BOWOOD

Guidelines and Code of Conduct for Horse Riding Permit Holders

- Please ensure you always have a current Riding Permit with you whilst riding on the Estate. If you are unable to provide a current Riding Permit on request, you will be asked to leave. In the event of loss of your Riding Permit, please inform the Estate Office immediately. Riding Permits are non-transferable. An exception can be made for someone exercising their horses, but if it is discovered that use of any Riding Permit is being abused, future permission may be denied.
- Access to the Estate is only via the designated entrance and exit points and riding is only permitted along the designated routes marked on the Estate map (provided with each permit); all other areas are out of bounds.
- Riding is only permitted on the Estate between one hour after sunrise and one hour before sunset (officially published times).
- The designated routes indicate where you are permitted to ride; they do not imply these routes are safe. You ride along these routes at your own risk; the Estate cannot accept liability for any accidents which may occur. The Estate recommends you be fully insured before riding at Bowood. You will be held personally responsible for any accident, careless, negligent, or wilful damage (other than fair wear and tear) which you cause whilst on the Estate and to Estate property. Your insurance should cover all eventualities.
- Parts of the permitted riding route are also used by pedestrians as a public right of way. Please ensure that you take extra care in these areas and show due consideration for walkers.
- It is recommended you do not ride unaccompanied, whatever your level of experience. If you do intend to ride alone, inform a third party of your expected route and time of return. Although the Estate is patrolled day and night, it is irregular, and it therefore may be some hours before help arrives to assist in the event of an accident. If you are under 16 years of age you are not permitted to ride without an accompanying adult.
- Do not erect jumps; you may jump any obstacles on the designated routes at your own risk. If you come to a shut gate, please shut it behind you. If you go through an already open gate, please leave it open. Be careful of electric fencing that may be erected at certain times of the year. Report any observed cases of damaged fencing or gates and escaped livestock to the Estate Office.
- Smoking is not permitted at any time whilst on the Estate; it can constitute a fire risk. Do not leave any litter behind.
- Be aware of farming and forestry activities that are carried out on the Estate throughout the year. For your own safety, avoid going near farm vehicles or Foresters felling or extracting trees. Game rearing and vermin control take place throughout the year, including game shooting. Be extremely careful not to interfere with gamekeeping or shooting party activities.
- Avoid contributing to damage to the ground, particularly avoid cantering along grass verges and woodland paths when the ground is soft. Routes that suffer damage may have to be closed.
- No dogs are allowed under any circumstances. No bicyclists or pedestrians are to accompany riders at any time, with the exception of pedestrians accompanying riders under 16, or persons with the specific prior agreement of the Estate Director.

- The Estate reserves the right to close part or all of the riding route for short periods and without notice, due to events or other activities which might compromise the safety of Permit Holders.

It is in the interest of each Permit Holder to ensure that this code is adhered to; deviation from this code and disrespectful behaviour whilst on the Estate may result in access for all horse riders being terminated. If you observe any infringement of this code, please inform the Estate Office.

Thank you for your co-operation and we hope you enjoy riding on the Estate.

Updated: November 2023