



Kingston Lacy Estate Code of Conduct

Issuer – Kingston Lacy Estate

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Introduction

Kingston Lacy is managed by the National Trust and the estate encompasses 8,500 acres of land which includes farmland, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, heathland and much more. It also has 72 miles of rights of way which cross-cross it. As the National Trust we endeavour to look after this land now and for ever for the benefit of nature and visitors. With this in mind we ask that users help us by respecting the land and wildlife, use the land sensibly and respect other users.

Please can you read the following before your activity and use the information to inform your risk assessment and practice where necessary. By reading this code of conduct and communicating the detail to your participants, spectators and marshals you will be helping the National Trust to keep land special for everyone for ever.

Land Designation

Much of National Trust land is 'designated', which means it has special status as protected areas because of its natural and cultural importance. This means that there are clear boundaries, people and laws to make sure that the nature and wildlife aren't harmed or destroyed. Often the land can be used by people for recreation and study. Types of designation include:

SSSI – Site of Specialist Scientific Interest

SPA – Special Protection Area (relation to birds)

SAC – Special Area of Conservation (relation to habitat)

SNCI – Site of Nature Conservation Interest

NNR – National Nature Reserve (relation to habitat and wildlife)

RAMSAR – in relation to wetland birds

At Kingston Lacy we have the following areas with designations:

- Holt Heath – SSSI, NNR, SPA, SAC, RAMSAR
- Pamphill Green – SAC
- Badbury Rings – SNCI

In order to ensure that the areas continue to be protected, please can you ensure that the participants, spectators and marshals at your events / activity are made aware of the following:

- Remain on bridleways / paths at all times – straying from them can cause damage to the surrounding areas ("spread") and can disturb ground nesting birds and other wildlife.
- All litter must be removed from the route.
- Close all gates and only use authorised gates, no climbing over walls or non-access gates.
- Keep dogs on a short lead and under close control.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Scheduling is the selection of nationally important archaeological sites. Scheduled sites form a carefully chosen sample of them, which are closely managed. Scheduled monuments are not always ancient, or visible above ground. There are over 200 categories of monuments on the schedule, and they range from prehistoric standing stones and burial mounds, through to the many types of medieval site – castles, monasteries, abandoned farmsteads and villages – to the more recent results of human activity, such as collieries.

At Kingston Lacy we have the following designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument:

- Badbury Rings
- Holt Heath

In order to ensure that Badbury Rings and Holt Heath continue to be protected, please can you ensure that the participants, spectators and marshals at your event / activity are made aware of the following:

- Remain on bridleways at all times – straying from them can cause damage to the surrounding areas (“spread”) and can disturb ground nesting birds and other wildlife.
- Do not cycle on or through the ramparts of Badbury Rings.
- All litter must be removed from the route.
- Close all gates and only use authorised gates, no climbing over walls or non-access gates.
- Keep dogs on a short lead and under close control.

Signage

Please do not use nails or tacks to fix signage to countryside furniture. Doing this allows moisture to get in, that rots the woods more quickly than it would naturally. In addition, left over staples and tacks make the furniture look unsightly.

Livestock

Cows and sheep graze the land generally between February and November (maybe all year on tenant farmland). Some fields may also contain horses. Please ask participants, spectators and marshals to be respectful of them, to slow down if livestock are in a field and to give them space. Also please do not feed livestock. In the unlikely event of cattle trampling anyone associated with your event / activity, please follow your emergency procedures to obtain medical assistance and report the incident directly to Kingston Lacy as soon as possible – 01202 883402 / kingstonlacy@nationaltrust.org.uk. Emergency mobile: 07825841993 (especially of out of hours)

Local and Farming Community and other Visitors

Please remember that the local community still need to carry out their daily business whilst your activity takes place. Please can you ask your participants, spectators and marshals to remember that people live and work in the local area and to:

- Park with care and respect; please do not park in or blocking driveways or narrow roads.
- Close all gates to ensure that stock remain where they should be. Leaving gates open can lead to neighbouring farmers’ stock being mixed which causes issues.
- Remove all litter from the area, especially where stock graze.
- Respect other visitors on the rights of way. Cyclists on bridleways to give way to walkers and horse riders. Smile and slow down.

Use of Drones

We do not allow drone flying from or over National Trust land. The only exception being contractors or staff who satisfy CAA criteria, have specific insurances and have been commissioned or authorised by the National Trust for specific purpose – and in these cases the activity is strictly controlled.

The use of drones is regulated by the Civil Aviation Authority and it is a developing area which is coming under greater scrutiny. Few non-commercial users have the correct training or permission to operate drones, which creates a serious risk to our staff, volunteers, visitors, property and wildlife. We have therefore adopted a strict blanket policy banning the use of drones at our sites.