



PONY CLUB



ACHIEVEMENT BADGES

COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS

Achievement Badge

Guidelines

- ▶ To be aware of the countryside
- ▶ To be confident to ride in the countryside
- ▶ To understand simple countryside access law in your country
- ▶ To recognise where it is safe for you and your pony to go
- ▶ To assess the risks every time you ride
- ▶ To be able to deal with situations as they occur

Key Points

- ▶ Plan your ride carefully
- ▶ Know what to do if an incident/accident occurs
- ▶ Observe courtesy and understand other people's point of view
- ▶ Know when you can access fields and when you cannot
- ▶ Know how to open a gate from horseback
- ▶ Know when grass becomes a crop

Teaching, Testing Ideas and Resources

- ▶ This should be kept simple and straightforward. Weather reading should be part of the badge.
- ▶ Whether on horseback or on their feet candidates should be able to demonstrate how to open and shut a gate safely from horseback.
- ▶ Discussion on whether your pony is ready to venture out to the countryside, e.g. fitness for the terrain, other vehicles on roads, bicycles. Ability to make the decision, dependent on the weather, their pony, etc.

Additional

Each country has different access legislation; especially in Scotland, training for this badge should be relevant to the local laws. The tester should either be an access volunteer from the BHS or another professional body, e.g. local authority, county council, or on the BHS or UKCC register.

Recommended Reading

England

- ▶ The Countryside Code Leaflet (http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk/things_to_know/countryside_code/educational_resources/educational_resources)
- ▶ BHS Riding and Driving Responsibly Leaflet

Scotland

- ▶ The Scottish Outdoor Access Code (<http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com/upload/Full%20Access%20Code.pdf>)
- ▶ Are YOU riding responsibly? (<http://www.bhsscotland.org.uk/Pages/documents/AccessRideResponsiblyLeaflet2007.pdf>)

Wales

- ▶ Forestry Commission guidelines (<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-626JJM>)

Northern Ireland

- ▶ Ireland Outdoor Ethics Code (http://www.leavenotraceireland.org/LNT_Ireland_Brochure.pdf)