



## MEMBERS' RIDING CODE

We all ride for pleasure. It's very easy to chat to friends when riding and not concentrate properly. It's important to remember that there are other people on the roads and in the woods (such as walkers, cyclists and other riders) who have as much right as us to be there. We would ask Hodgemoor Riding Association members to uphold our high standards whilst riding, both in the woods and the surrounding roads, to ensure the safety of us all.

### On the roads:

- 1) Be courteous to other road users, even if they do not reciprocate. Turn to look when a car approaches from behind. Make eye contact with the driver so as to communicate that you are aware of them.
- 2) Acknowledge drivers who slow down for you, even if it isn't as slow as you would like. A smile and a wave goes a long way to ensuring they slow down for the next horses they see.
- 3) Obey the Highway Code (sections 49-55 are for horse riders but other sections apply) – make yourself aware of the rules (click [here](#) to access them in full); if it says "SHOULD", these establish who is liable if it comes to any kind of proceedings; if it says "MUST", it is the law and you can be prosecuted, for example...
  - Children under the age of 14 MUST wear a riding hat that complies with current standards which must be fastened securely. Every rider should wear a riding hat.
  - You MUST give clear signals to other road users of your intentions, giving plenty of notice.
  - You MUST NOT take a horse onto a footpath or pavement, and you should not take a horse onto a cycle track. Horses are allowed to ride on grass verges.
- 4) You should not use a mobile phone or drink and ride.
- 5) You should wear fluorescent and reflective clothing and be clearly seen at all times.
- 6) You should ride no more than two abreast returning to single file for narrow roads, approaches to a bend or when a car needs space to pass.
- 7) You should ride with a less experienced or more nervous horse and/or rider on the inside.

### In Hodgemoor Woods:

- 8) Stay on bridleways and permissive trails marked with a horseshoe, or risk a ban.
- 9) Do not ride in fields adjacent to tracks or on any private property.
- 10) Never trot or canter up to a horse (or horses) in front of you. If you want to pass slower riders, give a verbal warning and ask if it's OK to walk past them, which you should do in single file. Once you are past, don't immediately trot or canter until they have told you it is ok or you are out of sight. Be aware that they may be on a young or nervous horse.
- 14) Only canter when you have a clear line of sight of a minimum of 50 metres or so.
- 15) If other users of the woods (including walkers and cyclists) clearly make an effort to make way for you, please take the time to thank them – they will remember that for next time and make way again.
- 16) If other users of the woods (including walkers and cyclists) behave inconsiderately (not keeping dogs under control, cyclists not giving a warning behind you etc.) please don't lose your temper with them. Quietly educate them by explaining the dangers both they and you could face.
- 17) Finally, try to enjoy your ride whilst keeping both yourself and other users of Hodgemoor Woods safe.