

PEBBLEBED HORSE CODE



Many people enjoy exploring the heaths on horseback. By following this code and encouraging others to do the same, you can be sure that you are enjoying this special landscape in a way that respects other visitors, landowners, animals and wildlife. Some of the trails are sensitive to damage and erosion, following the code will help keep them in good condition for all to use and enjoy far into the future.

Pass slow and say hi!

Slow down when passing other visitors and avoid kicking up dust and pebbles. Remember that some people are nervous of horses, so pass wide and slow. By calling out a friendly greeting other visitors will realise that you are close by, making it easier for everyone to share the trails. We all love to explore the heaths with friends and family but groups of horse riders can be intimidating so ride no more than two abreast

Follow trails to protect the landscape and wildlife, avoid widening trails or creating new lines.

Keeping to trails protects the special habitats and the rare wildlife that live in them. This is particularly important during the bird breeding season from 1st March to 31st July. Many heathland birds breed on the ground so are easily disturbed, leaving eggs or chicks exposed to the cold and predators.

Take care of yourself and the trails, avoid routes that are sensitive to damage.

Plan your route. The heaths provide a brilliant range of access for horse riders, so choose a route that matches your ability. Stay focused, know your horse and wear the right protective gear. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage and erosion, so adjust your riding and consider using alternative routes. Using these sections less, or only in dry weather will help protect the trails for all to enjoy.

**Always shut the gates,
read and follow signs and report any problems.**

Livestock graze upon the heaths, closing gates keeps grazing animals where they should be. On a group ride please make sure the last rider shuts the gate. We want all visitors to stay safe and enjoy their visit so we will put out information that we feel would be useful. Signs, our websites and social media feeds are the best way to find out about work that is happening or about grazing animals that may influence where you chose to ride. You can also help us by reporting any problems that you see during you visit.

Explore scheduled monuments such as Woodbury Castle on foot.

Scheduled monuments are significant historical sites and it is a criminal offence to ride on them. The iconic Woodbury Castle hillfort is vulnerable to erosion so please explore on foot.

Organised horse riding events need a licence from the land manager.

All events on the heaths need to be licenced by the land manager. This includes horse riding events or companies that lead organised rides. Please contact the land manager if you would like to plan an event or think you might require a license to operate your business on the heaths. If you take part in an organised ride please check the organisers have permission from the land owner.

