

RIDING CODE

We all ride for pleasure. It's very easy to chat to friends when riding and not to concentrate on the road. It's important to remember that there are other people on the roads who have as much right as us to be there and that walkers, cyclists and other riders use the woods. We ask that Hodgemoor Riding Association members aim to uphold standards and abide by the following code:

On The Roads

1. Be courteous to other road users even if they do not reciprocate
2. Turn to look when there's a car approaching from behind so as to communicate to the driver that you are aware of them
3. Acknowledge drivers who slow down for you - a smile and a wave of the hand help
4. Obey the Highway Code. There are eight sections on riding a horse on the road, and you must be familiar with them. Failure to comply with any part of the Highway Code can establish who is liable if it comes to court proceedings... for example the next 6 points:
5. Don't use a mobile phone and don't drink and ride
6. Give clear signals of your intentions
7. Be seen - wear a fluorescent jacket
8. You should wear a helmet which is securely fastened
9. Ride no more than two abreast, and single file where the road narrows or on the approach to a bend
10. Ride with the less experienced or more nervous horse/rider on the inside

Off Road

1. Stay strictly on bridleways and permissive trails marked with a horseshoe
2. Do not ride in fields adjacent to tracks or on any private property
3. Be vigilant for other users on horses, bikes and foot
4. Be aware that animals - dogs, deer, foxes, birds etc may startle your horse
5. Be particularly careful for the safety of your horse particularly on tracks that have rabbit holes etc or are stony
6. Be considerate of those working adjacent to the tracks - their work has to be done and they may not be aware that it spooks your horse

The Hodgemoor Riding Association offers this advice in good faith. It is not intended as a substitute for knowledge of the law, the Highway Code, local bye-laws or other appropriate codes, (for example, that of the British Horse Society at <http://www.bhs.org.uk/DocFrame/DocView.asp?id=90&sec=-1>) which take precedence over any advice given here.