



The Human Equine Interaction Register (HEIR)

What is HEIR?

The Human Equine Interaction Register (HEIR) is a national register created to support and safeguard the delivery of Equine Assisted Services (EAS) in the UK. It provides a central record of individuals and organisations involved in equine-assisted activities, ensuring that practitioners operate to recognised standards of professionalism, ethical practice, and equine welfare.

The HEIR is overseen by the [Equine Assisted Services Partnership](#) (EASP), a coalition of sector groups committed to raising standards, promoting good practice, and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of both humans and horses.

What Purpose Does HEIR Serve?

HEIR aims to:

- Promote accountability and transparency in the delivery of equine-assisted services.
- Provide assurance to clients, families, health and education professionals, and commissioners that registered providers meet agreed standards.
- Strengthen safeguarding and welfare through consistent checks and ongoing monitoring.
- Support the professional development of people working within EAS.
- Create a recognised framework that helps the sector demonstrate its value, safety, and credibility.

How Do Riding Schools become HEIR Approved EAS Providers?

Through ABRS+'s partnership with the EASP, member riding schools can apply for HEIR registration at a 50% discount.

To be approved to be listed on HEIR, a riding school must:

1. Submit an application through the HEIR registration process.
2. Demonstrate compliance with the HEIR standards (see below).

4. Submit documents and evidence to confirm that they align to and meet five criteria:

- Professionalism: competence to practice and commitment to professional development
- Equine welfare: high equine welfare and management standards
- Service provision and service user engagement: communication of services and the potential benefits
- Benefits and impact: professional reflection of the benefits and impact of the service being provided
- Governance: sufficient management and governance structures in place

What Makes a Riding School Eligible for HEIR?

To be eligible for HEIR registration, a riding school must demonstrate that it can safely and professionally deliver Equine Assisted Services (EAS) in line with nationally recognised standards. Eligibility requirements include:

1. A Suitable Operating Environment

- The riding school must be a recognised, insured equestrian establishment.
- Facilities must support safe delivery of equine-assisted sessions (e.g., enclosed arenas, suitable mounting systems, accessible spaces where required).
- Horses must be appropriately trained, selected, and monitored for suitability in EAS roles.

2. Robust Safeguarding and Governance

- Up-to-date safeguarding policies aligned with current UK legislation.
- Enhanced DBS checks for staff involved in EAS delivery.
- Clear procedures for incident reporting, risk assessment, and participant support.
- Adequate insurance cover, health and safety and data protection policies and procedures.

3. Qualified or Verified Practitioners

- Staff delivering EAS must hold appropriate qualifications, verified training, or recognised practitioner status relevant to their modality (e.g., equine-assisted learning, therapy, wellbeing, coaching).

- Where formal qualifications are emerging, evidence of competence, supervision, or ongoing training is acceptable.

4. Demonstrated Commitment to Welfare Standards

- Behavioural understanding, workload management, and ongoing welfare assessment are essential.
- Horse care and training must align with the **Five Domains of Animal Welfare**
- Applicants must confirm that they will follow good practice as defined in the [NEWC Standards for Providers of EAS](#) and [HETI Ethical Guidelines](#)

5. Programme Structure and Documentation

- Clear session plans, participant pathways, and service descriptions.
- Insurance that specifically covers equine-assisted activities.
- Organisational readiness to engage in quality assurance and periodic review.

What Involvement Does HEIR Accreditation Include?

Once accredited, a riding school or practitioner will be:

- Listed on the Human Equine Interaction Register and able to use the recognised kitemark.
- Subject to the HEIR quality framework, including ongoing CPD and periodic renewal.
- Connected to the EASP community for updates, best practice, and collaboration.
- Recognised as a safe provider for clients, parents, commissioners, and partner organisations.

What Are the Benefits of HEIR Accreditation?

For Riding Schools:

- Demonstrates professional credibility in the EAS sector.
- Access to CPD eligible webinars (HEIR Time Talks), Supervision, discounted online statutory and mandatory training, access to the EASP Members' Hub
- Enhances safeguarding, welfare, and risk-management credentials.
- Provides a clear structure for staff development and programme quality.
- Strengthens partnerships with health, education, and community agencies.
- Supports marketing and reputation.

For Clients and Referrers:

- Confidence that the service is safe, ethical, and well-governed through the recognised kitemark
- Assurance of high equine welfare standards.
- Transparency in qualifications and experience.

For the Sector:

- Greater consistency and professionalism across equine-assisted interventions.
- Builds a stronger evidence base for the value of EAS.

Annex A: How to Apply for HEIR Registration

Riding schools applying for HEIR registration through ABRS+ should follow the steps below:

1. Visit the [HEIR registration portal](#) via the Equine Assisted Services Partnership.
2. Select the appropriate registration type to become an Approved EAS Provider (individual practitioner, team, or organisational registration).
3. Prepare the following documents: [See FAQs and Guidance](#) for further information.
 - Staff qualification certificates or evidence of EAS-related training.
 - Safeguarding and DBS information.
 - Insurance documentation.
 - Risk assessments and operational procedures.
 - Evidence of horse welfare standards and management systems.
4. Complete the online application form and upload supporting documents.
5. Apply the ABRS+ discount code to receive the 50% reduction in registration fees.
6. Await confirmation and respond to any follow-up requests for information.
7. Once approved, use the kitemark in all promotional material. Maintain compliance with CPD, periodic renewal, and HEIR Standards.