

Windsor Great Park Riding Permits – Conditions 2017/18

1. Pre-permit conditions

- 1.1. Submission of an application for a permit shall be taken as acceptance of these conditions.
- 1.2. All riders must hold a current third party liability policy, with a minimum sum insured of £5,000,000 (five million), and a current personal accident policy, and must maintain those policies throughout the duration of their permit. In the case of a riding school, these policies must cover all riders operating from that riding school together with all employees. Copies of both policies must be provided to The Crown Estate Office. If the policies expire within the period covered by the permit, copies of renewal policies must be provided to the Crown Estate Office a minimum of 7 days before the existing policy expires. Failure to do so will result in the permit being cancelled and permission to ride withdrawn. In agreeing to these conditions applicants certify that they hold and will maintain adequate insurance cover.
- 1.3. In addition, applicants for riding school permits must also provide copies of the following documents to The Crown Estate before a permit will be issued or renewed:
 - a) Licence issued by the Local Authority giving approval for the intended permit holder to operate as a riding school;
 - b) Evidence of British Horse Society approval; and
 - c) Riding school Health & Safety Policy and risk assessment (to include emergency contingency planning) in relation to escorted rides.
 - d) Written agreement to provide weekly details of all scheduled commercial rides taking on the estate.

2. Riding Permits and Discs

2.1. Individual Permits

- a) On provision of the documents set out in paragraph 1.1 above and payment of the annual permit fee of £250 individual permit holders will be issued with a yellow riding disc.
- b) Riding permits and discs are not transferable: they are strictly for use only by the registered permit holder personally. The registered permit holder may not loan, share or sell the permit/disc. Riding permits are non-refundable.

2.2. Riding School Permits

- a) On provision of the documents set out in paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2 above and payment of the annual permit fee (tbc) per disc riding school permit holders will be issued with white riding disc(s).
- b) Riding permits and discs are not transferable: they are for use only by:
 - i. the registered holder's paying customers throughout their participation in an escorted ride; and
 - ii. the registered holder's employees while acting as ride escorts.
- c) It is the responsibility of riding schools to make their customers aware of these conditions – any rider failing to comply with them will have his or her permit cancelled.

2.3. All Permits

- a) All riding permits are non-refundable
- b) When riding in the park riding discs must be prominently displayed at all times either on the offside of the bridle, on the top 'D' ring on the offside of the saddle, or on the front of the horse.

- c) Lost discs must be reported to the police and will only be replaced upon production of the lost property reference number and payment of a £15 fee; broken discs will be replaced free of charge.

3. Permitted Riding Areas

- 3.1. Horse boxes are permitted in the horse box car park at Ranger's Gate off the A332. Horse boxes are not permitted in any of the other car parks within Windsor Great Park. Parking horse boxes elsewhere in the Great Park constitutes a breach of these conditions.
- 3.2. Horse Boxes are also permitted in the designated horse box car park along the B3017 Swinley Road (post code SL5 8BB), for the purposes of accessing Swinley Park.
- 3.3. Riding by permit holders is permitted in the Northern Section of the Great Park, as defined in the Windsor Great Park Regulations 1973, and in Swinley Park.
- 3.4. In relation to the Great Park, riders may only enter or leave the park through the following gates:

Blacknest Gate	Bears Rails Gate
Rangers Gate	Ascot Gate
Bishops Gate	
- 3.5. The approved route for entering the Great Park from the horse box car park at Ranger's Gate is via the A332.
- 3.6. Key holders may also use the riding track between Shepherd's White's Corner and Wood Pond Gate to Sandpit Gate in South Forest track to access the Great Park. Please note access to the Park via Windsor and Cranbourne Forests is no longer permitted.
- 3.7. Riding is prohibited within the Village, on grass rides (except Queen Anne's Ride), mown verges, mown areas along the Long Walk and in bracken. Riding is also prohibited on the Polo Ground.
- 3.8. Although riding is generally permitted within the Deer Park, Snow Hill (where the Copper Horse statue is situated) is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, therefore access to this area is permitted on tracks only. Access to the Golden Jubilee statue is prohibited.
- 3.9. Riding is permitted during daylight hours, subject to the rights reserved at 4.1 below.

4. Access Rules

- 4.1. Riders are restricted to roads and tracks from 1st November to 31st March. The Crown Estate Commissioners and Deputy Ranger reserve the right to extend this restriction as necessary in the event of periods of inclement weather or to close the whole or parts of the park for riding at any time. The Crown Estate Commissioners and Deputy Ranger will in these situations notify riders or display notices at the park gates detailing the extent and length of closure. Known scheduled closures are set out at 6 below.
- 4.2. Riders must:
 - a) obey track signs and notices restricting access;
 - b) comply with directions given by estate staff; and
 - c) wear appropriate riding clothing including an approved riding hat and suitable safe footwear. Riding school employees must wear reflective jackets while acting as ride escorts. Reflective jackets are recommended for all riders when riding in inclement weather.
- 4.3. Riders must not:

- a) ride at a pace faster than a “hand canter”;
- b) ride recklessly in a way which could endanger the safety or interfere with the comfort and convenience of other users of the Park including racing, jumping, riding more than four abreast and showing, trying exercising or breaking-in horses; and
- c) be accompanied by dogs.

4.4. Riding schools must ensure that each group of riders entering the Great Park is under the control of a competent escort. Groups must not exceed seven riders including the escort or escorts (e.g. if two escorts are required for a group of less experienced riders the party would consist of two escorts and a maximum of five paying customers).

5. Permit Revocation or Withdrawal

5.1. The Crown Estate Commissioners and Deputy Ranger reserve the right to revoke permits without notice or refund in the event of a breach of any of these conditions, in particular if:

- a) the permit holder is identified as riding outside of the permitted areas or time and ignoring signage on more than one occasion;
- b) a riding permit or disc is used by anyone other than the registered holder (or the registered holder’s paying customers or ride escorts while participating in an escorted ride where the registered holder is a riding school); and
- c) the permit holder fails to clearly display the appropriate disc on more than one occasion.

5.2. The Crown Estate Commissioners and Deputy Ranger reserve the right to cancel permits on provision of 30 days written notice for any reason. Permits are non-refundable.

6. Liability

6.1. Permit holders will be held responsible for all claims and demands whatsoever on the part of any person whomsoever in respect of any injury, loss or damage arising out of or in consequence of the exercise of the rights and liberties given by the permit.

6.2. The Crown Estate Commissioners and their agents accept no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any loss, injury or damage which may be occasioned to the permit holder, his horse or to customers of riding school permit holders. The Crown Estate is not responsible for checking the adequacy or validity of any insurance policy or licence held or risk assessment completed by the permit holder.

7. Advisory Notes and Scheduled Closures

7.1. Riders are advised that there are many obstacles in the Park, including concealed ditches and rabbit holes.

7.2. Windsor Great Park is a popular recreational destination and is visited each year by over five million people. Riders are therefore asked to pay due care and attention at all times to other visitors and residents, including road users, pedestrians, cyclists and dog walkers.

7.3. Riders will, from time to time, meet polo ponies on exercise. Polo grooms have been instructed to reduce speed to a walk when passing other riders: permit holders should do the same.

7.4. Scheduled Closures:

- a) Dukes Lane will be closed to riders during Royal Ascot Week – 20th to 24th June 2017.
- b) The park will be closed to all riders on the following dates:
 - i. FEI International Endurance Event on Friday 12th May 2017; and
 - ii. The Windsor Half Marathon on Sunday 24th September 2017 (up until 13:00).

Please visit www.windsorgreatpark.co.uk for details of other events taking place inside the Park throughout the year.