Livestock, wildlife and dog walkers can co-exist at Trentham

The Trentham Estate is very dog-friendly, indeed thousands of dog walkers enjoy visiting both the garden and the wider estate each year.

There are waste bins provided and our stiles are dog accessible. We have a strict ‘dogs on lead’ policy throughout the estate, to protect the estate’s wildlife and grazing livestock. We have held education events with Staffordshire Police on site, display signage at entrance points in to the parks, and use social media to reinforce this message. We are very grateful to the majority of our visitors who do comply, however, despite our best efforts to communicate the importance of keeping dogs on leads, a small number of visitors persist in letting their dogs roam free which has led to wildlife being attacked, and sheep being worried and killed.

As land owners, we remind the public that their presence on the estate is permissive from dawn until dusk. They must adhere not only to our rules, but to the law of the land, as it relates to wildlife and to livestock, or face the consequences, which are serious and will include legal action being taken. We have stepped up our security patrols and have the full and active support of the police.

This historic estate is carefully managed to provide habitats for a vast array of wildlife and some areas are now grazed by livestock in a sustainable manner, under Natural England’s Higher Level Stewardship. We believe that this method of conservation land management, and the care for the estate’s rich wildlife, can co-exist with dog walking.

We sincerely hope that people will respect the estate and that visitors and their dogs will continue to enjoy permissive access to our park and woodland walks.

The Trentham Estate
Fact file

- St. Modwen purchased the estate from the National Coal Board in 1996.
- This is private land, owned by St. Modwen with permissive access granted through the parks, from dawn until dusk.
- There is one public footpath running through North Park, any dog walking the route must be kept under control.
- Under the Hunting Act 2004, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 it is an offence to intentionally cause harm, suffering or permit a dog under your control to do the same. As the owner, you may be liable to prosecution and subject to a fine; the courts have the power to place a control or destruction order on your dog.
- The laws apply to all dogs, regardless of size or breed and all offending owners of dogs are treated consistently.
- There are no plans to build on North Park, we have heavily invested in restoring its historic natural habitat.
- Signs are in place, but do get repeatedly vandalised.
- It is not the land owner’s responsibility to dog-proof fences.
- Grazing livestock regularly move from area to area of the estate and wildlife is free-roaming which is why the dogs on leads rule applies to all areas of the estate.
- A fenced in area where visitors can let their dogs off the lead is marked on the map. This is a trial and will be withdrawn if people continue to let their dogs off the lead elsewhere on the estate.