

CHESTON FARM EQUESTRIAN CENTRE FACT SHEET & GUIDE PRICES

A great team of instructors, lovely horses, superb indoor and outdoor arenas and Dartmoor!

We are lucky to have it all here at Cheston! Read on to discover what we offer at Cheston and whether we can fulfil your riding ambitions whatever they may be!

What is Cheston's approach to teaching?

Our approach to teaching is based on quality, safety and detailed instruction: our ambition is to make you confident and successful in the saddle and hone your skills to reach your best! We love you to have goals or a competition to aim for. We are popular with regular riders, adults and the more committed child and teen rider as well as those who bring their own horse. Our yard is ideal for enjoyment of your leisure time with great facilities such as the indoor arena and our clubhouse/café. Our horses are all owned by the Centre, picked for their skills, loved, valued and appreciated!

When are you open?

We are open 9am – late, 7 days a week including most public holidays, although we don't teach on Christmas day. We have a lot of flexibility in what lessons are available – to get a flavour, see our lesson timetable. There are set sessions also for those looking for a weekly group on weekdays, evenings and weekends.

Do you teach children?

Children can start riding with us from the age of 5, and we offer a range of opportunities depending on their age and ability. Most of our younger children ride our ponies in our small group / Pony Club sessions where they can enjoy mixing with other youngsters learning to care for and ride the ponies. Children are on a lead rein or lunge rein until they are confident and balanced enough to be more independent. Advanced and confident children have numerous options

Do I need to be physically fit to ride?

We have teaching methods and horses to accommodate various levels of fitness. If you are capable of a brisk walk with a dog then you are probably fit enough to ride. For the comfort of our horses we have a weight limit of approx 13 stone especially in ladies although tall heavier men can be accommodated by our giant 17.2hh hunters.

What riding lessons do you offer?

We offer a range of options from 30 min to one hour shared, small group lessons, semi-private and private lessons to suit a range of abilities and pockets. Why not visit us and observe our teaching if you are interested in riding lessons with us.

Teens & Adults : New beginners or Novice riders: You will start in lead-rein or lunge if necessary. First lesson is £40 for 1 hour. A private assessment lesson is required before offering you lesson options according to your ability. Adult beginner riders need to commit to regular private lessons to ensure your progression and move you on quickly past the basics.

Younger Children: Children ride in a private but mainly we offer a range of small well managed group options. We have a Mini, Half Day and Full Day Pony Club for our regular young riders and 45min group lessons. Prices start from £20.

Intermediate/Advanced Riders: We can accommodate teen/adult riders at all higher levels whether leisure, competitive or exam level including on our advanced horses. We regularly run specialist lessons for those wishing to improve their dressage and jumping ability or compete too. Gallop moorland hacks are also offered to advanced riders. In winter, we offer a mid-week winter hack option for just £20 to exercise any of our big guys.

More information below.....

How do I book a lesson?

We ask you to call us to make bookings. This allows us to understand your needs and advise what opportunities are appropriate for you. Because we are out working during the day, please call after 7pm in the evening or leave a message and we'll call you back. Please note: We do not offer big group lessons such as large school, youth or party groups. Our maximum group size is usually 5.

Cancellation Notice of 24hours applies to your booking

Phone Sophie / office : 01364 388188 – you may need to leave a message. We do much prefer bookings by phone.

Do you offer moorland hacks?

Oh yes, but, we are seriously big on safety and passionate about teaching the correct and essential principles of riding and horsemanship whilst making the experience safe, relaxing and fun.

We offer moorland hacks to pre-assessed customers either well known to us or seen to be experienced enough riders clearly competent to enjoy riding out safely. For your own safety you must be able to canter competently to ride on Dartmoor, we therefore do not offer trekking for beginners or take holiday makers on the moors unless you are pre-assessed as competent in the basics. Advanced and longer gallop hacks are also offered to advanced riders.

What are your ambitions for your riders?

We want to prepare you for a lifetime of enjoying horses, skilfully, naturally and based on correct equitation - perhaps being a horse owner yourself one day. We will train you to understand horse psychology, be able to influence and understand your horse through body language and through your skills both in handling equipment and whilst in the saddle. This translates to practical skills such as getting to know the horses, being assertive around the horse on the ground, able to groom and saddle up your horse, lead your horse in walk and trot and be confident adjusting your equipment – all whilst under the supervision of our qualified adult staff and owner/manager Sophie Osborne BHSII. You will be 'horse wise' both in and out of the saddle and learn to feel at home around these big beautiful creatures!

How much does it cost to ride? (please see main price list) October 2016

TEENS/ADULTS: Age 12+

- ALL NEW RIDERS : 12+ Initial registration/assessment lesson 1hr £40
- 1 hour private lesson or instructional / private hack £45
- 1 hour semi-private lesson/hack – limited to 2 riders (eg: friends) £35
- 1 hour shared lessons for 2- 3 teen/adult riders, may revert to £40 private (Flexi-lessons) £30
- 1 hour evening group lesson / hack (2- 6 riders only) £30
- Hacks. Prices depending on duration from weekday winter hacks to summer pub rides £POA

LESSONS: CHILDREN - Age 5 – 12 years old

- Group riding options vary from lead rein beginner to advanced child riders £20-£25
- ¾ hour private lessons and/or hack (payable on booking) £35
- ½ hour taster lesson. Ideal for youngest beginners on lead rein with junior instructor £25

PONY CLUB – All levels for social fun small group learning experiences every Saturday, Sunday, after school and in holidays! Non members are welcome in all sessions. We offer a range of prices so please contact us for full details.

CAREERS CLUB: 14+ for older and more competent teens who are considering horses as a career option £POA

Where can I get more information?

Please call us to enquire and arrange to visit or watch a lesson in progress. See us and our team of horses and ponies in our FACEBOOK albums as well as on the website. Also take a look at our latest newsletter on the website.