



## Horseytalk.net BRIDLEWAYS WATCH

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### CATTLE ARE DANGEROUS

Sophie Mansfield tells us about two dangerous incidents on Wisley Common,

"The year before last a herd with cows of all ages was introduced to Wisley common, including some as young as 6 months old. The younger cattle were much more lively and intrusive to passers-by."

"This resulted in an incident at the end of last year, whereby myself and my neighbour were charged by a cow whilst we were out riding our horses. Our horses bolted and we were very nearly seriously injured. A few days after we spoke to a couple of other horse-riders who had been forced to dismount their horses whilst out riding, as it was too dangerous for them to ride through the cows. They informed us that they would never ride on Wisley common again as they feared for their own safety and that of their horses."

"Last year an even larger herd was released, containing mothers and their calves, and pregnant adult cows left to calve freely in the common. This has resulted in numerous threatening and frightening encounters with adult mother cows charging people. "



"On Saturday 13th June 2009 I saw a herd of particularly young cattle just ahead of me, and immediately decided to avoid them by taking an alternative route. However, the cows saw us, and charged straight up the path towards me and my horse. "



" To see a group of cows charge at you like that is terrifying, and not an experience I'd want any other horse rider to experience. Naturally my horse was terrified (although she is used to numerous farm animals at home); spun and bolted sending me flying onto the hard ground. "

" Luckily I always carry my phone on me, as by now there was no horse in sight and I was in a lot of pain. My parents found my horse lathered from head to foot running about wildly; her reins dangling around her legs about 1 ½ miles from where I fell. I had to be taken to A+E immediately to be x-rayed."

"Despite numerous complaints to the Surrey Wildlife, they refuse to acknowledge the seriousness of the situation and if anyone has any problems with cattle I urge them to be persistent, as it is the only way we will be listened to! I would recommend other riders to stay as far away as possible from cows; they are dangerous, and as my experience shows they will charge when completely unprovoked. If you are charged I can only say to hang on tight and try to get to safety, as there have been many cases where people have been stamped on the ground by cattle and not always lived to tell the tale."

- Have you been attacked by cattle while out riding?
- Have you had to take special measures to avoid cattle while riding?
- Have you been involved in any dangerous incidents involving cattle?

Please [e-mail](#) us and tell us your story.

If you have any photographs of the incident, please also include them

## Sophie Mansfield tells us more about the cattle on Wisley Common, Surrey

- How Surrey Wildlife Trust promised "more careful consideration" would be given to introducing cattle on to the Common. But how they put even bigger cattle on to the Common instead

- How Surrey Wildlife Trust promised that any cattle involved in accidents would be removed. But how they weren't

- Finally, how, unbelievably, an official of Surrey Wildlife Trust, Dave Boddy, claimed that he was unaware that cows were calving on Wisley Common.

Says Sophie, "Surrey Wildlife Trust are completely useless! They were even so hopeless as to have no clue cows were actually calving on the common until I told them, and they show a complete disregard for the common users' safety. So I have nothing positive to say about them."

To read Sophie's letters to Surrey Wildlife Trust [Click here](#)

