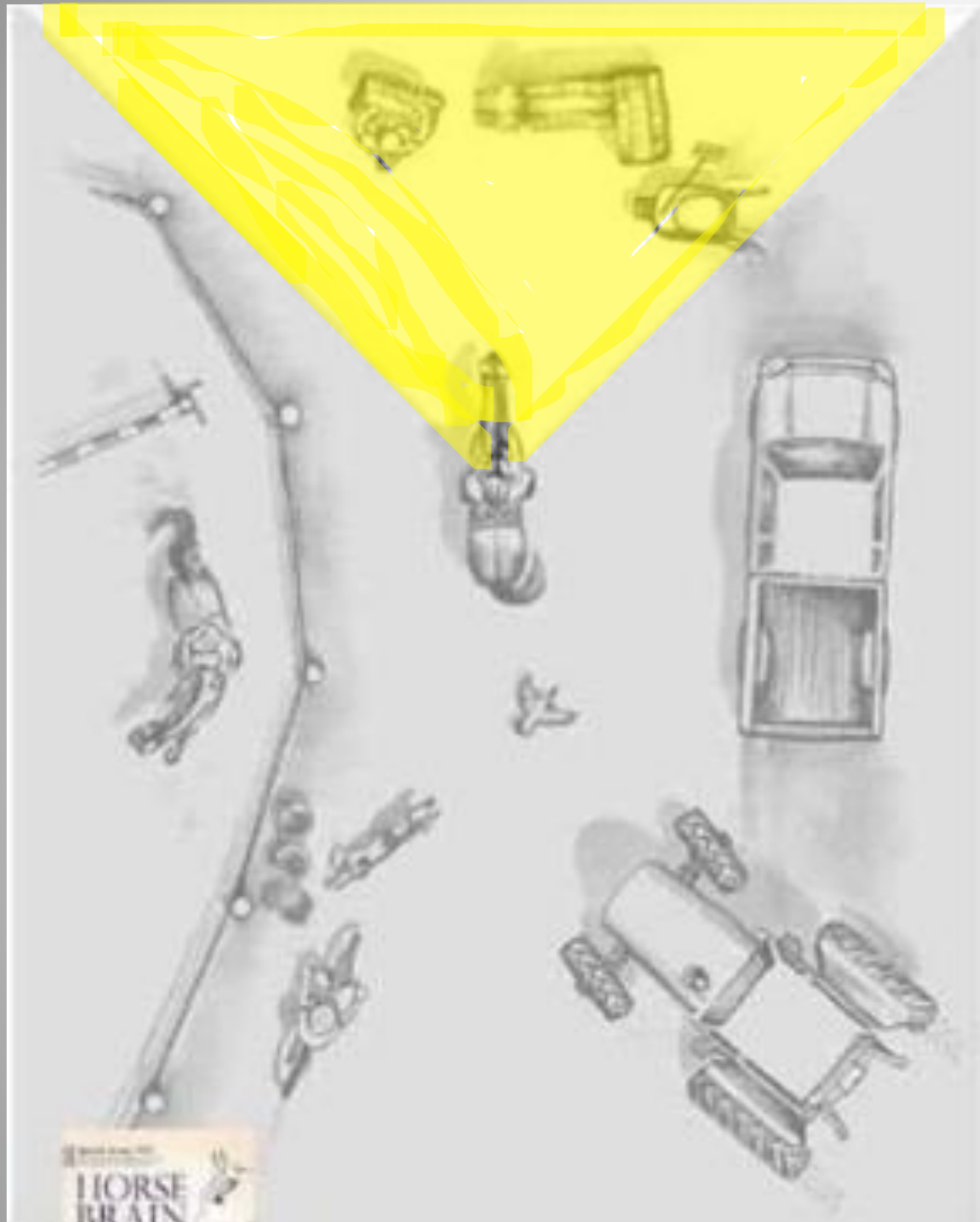
Any sudden movement!!!



# SAFER DRIVERS







# SAFER DRIVERS

Horses can move very quickly.

They weigh up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  tonne.

They will cause serious damage to your vehicle.







AT THE RACES

3:38:18

2

sky sport Italia

1:58 pm ATL

ITALY

SIDE A

10

ACQUARO

2 INTER

3 NAPOLI

4 LIGURESE

5 LAZIO

6 ROMA

7 JUVENTUS

8 PALERMO

9 FIORENTINA

10 GENOA





# The Official Highway Code





# Department of Transport Highway Code Review Group



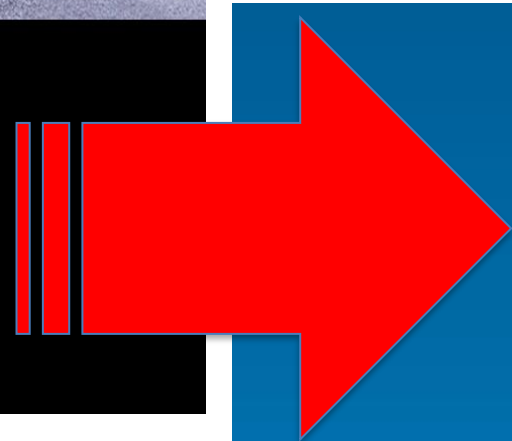
Driver & Vehicle  
Standards  
Agency







**DEAD SLOW**  
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PASSING HORSES WIDE AND SLOW CAN PREVENT  
THE DEATH OF DRIVERS, RIDERS AND HORSES.





# HIERARCHY



## New Hierarchy of road users

The hierarchy places those road users most at risk in the event of a collision at the top of the hierarchy.

More likely to be injured

People walking  
(including children, older adults and disabled people)



People riding horses  
People cycling  
People driving horse-drawn vehicles and motorcycles



People driving cars and taxis  
People driving vans and minibuses  
People driving large goods and passenger vehicles



Greater responsibility

Learn more: [gov.uk/dft/highwaycodechanges](https://gov.uk/dft/highwaycodechanges)

Those who can cause the greatest harm,  
have the greatest responsibility to reduce  
the risk they may pose to others.

Most at risk



Most  
responsibility



# HIGHWAY CODE 2022

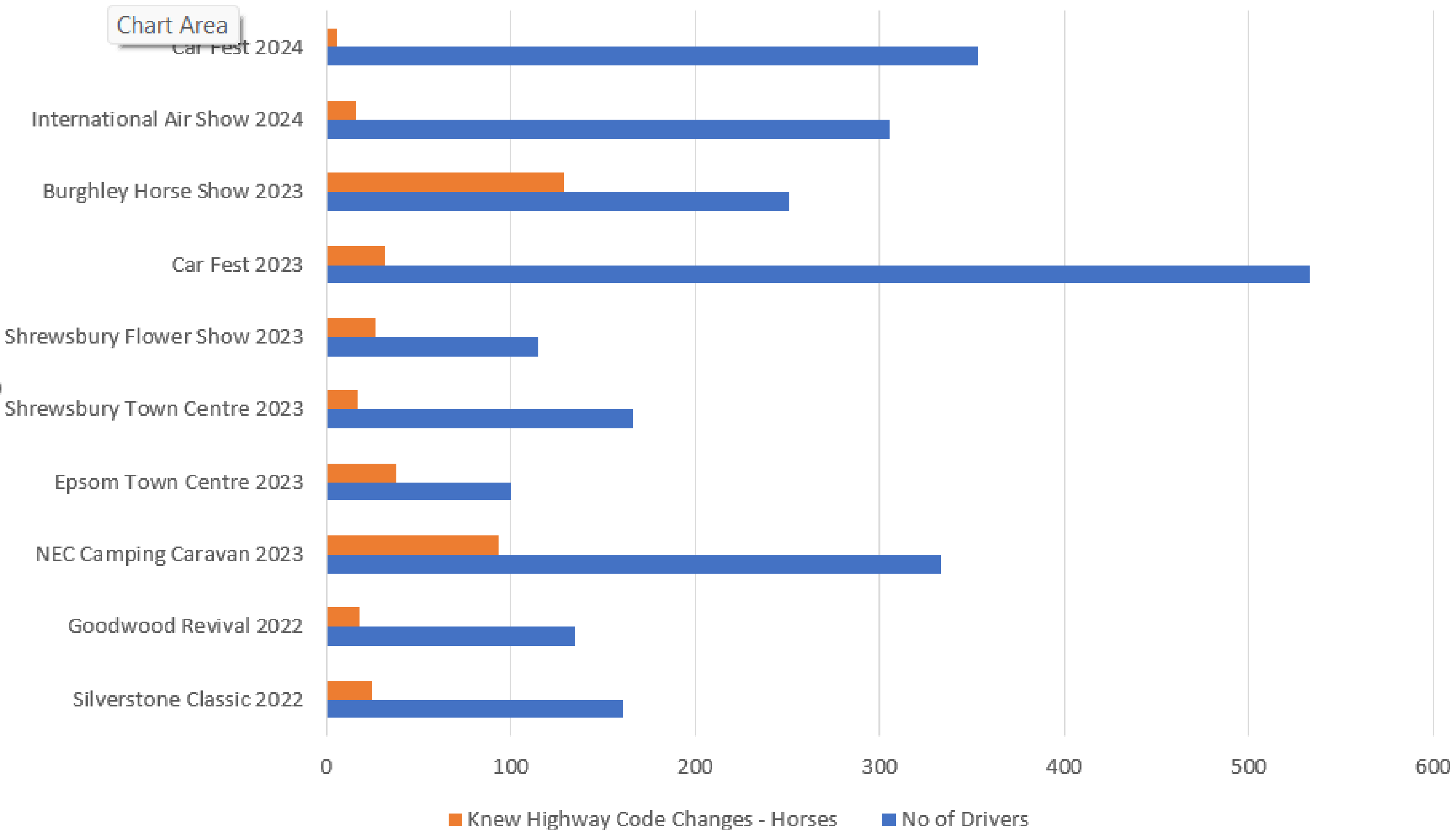
- IAM Roadsmart Survey
- 20% unaware of the changes.
- 51% cant remember when they last read the HC.
- 34% haven't read it in the last year.
- AA 60% do not know the changes.





# Driver Surveys Knowledge of Highway Code Changes (Equestrian)

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# SAFER RIDERS





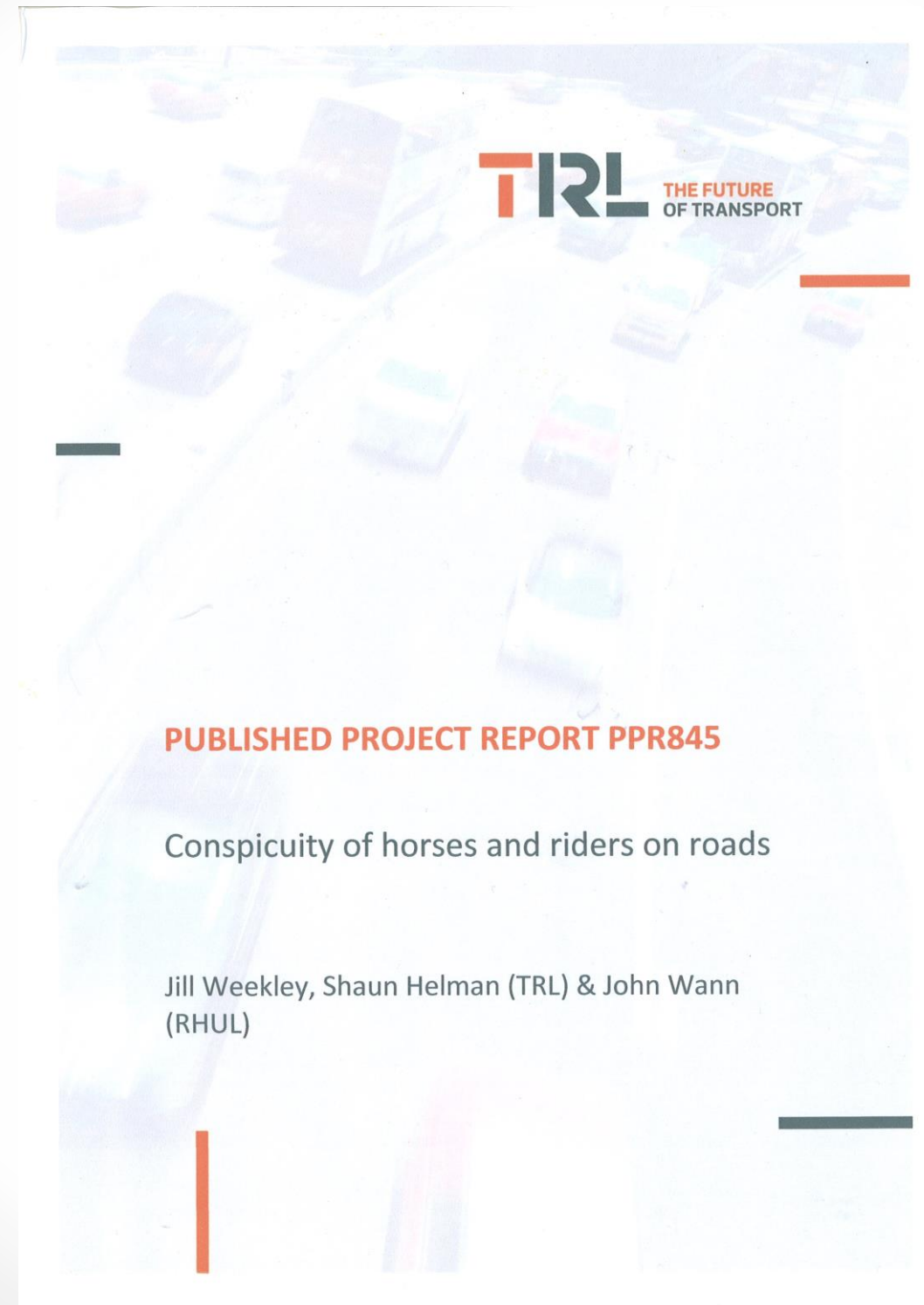


# The Official Highway Code



# SAFER RIDERS

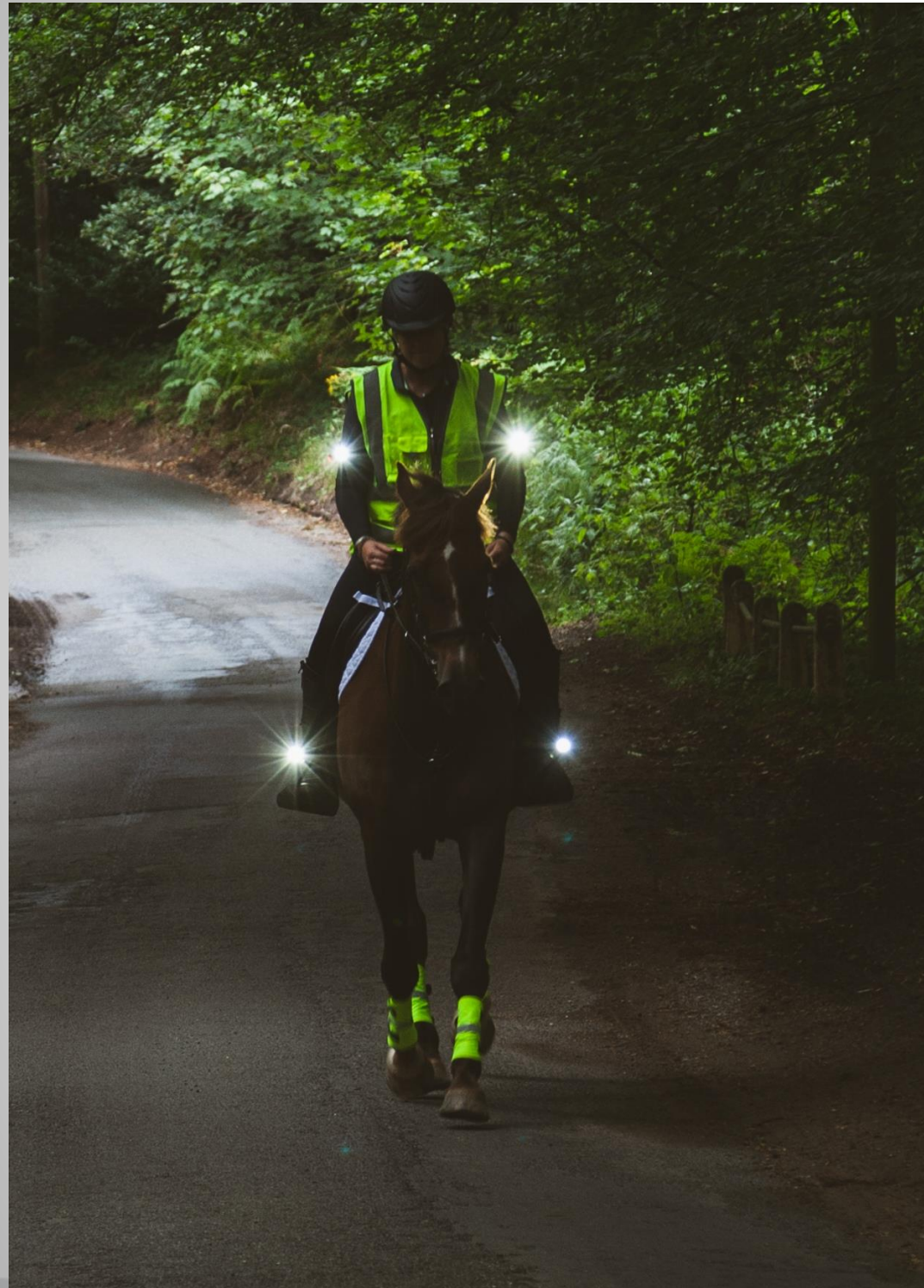
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Society





# SAFER RIDERS

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British  
Horse  
Society









# SAFER HORSES



# SAFER HORSES

The  
British  
Horse  
Society





# SAFER HORSES

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British  
Horse  
Society





# DEAD SLOW

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What has the British Horse Society done to help keep horses, riders and carriage drivers safer on the roads?





# BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY

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# LOOK OUT FOR LAURA

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Society



<https://youtu.be/8vCDJOmpHfo>



# YOUNG DRIVERS

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British  
Horse  
Society



**FREE ONLINE GAME**

# HAZARD HERO!

**P L**

**INTERACTIVE  
HAZARD-PERCEPTION  
GAME FOR NEW DRIVERS**

**PLAY  
NOW!**

prizes on offer for  
the most heroic  
new drivers!



# HORSE v CAR

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In partnership with Dorset Police  
/Devon and Cornwall Police

# HORSE VS CAR



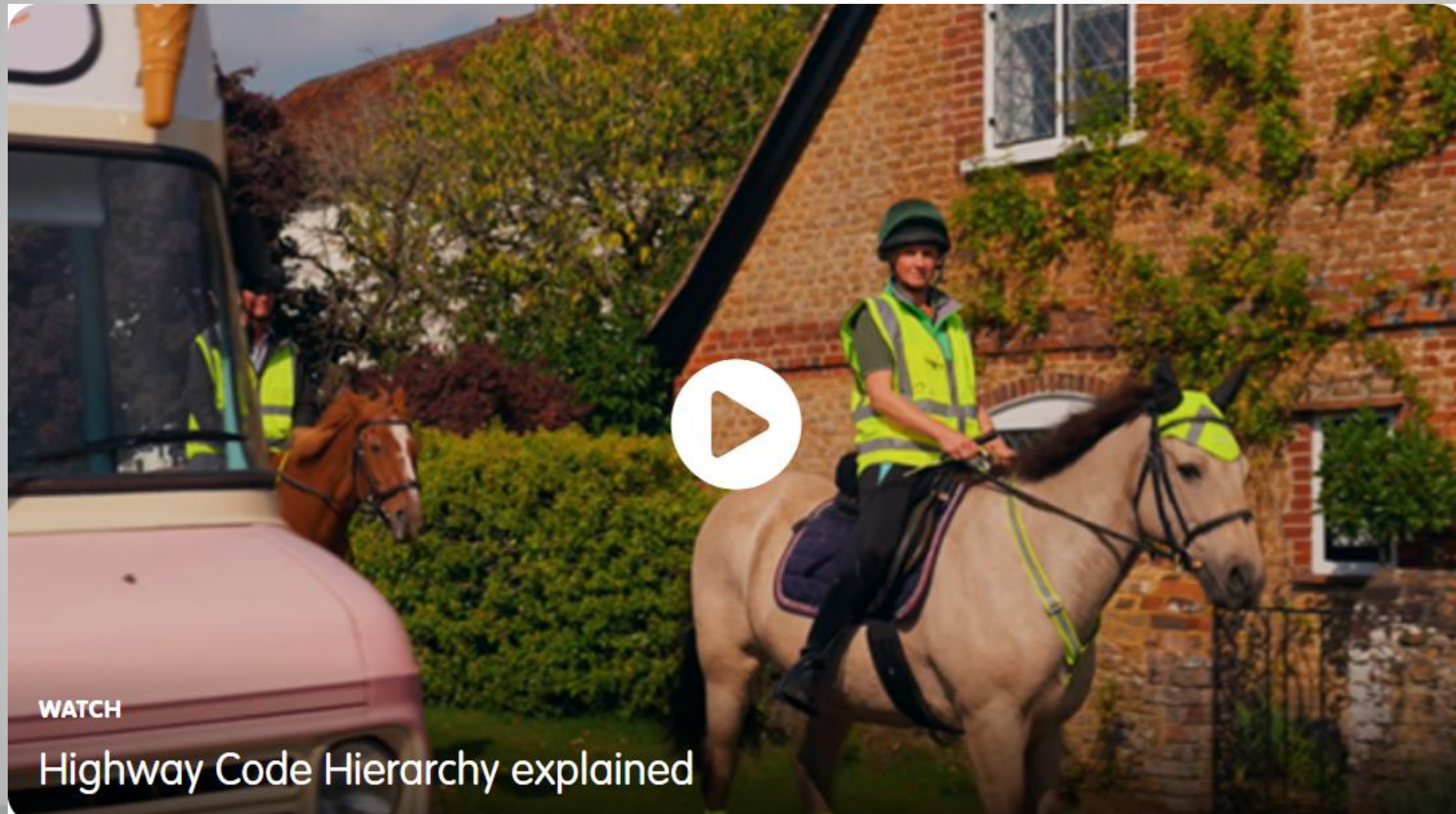
**Pass horses  
wide and slow**





# HIERARCHY

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WATCH

Highway Code Hierarchy explained





# MINDFULNESS - RST

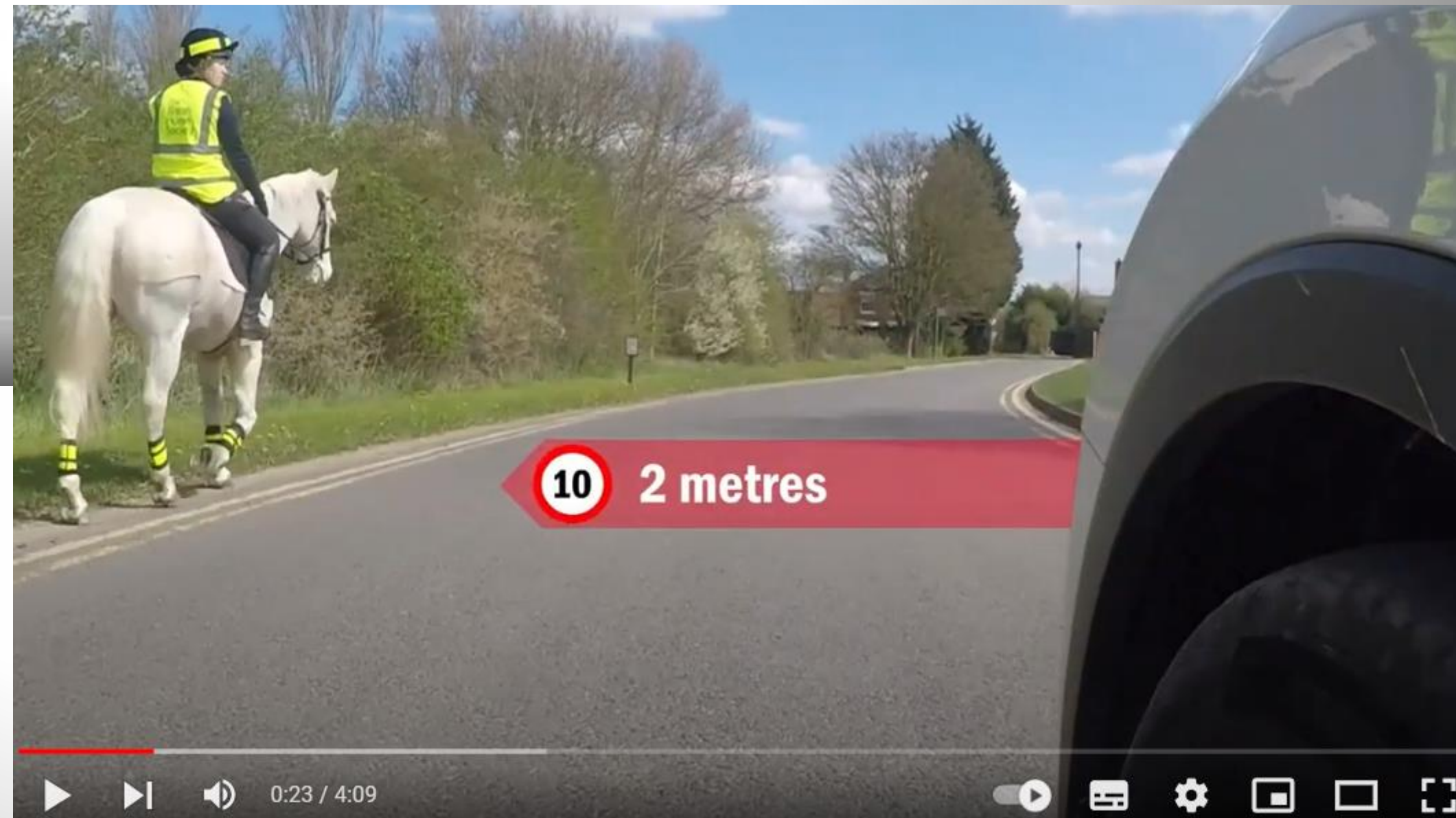
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Mindful Driving Around  
Cyclists and Horse riders

The  
British  
Horse  
Society

Play (k)

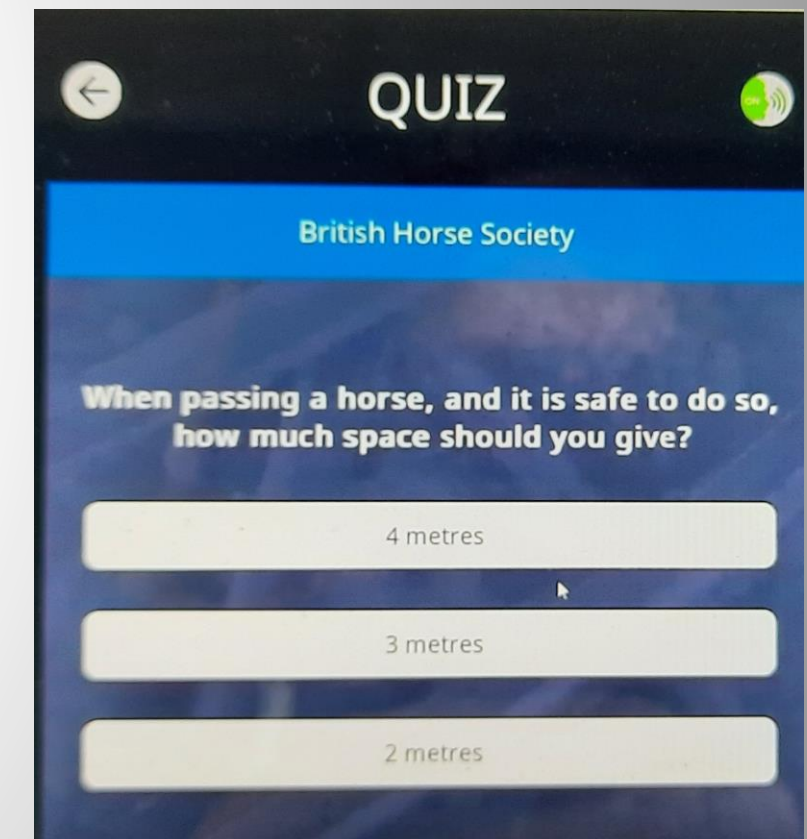
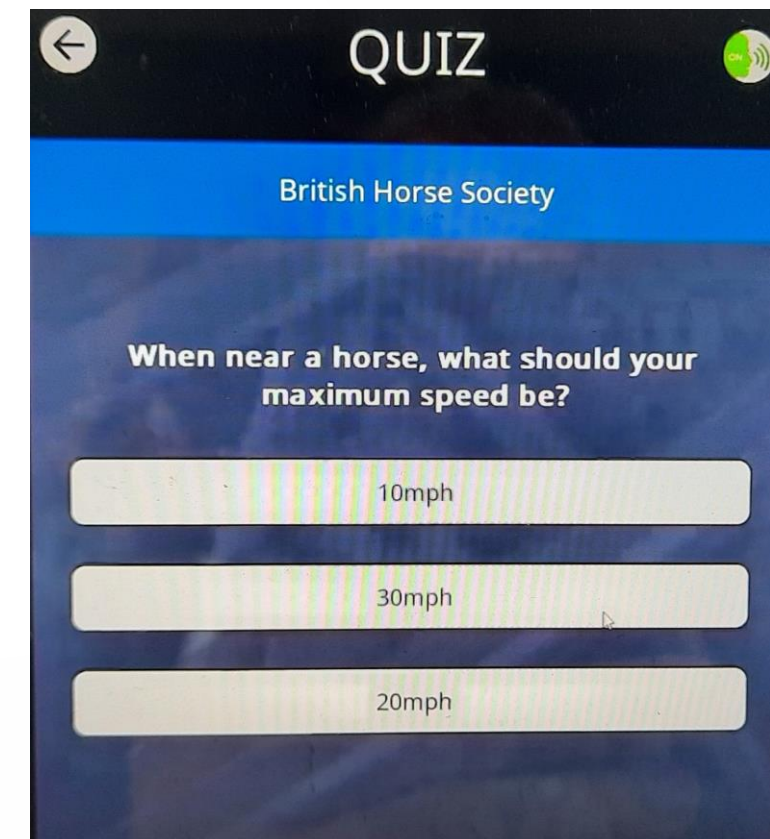
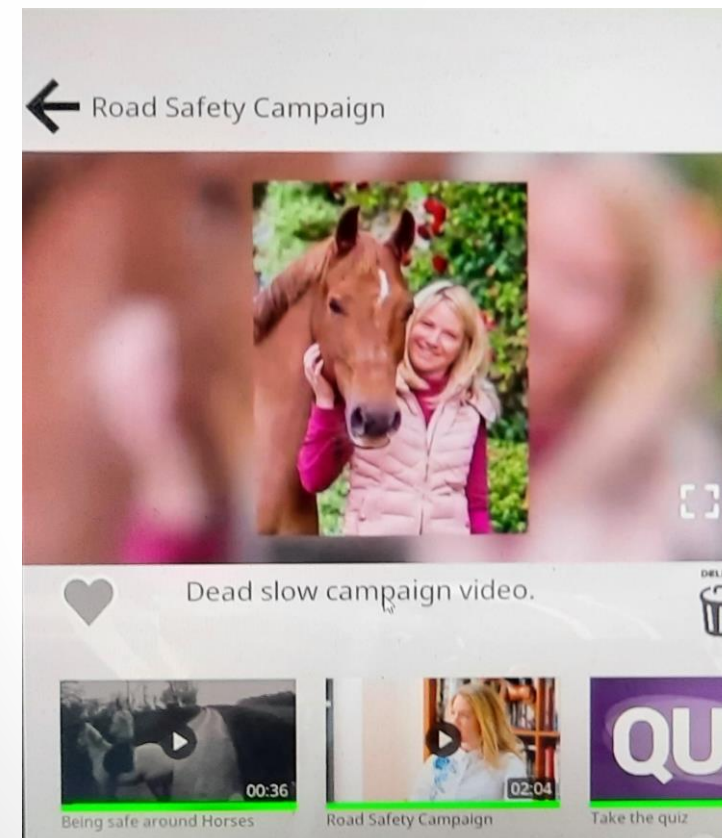
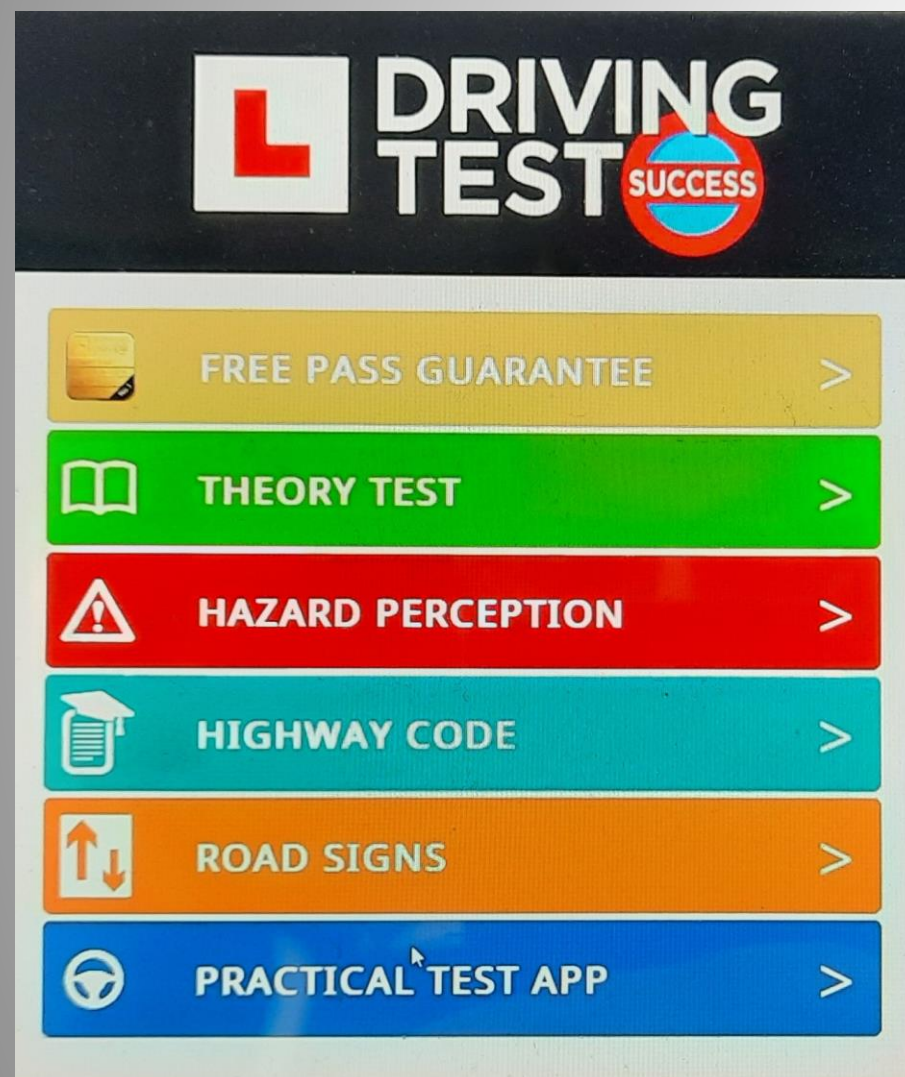
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# YOUNG DRIVERS

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# BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY

The  
British  
Horse  
Society

- horse riders, whose horse is likely to be frightened if you pass noisily, suddenly or too fast.

Pass horse riders and horse-drawn vehicles at speeds under 10 mph and allow at least 2 metres of space. Feral or semi feral ponies found in areas such as the New Forest, Exmoor and Dartmoor require the same consideration as ridden horses when approaching or passing.

This video by the British Horse Society and FirstCar Media shows you how to pass horses safely.



The brand-new Safe Driving for Life website is live!



 [www.safedrivingforlife.info](http://www.safedrivingforlife.info) 



# Download the Horse i App

The  
British  
Horse  
Society

Record your road incidents or near-misses via our Horse i app today. The more incidents that are recorded, the more we can do to keep you and your horse safe.



SCAN ME



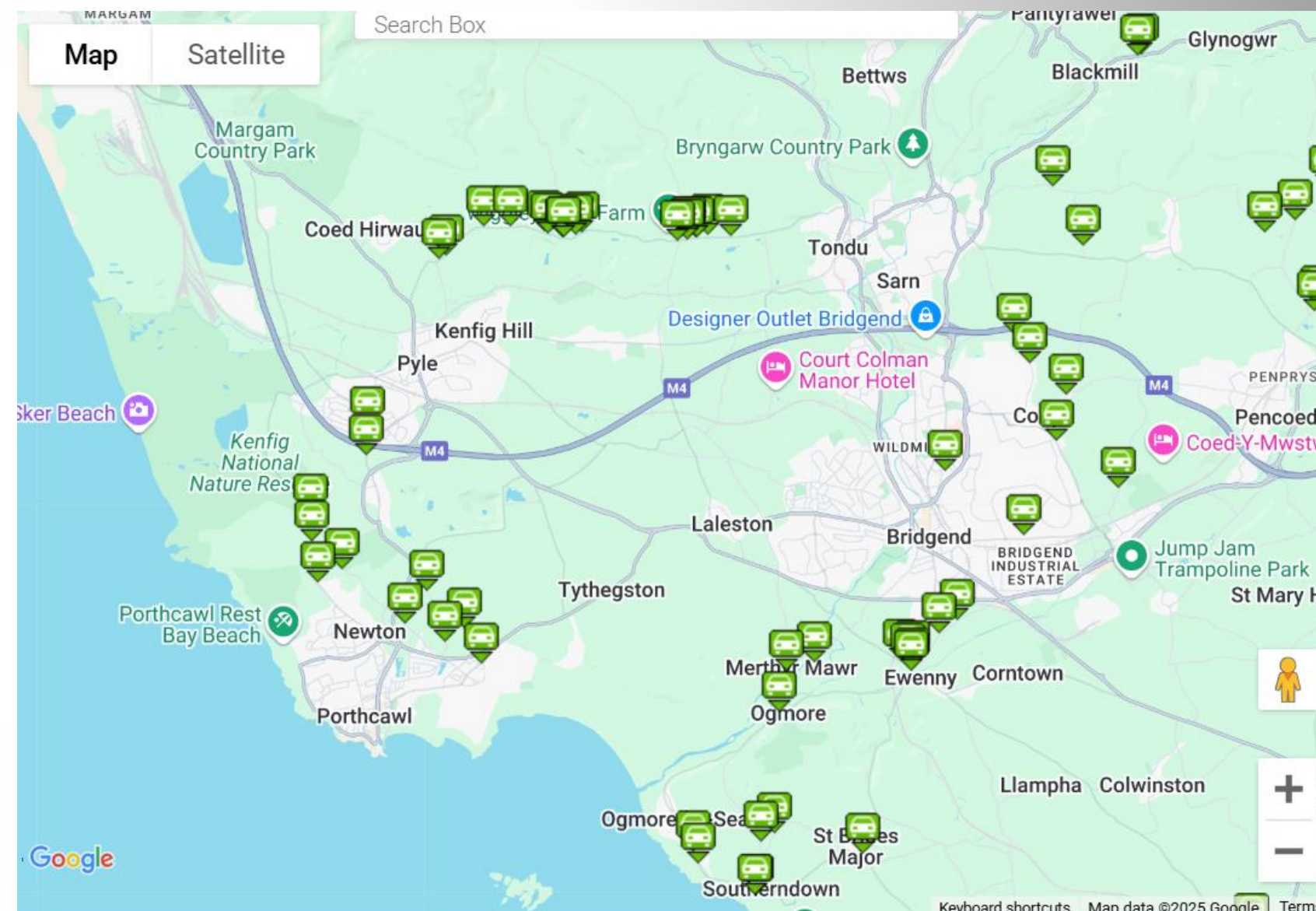
[www.bhs.org.uk/recordanincident](http://www.bhs.org.uk/recordanincident)





# HORSE i - App

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# CLOSE PASS

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Horse  
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# BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY

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# SCHOOLS PROJECT

The  
British  
Horse  
Society





**WE NEED  
YOUR HELP**







SAFER  
DRIVERS

SAFER  
RIDERS

SAFER  
HORSES

Compliments, Complaints, Comments  
to  
[alan.hiscox@bhs.org.uk](mailto:alan.hiscox@bhs.org.uk)





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