

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR RIDING IN HATFIELD FOREST (DAY PERMIT VERSION)

1. A payment of the appropriate sum entitles the permit-holder to ride one horse on the Forest for one day, to fall within shop opening hours during the summer; daily 10am-5pm. This does not include parking for a horse box, for which the normal car parking charge will apply (see section 12). Vehicles can enter the Forest between 10am and 5pm during the summer. For all current shop and gate opening hours, please look on the website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest or phone the Estate Office on (01279) 870678
2. The day permit issued must be displayed visibly with the 'DAY' wording on the front placed inside the clear plastic sleeve on the tabard which must be worn correctly at all times when riding on the Forest and both must be returned to the shop at the end of the ride in order for the appropriate deposit to be returned. This must be no later than 30 minutes before shop closing. Failure to return the permit and tabard will result in the rider being contacted by phone by Hatfield Forest staff to ensure their safety.
3. The permit is personal and not transferable. It consists of clearly marked 'DAY' lettering with a space in to which the issuer will write that day's date. There are short version terms and conditions set out on the reverse. On the inside of the permit is the Hatfield Forest riding map. Both of these must be adhered to at all times.
4. The permit may be revoked at the National Trust's discretion with no notice or refund given if the revocation is a result of default or misdemeanour on the part of the permit-holder.
5. The National Trust shall not be liable for damage or injury to horse or rider howsoever caused in the exercise of the rights granted.
6. Care must be taken to avoid damage or injury to other persons or property on the Forest and the permit-holder will indemnify the National Trust against all third-party claims in respect of such occurrences arising out of the exercise of this permit.
7. The granting of any subsequent permit will be at the Trusts discretion, and the Trust cannot guarantee that all requests for permits can be met.
8. It is advised that an identification tag is placed on the tack incorporating the owners telephone and name which can be used in the event that a rider is dismounted from the horse
9. The permit-holder will possess liability insurance for an amount not less than £2,000,000 in respect of any one claim to cover any injury or damage caused by the permit-holder's actions and present a current copy of the policy. Where the rider does not present proof of insurance to the permit issuer, the declaration at the bottom of this terms and conditions form must be signed as a guarantee that appropriate insurance is in place
10. The day permit must never be used for any commercial purpose. It will not entitle the rider to a discounted annual permit.
11. The National Trust reserves the right to set a limit on the number of day permits issued at any time. Where it is considered by the National Trust that undue damage is being caused to the property, especially with respect to commercial riding permits this limit will be reduced. At present the limit is 150 private permits (including day permits) and up to ten commercial permits for each of up to five riding schools.
12. Horse boxes may be brought on to the property and parked in the Shell House or Elgin's car park. The normal Car Parking charge will apply. In waterlogged conditions, parking will be limited to the tarmaced section in the Shell House car park. Care must be taken while boxing horses in the car parks when busy. It would be appreciated if the Entrance Car Park is avoided when busy. Alternatively, riders may make their way direct to the shop on horseback and purchase a permit. A horse hitching rail is provided on the Western boundary of the Lake Area to the left of the entrance road in to the Shell House Car Park.
13. Hatfield Forest is the last complete surviving example of a medieval Royal Hunting forest and as such it is vital that we make every attempt to preserve its integrity and structure. The Forest is subject to increasing pressure from a variety of usages. The value of the Forest lies not only in its history but also in its biological richness, and in order to protect these essential facets certain restrictions must be imposed on those who enjoy the use of the Forest, horse riders are therefore asked to treat the area with respect and sensitivity. To this end certain rules of conduct must be followed.
14. The Forest is not a training ground for eventing or racing of any kind, but a superb setting for a gentle hack with the occasional controlled canter. Any activities liable to damage the ground such as galloping or jumping cannot be allowed at any time; cantering must only be done in dry conditions and well away from other Forest users, and any specific areas of exclusion as indicated on the map or signed by 'No Horses' boards must not be entered. All of the more delicate wetland areas of the Forest are permanently out of bounds and any ride that is suffering damage may be temporarily closed. **ALL GATES MUST BE SECURELY CLOSED AFTER USE UNLESS FOUND SECURED OPEN** - please report any defects or problems with the gates or fence to the Estate Office.

15. **MULTI USE FOREST**
The Forest is used by a variety of users in many different ways, including dog walking, cycling and running. Events either managed by The National Trust or by external organisations occur throughout the year. Some of these such as large orienteering events may affect your visit with your horse. The Forest is also a working Forest and you may come across work activities at any time, such as chainsaw operations or deer control where unexpected noise could possibly cause your horse to react. Due to this your horse should be of an even temperament, and you should be a competent rider before you consider Hatfield Forest to be a suitable location to ride.
16. **THE PLAINS**
These are perhaps the best riding areas and provide good cantering opportunities. Many pedestrians also use these areas and horses must be kept away from the very short grass paths as these are for the walkers. Areas of plains are used for a variety of purposes by many people for picnics, playing games, and at Takeley Hill for camping. Great care must be taken when riding through these areas, as the behaviour of children and dogs can be unpredictable. Cantering must be restricted to the more open stretches with a good field of view.
17. **THE RIDES**
These are extremely vulnerable to damage by both vehicles and horses, particularly during wet periods, but in good conditions provide easy access to the more peaceful depths of the Forest and give an opportunity to enjoy its varied plant and animal life. Please ensure that the permitted rides shown on the riding map provided with the permit are adhered to at all times and take special responsibility when assessing the ground conditions of the rides marked yellow. They are for use only when conditions are at their driest. In the interests of safety and also to protect the rarer flora which inhabits the ride sides, please use the centre sections of the wider rides only. Rides marked yellow are not suitable for cantering and must be taken at a walk, or, when dry, at an easy trot. While cantering, please exercise great care with respect of other Forest visitors and limit it to the stretches with a good field of view and only when conditions allow.
18. **THE COPPICES AND WALL WOOD**
Horses must on no account be taken through the coppices. Riding is not permitted in any part of Wall Wood.
19. **WOODSIDE GREEN**
This area must be treated as the plains, but avoided entirely during wet periods. Riders must avoid cantering over the track crossing the Green to Wall Wood Cottage, as this damages the surface and could injure the horse.

I understand, have read and agree to abide by the Hatfield Forest riding terms and conditions

Signed..... Date.....

Name..... Address:

Mobile Phone Number:
Landline:

Next of Kin Name:..... Emergency Contact Number:.....

Permit issued by: Date.....

Signed.....

Name.....

Proof of Insurance Witnessed by:

Signed..... Date.....

Name.....

In the case that I am unable to provide proof of insurance to the National Trust I hereby sign as a guarantee that I do possess current and appropriate insurance as referred to in Section 9.

Signed..... Date.....

Name.....