Good Beach Riding Practice.

Welcome to Field Farm.

While beach riding can be a fantastic experience for both horse and rider there are a number of things we recommend you are aware of when riding on the beach to keep you, your horse and other beach users safe.

1 – Be People Aware

We are incredibly lucky to be able to share our wonderful beaches with many other users and want to keep it that way. If there are other people on the beach please remain courteous and ride past them slowly and sensibly. Refrain from passing anyone at speed. When riding near the water line please be especially aware of any people entering or leaving the sea as they may not see you or be aware of the speed you are travelling at. We cannot stress enough how important it is not to ride near or through groups of people.

2 – Access Point

We recommend access at Wolla bank as this and the area between here and Mogs Eye beach (to the right) is the area that is least populated by families and therefore the safest in terms of being near other beach users. If you are wanting to ride at a speed other than a walk please avoid the area to the far right, Anderby Creek, and to the far left, Chapel Point, as these are both area's likely to be frequented by lots of beach users, especially families.

3 – Best Practice

Having considered point # 2 above we strongly recommend that all riders should first ride at a walking pace to check the soundness of the beach, to check for area's where the sand may be softer, such as where water has receded, and most of all to check for other beach users. Providing you are satisfied that everything is safe and suitable and that the area is clear you could then increase your speed ensuring you pay close attention to anyone entering your direct line of travel.

4 – Sand

Be aware that sand can be of varying texture and depth. Sand near to the water line can be harder whilst sand further away from the water may be much softer. Deep, soft or hard sand can cause injury to horses, especially when ridden at speed. Riders should be aware that sand can go from hard to soft in less than a stride! If you plan to ride at speed please consider point # 3 above. It is sensible to walk or trot the route beforehand and familiarise yourself with the surface. Look out for and be aware of potentially dangerous holes in the sand where other beach users may have built sandcastle's. At low tide be aware of streams where water has drained back into the sea as these may have softer sides which can cause a horse to trip or stumble or even jump over unexpectedly.

5 – Salt

The salt present in sea water can be detrimental to leather and the metal present in tack. Consider protecting tack with an extra treatment of a quality leather dressing. Ensure tack is rinsed off and cleaned thoroughly after each beach excursion re applying a suitable leather dressing. Salt can also dry up hooves if left so ensure your horses feet are washed thoroughly when you return from the beach. Consider treating hooves with an oil or balm. Sand and salt can also irritate skin especially in contact area's with tack, around bridles, saddles and girths. Ensure your horse is rinsed thoroughly on return from the beach maybe first applying a proprietary medicated shampoo. Check for any rubs or abrasions in contact area's applying a barrier cream if applicable. Rider clothing and boots should be rinsed and protected as per tack... Salt water will rot stitching if left! Whilst potentially horrible for tack salt water is hugely beneficial for healing and cleansing horses skin and will undoubtedly make white socks the brightest white you have ever seen..

6 – Riding In The Sea

Be cautious of the sea and on the first entrance ride slowly. We benefit from a beach that has shallow water for some distance out with a gentle slope. You are likely to find it is best to approach the sea at an angle (as apposed to straight in and head on). If your horse spooks be aware it is more likely to shy sideways. When leaving the sea, especially from deeper water, be aware that you horse may leap in a porpoise action which can unseat the unaware rider!

7 – Emergency Action

Our aim is for every rider, visitor, guest and other beach users to enjoy the beach safely and give consideration to other users. In the event of an accident call 999 to contact the emergency services. If you need to call an ambulance give your location as precisely as possible, the grid reference for the beach at Wolla Bank is TF557 749 If possible keep this location safe in a mobile phone device or on a note paper you take with you on your beach ride. Have our contact numbers readily available on the same device or note paper.

Enjoy your beach ride, stay safe, be aware.