



THE JOCKEY CLUB

Help us keep Epsom and Walton Downs safe and enjoyable for all - FAQs

These FAQs will be updated regularly. If you have a question which does not appear here, please contact Epsom.reception@thejockeyclub.co.uk.

Isn't Epsom and Walton Downs a park?

Epsom and Walton Downs are private land, owned by the Jockey Club and governed by an Act of Parliament (Epsom & Walton Downs Act 1984). The land was originally purchased for training racehorses, and that remains its primary purpose today.

Do residents/visitors have a right to roam on the land?

According to the Act of Parliament, members of the public have the right to use the Downs for fresh air and exercise on foot, but during certain times racehorses and their training takes priority.

What is the best time for me to visit the Downs?

Avoid visiting the Downs during racehorse training hours if you possibly can. These are as follows:

Monday – Saturday: 6am – 12 noon

Sunday: 8am – 9:30am

During these hours, racehorses and those who train them have priority over the general public.

Why do racehorses have priority in the morning and what are the hours?

The Downs were purchased, and continue to be operated, on the basis that they are a place to train racehorses based in Epsom Downs, which has been a racehorse training centre for centuries.

Racehorses are trained early in the mornings because the temperature is lower, and because race meetings take place in the afternoon and evening.

The training times are as follows:

Monday – Saturday: 6am – 12 noon

Sunday: 8am – 9:30am

If I cannot avoid visiting the Downs during racehorse training times where can I walk, cycle and jog safely?

Please avoid the Downs if you possibly can during racehorse training times, and please do not use the artificial gallops at any time.

If you must use the Downs in the hours above, please try to remain as far away from racehorses as you possibly can, and if you have no choice but to be in their vicinity, give them as much space as possible.

It is best to try and visit Epsom Downs (the area which is surrounded by the racetrack itself) in the summer and Walton Downs (the area on the far side) in the winter.

If you see plastic white circles in the ground, this denotes a racehorse work area or “gallop” – please do not use these areas.

What are the rules about walking your dogs?

Dogs must be kept on a lead during racehorse training hours:

Monday – Saturday: 6am – 12 noon

Sunday: 8am – 9:30am

Please keep them as far away from racehorses as possible.

Why do I need to keep my dog on the lead during racehorse training times?

Dogs and horses can be potentially dangerous if they are not under control.

Can mountain bikes go on the same tracks that horses ride on?

No. Use of the artificial gallops is not permitted at any time.

Are these rules legal?

As the landowner, the Jockey Club is looking to ensure that all the different groups who use the Downs can do so safely.

The racehorse training community have voiced their concerns about the increase in usage of the Downs in the last 18 months, and the challenges that has presented them in trying to train racehorses.

We need your help in ensuring everyone who uses the downs looks after each other and so we are getting in touch with the local community to try and ensure we can keep everyone safe and minimize the risk of an accident.

How can I find out more information and ask any questions?

Please keep checking <https://jockeyclubstates.co.uk/community>, and Epsom Downs Racecourse's social media feeds. If you have any further questions, please e-mail Epsom.reception@thejockeyclub.co.uk.