Irish Draught Horse Society (GB)

Registered Charity No. 1080522

Irish Draught Breed Register Mare Inspections: Guidance for 2026

Inspections for our **Breed Register** are carried out based on the principles and practice used by our parent studbook in Ireland. The Irish Draught Horse Studbook is currently managed by Horse Sport Ireland. Adherence to these rules enables our stallions and mares to be graded and accepted by any of the harmonised studbooks around the world.

It is essential that mare owners read this guidance and the separate **Terms and Conditions of Inspection** document carefully before applying for inspection. When you complete the application form, you will be asked to confirm that you have read these documents. If you have any questions, please email inspections@idhsgb.org.uk.

The purpose of inspection

Mare inspections offer owners an evaluation of their breeding stock. Irish Draught mares are invited for inspection, where they will be vetted and then assessed on their pedigree, type, conformation and movement.

Owners may also opt to have their mares assessed down the jumping lane at certain venues. Assessment for athleticism is voluntary for mares. In 2026, there will be one opportunity for mares to come forward for athleticism assessment. This inspection is on 1 April at Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell.

Mares for inspection must be of three years and older at the inspections held before 1 September. After 1 September, they may come forward as two year olds. There is no upper age limit.

The advantages of having your mare inspected

Having your mare inspected will, if she passes the veterinary examination, entitle her:

- to be shown in hand at our affiliated shows;
- Irish Draught progeny to be shown in hand;
- Irish Draught progeny to come forward for inspection, provided that they are sired by a Class 1, RID or Class 2 stallion.
- Under the Inspection Amnesty, from March 2024 to December 2026, we can also accept mares and stallions for inspection which have one or more uninspected parent, provided that the horse reaches inspection age during this time period.
- Mares which attain Class 1 through inspection will be awarded a Bronze Merit in Conformation and Movement if they score **80 or over** for **both** conformation and movement.
- Mares which attain Class 1 through inspection which score 70 or over for athleticism will be awarded a Bronze Merit in Show Jumping.
- Mares which attain Class 1 can come forward with a foal at foot by a Class 1 or RID stallion and be inspected for a possible Hornby Premium Award.

Irrespective of whether she is classified as Class 1 or Class 2, inspection reassures prospective purchasers that your mare has passed a basic level veterinary examination and

has been evaluated in terms of her conformation, type and movement traits. This may potentially increase your mare's value and that of her Irish Draught progeny.

General rules for the inspection

- Application forms for mare grading inspections and Hornby Premium inspections are available on the website or from the Inspection Management Team.
- Forms must be returned by the relevant closing dates, together with the required fee for grading. The Council sets the fees for grading annually, usually in October.
- Details of the inspection rules are in our Terms and Conditions document.
- Two year old fillies may be inspected from September 1 onwards. Owners should be aware that two year olds are statistically less likely than three year olds to attain Class 1. If considering bringing forward a two year old filly, it is recommended that you assess every aspect of her development and conformation in relation to the Breed Objective and Description as objectively as possible (please see Appendix 4). Ultimately, the decision about whether she is ready has to be yours.
- There is no upper age limit for inspection. Acquired injuries are accepted so long as the mare is sound enough to walk, trot and canter loose, on both reins. If there is a significant veterinary issue, you will be asked to provide a history from your own vet.
- A merit system provides additional merits for mares that meet the veterinary and inspection requirements and achieve Class 1. Information about Merit Awards is on our website.
- Mares that meet the requirements of the veterinary examination and the conformation, movement and type elements of the inspection will be classified as Class 1.
- Mares eligible for Class 1 and Grade-Up which achieve average scores of 80 or higher for conformation and movement will be awarded an additional Bronze Merit in Conformation and Movement.
- Mares eligible for Class 1 and Grade-Up may have their athleticism assessed by means of a voluntary loose jumping demonstration. Currently this facility, which is costly to run and requires a trained arena team, is only on offer at combined stallion and mare inspection venues.
- Athleticism assessment may take place as part of the mare's inspection for grading, or at a later date. If the mare achieves Class 1 at her first inspection but does not undertake the assessment at that time, she can come back for a reduced fee to do the athleticism element.
- Class 2 mares may also come forward for their athleticism assessment as part of their re-inspection for a possible Class 1. The fee for re-inspection is the same as for an initial inspection in that year, because the mare will require another full vetting.
- Mares that achieve a score of 70 or higher in their athleticism demonstration and which have also met all the inspection requirements for Class 1 in conformation, type and movement will receive a Bronze Merit in Athleticism.

- These merits may assist mare owners with demonstrating the added value of their mare when selling them or their progeny.

- In Great Britain, all mares which achieve a Bronze Merit during their inspection, either in Athleticism or Conformation and Movement, will receive a special rosette kindly donated by Mary Wilson.

- All mares and stallions which achieve a Silver or Gold Merit Award in open competition will receive a special rosette kindly donated by Ann and Gerard Western. Information about Merit Awards is on our website or can be emailed to you by the Merit team (merits@idhsgb.org.uk).

Updating your horse's passport

Before inspection, all mares must be:

- Named (you must return Irish passports to Horse Sport Ireland for naming please)
- Correctly transferred into the owner's name (we can do this for both Irish and British passports)
- If your horse is imported, s/he must have the passport overstamped by our office before coming forward for inspection.

Owners MUST be members of the Society. If you wish to have a horse inspected and cannot join the Society, for example because your membership has been declined, you can still have an inspection on payment of an additional fee equivalent to a membership fee.

Please submit all requests for passport work to our Administration Office in Carlisle, and not to the Inspection Administration team.

Equally, please do not send your inspection applications to our passport administrators, as they will only have to send it on to the inspection team.

IDHS (GB) and HSI passports for horses living in Great Britain can be updated by:

IDHS (GB) Passports, Holme House, The Dale, Ainstable, Carlisle CA4 9RH

Email: passports@idhsgb.org.uk

Tel 01768 870523 (Available 9-00am to 5-00pm Monday – Friday).

How to obtain information and keep in touch

Expressions of interest can be emailed to the inspection management team at inspections@idhsgb.org.uk. Once we have your contact details, we will keep in touch and update you when there is a change in information. Please tell us the full registered name of your mare and your full name, address, email address and phone numbers.

Please communicate by email and NOT by Messenger or Whatsapp because we do not have time to monitor social media, so it may be missed.

If you *don't* want to hear from us in future, please email and ask us to remove your contact information and we will do so straight away.

The inspection fees have been held at 2024 and 2025 rates.

The viability of each mare inspection venue is assessed on how much the event will cost to run, and whether we are likely to receive sufficient applications to cover the anticipated costs. This forms part of the risk assessment process.

Withdrawing from inspection - mare owners who withdraw very late are likely to be asked to pay an administration charge of £120. A late withdrawal after we have booked the venue and accommodation can make the difference between a venue being viable or not. Possible exceptions to the administration fee are very serious and unavoidable circumstances, such as significant veterinary or medical issues.

Applications for mare inspections MUST be returned before the relevant closing date.

Inspection fees – rates include VAT @ 20%

Applications, closing dates and fees

A valid application comprises the application form and the full inspection fee.

The closing dates are:

Spring combined inspection: 1 February 2026 for mares and stallions.

Summer mare inspections - 1 June 2026.

Inspection Fees for 2026:

Type of inspection	Fee	What the fee covers
Uninspected Irish Draught fillies and mares, plus re-inspection of Class 2 fillies and mares.	£240	The basic fee includes inspection, optional athleticism assessment, vetting on the day.
Athleticism assessment of Irish Draught Mares previously classified as RID, Class 1 or Supplementary Grade Up.	£170	The fee includes initial linear profiling, if not already done), a modified veterinary assessment and jumping lane assessment.
Administration fee	£120	Non-returnable administration charge if you withdraw your mare within six weeks of the inspection date. There may be some very exceptional circumstances where this is waived. Veterinary confirmation may be required.
Stabling at Moreton Morrell	£42.00 per night. Day stable 8am – 5pm: £22.00	You can submit stable bookings any time up to 21 March 2026.

	Returnable deposit (if stable clean): £20	No straw allowed. Some shavings provided, extra can be brought with you or purchased direct from the College.

In view of the high cost of postage, application forms can now be downloaded in Word, completed digitally and emailed to: **inspections@idhsgb.org.uk**

How to send in your application:

Please scan the form and do not photograph it on your phone. Photographed forms are very difficult to read and print out. If we can't read it or print it, we will contact you and ask you to post it.

Postal applications should be sent to:

IDHS (GB) Inspection Management Team, Middle Munty Farm, Churchstanton, Taunton, Somerset TA3 7RH.

Telephone: 01823 601625 (up to 4 p.m. only please).
Email: inspections@idhsgb.org.uk

HOW TO PAY:

The fees for inspection, membership and stabling can be paid securely online at www.idhsgb.org.uk.

Payment options: online at www.idhsgb.org.uk (preferred)

BACS: Barclays Bank: Sort Code: 20-03-18, Account: 00700487.

Banking reference: For mares, please use your surname plus 'MARE - INSP' as the reference – e.g. 'Bloggs MARE - INSP'.

You may also now pay over the phone by contacting our office during normal working hours.

We reserve the right to alter or cancel any venue where insufficient applications have been received to ensure financial viability.

If we have to cancel a venue, for example because there are insufficient mares to make it viable, then the full fee will be refunded to any applicants who cannot transfer to another venue. No administration charge will be made in this instance.

Final venues and dates for the 2026 mare inspections will be published after the closing date, which is 15 June 2026.

Preparing your mare for her inspection

Some mares are prepared at home, and others are sent to professional producers for preparation. Either way, please allow adequate time for your mare's preparation. The details of what she will be asked to do on the day are below and are in line with Horse Sport Ireland rules.

If you have opted to apply for an athleticism assessment, your mare will need to negotiate a jumping lane confidently, to the specifications in Appendix 2 below.

Before the day

Please make sure that your mare is in good, fit bodily condition (not so-called 'Show' condition). Excess weight may cause long-term damage to her limbs and can have a negative impact on her movement and athleticism.

Good foot balance is extremely important for your mare's way of going. She can be shod or unshod, but if her feet are not correctly balanced, it may be hard for her to show her movement to her best advantage. Have her feet trimmed a couple of weeks before the inspection, not a few days before, otherwise she might be footsore.

About a month before the inspection, you will receive a provisional timetable with your vetting and inspection times. We try to ask you in advance what time of day (approximately) you would prefer, as some people long distances to the inspection. You will need to arrive at least 30 minutes before your vetting time. Please let us know if there is a problem with your allocated times.

On the day, your mare will need to be in clean condition but not necessarily plaited up. Please do not remove leg hair or sensory hairs (whiskers). Please also avoid dressing the mare's feet with oil or colouring agent, because it makes handling the feet and limbs difficult for the vet and in the case of colouring, it may have welfare implications.

Your mare should be shown in a snaffle bridle. During the vetting, she must accept being handled all over her body and his limbs. If she has a foal at foot, the foal MUST be fitted with a headcollar and led at all times.

An example of a beautifully-presented mare – Fiona Menzies and Sable, 2022

What happens at the inspection?

Hand in your passport to the administration team. They will welcome you and answer any questions. You will be asked to sign two copies of the disclaimer form, one for you and one for the team.

The administration team will advise you about when and where to take your mare, and whether there is any change to the running order.

A veterinary examination for possible hereditary conditions will be carried out on the day by a Society-appointed vet, who should not be the animal's usual vet (just occasionally, in remote venues, this is unavoidable).

The vetting takes about 20 minutes and starts with a microchip check and measuring the height, girth and bone. These measurements form the animal's official inspection record and appear on the report.

If there are identity or veterinary issues, e.g. the microchip cannot be found or there is a veterinary problem on the day, these will be discussed in private with you and the inspection team. If there is no chip present, it will be necessary to take a hair sample for DNA.

Sometimes the Society's veterinary advisor has to be consulted by phone. If he isn't available or busy on that day, this may have to wait until he can be contacted.

Please be assured that veterinary issues are rare. Very occasionally, a mare may need to be referred to a specialist for further examination. This is because the vet may observe a potential condition, but cannot diagnose this without specialised techniques which cannot be carried out on the day.

If your mare has acquired blemishes due to injury, or splints, these will not in themselves prevent her from passing the vetting. The vetting is to screen for heritable conditions.

At some stage during proceedings, your mare will be photographed on both sides, front and rear view. This is for the Society's records. You are welcome to the photos after the inspection, but they are not likely to be of professional quality, so you are advised to take your own too! There is always a professional photographer available at the Spring inspections – 1st Class Images.

When your mare is seen by the inspectors, they will want to see her standing, walking and trotting in hand on a hard surface. They will also see her loose in an arena, which may be indoors or outdoors, depending on the venue. If she has a foal at foot, the foal and the mare will need to be turned loose together in the arena.

You will be asked to help move your mare around in the arena when she is loose. If she has been trained in a certain way, please tell those helping on the day.

At larger venues where we have an arena team, they will guide your mare into walk, trot and canter on both reins. If your mare has been trained in a specific way, please do tell us when we ask you to turn her loose. At smaller venues, you will probably be asked to move your mare around for the inspectors.

Mares should be encouraged to move in a relaxed way, not harried. It helps enormously if you can practice this with your mare beforehand and teach her verbal commands.

The order in which these inspection elements take place can vary. The administrator records the inspectors' decisions on a linear profile form and records their comments on the mare's conformation, type, movement and (if applicable) athleticism.

You will be told the inspection outcome at the time, but not the scores, as they all have to be checked and verified. Inspectors or the administrator will explain to you your mare's classification and give brief reasons for the outcome, but cannot get into detailed discussions on the day or share the forms with you.

After the inspection, usually within four weeks, the inspection management team will send out a confirmation letter, bar chart (a pictorial representation of the linear profile) and report showing the mare's strengths and weaknesses. The bar chart provides owners with a detailed description of their mare's strengths and weaknesses. Compared with stallions' bar charts, this can be invaluable when making breeding decisions.

If there is anything you do not understand about the inspection report and linear profile, please email inspections@idhsgb.org.uk and one of the inspector members of our team will contact you to explain it to you.

Health and Safety

All Society events are supported by a risk assessment.

Health and safety is the responsibility of all of us. Anything to do with horses is inherently hazardous and we cannot eliminate all risk. If you see any particularly risky situations developing, please report them to one of the administrators, stewards or at combined stallion and mare inspections, to the stable manager.

If you are physically unable to run your mare up for the inspectors and vet, and you cannot bring anyone with you who can do this, please let us know when you apply, so that we can make sure there is someone on hand to help. It can be dangerous to you and others if you are not physically able to manage your horse safely.

We strongly recommend that you have public liability insurance, just as you would for a show.

First Aiders

If you hold a current First Aid qualification from a recognised body, and you intend to come to the inspections and are willing to help someone in need for First Aid if necessary, please contact the inspection management team to let us know.

If anyone in your party needs first aid, please report to any official on site on the day.

For some venues, we do have access to trained first aiders on the day. For any significant medical incident, we always request external qualified medical support.

Information sharing

Mare inspection results are sent to Horse Sport Ireland and are published on our website and in our Yearbook. When mare owners sign their application forms, they sign to agree to this publicity. Their names are published, but not contact details.

Owners and producers: accommodation

The inspection management team never books accommodation for owners and other connections. Try the following price comparison sites:

https://www.booking.com/
https://www.expedia.co.uk/
https://www.trivago.co.uk/

Refreshments

There are no public refreshments available at Moreton Morrell. Please bring your own refreshments.

Use of public photos and video taken at the inspections

In the interests of confidentiality, we ask that you do not video (especially using audio recording) from within the arenas, the administration area and veterinary area.

If you want to video your horse, please do this from the public gallery at venues with an indoor school, and from outside the arena if it is an outdoor school. Filming within the arena is strictly forbidden for confidentiality and for health and safety reasons.

You are advised not to film other people's horses unless you have the owner's permission beforehand. The Society cannot be held responsible if spectators film and publicise other people's horses without consent.

Final results will not be placed on our website until they have been fully checked and confirmed.

INSPECTION APPEALS

Inspection result appeal

Owners who are not satisfied with the results of the inspection will be given the opportunity to represent the horse for one repeat inspection, under a different inspection team, at a future date. The mare or gelding will have to be vetted again. The full inspection fee is payable.

In addition to the single opportunity for re-inspection described above, the owner may appeal in writing **within 28 days of the inspection date.**

The IDHS (GB) reserves the right to charge an additional fee for an appeal inspection outside the normal inspection programme.

Veterinary Examination Appeal

Owners of horses that do not meet the requirements of the veterinary examination can appeal the results of the examination, providing that they apply to the Society **within 28 days of the veterinary examination.** The horse may be re-examined by a mutually-agreed specialist for a second opinion.

To save time and expense, owners must NOT make their own arrangements for a second veterinary opinion without consulting the Society first. The second examination will only be carried out in respect of the condition for which the horse was failed at the initial inspection. The cost of the examination must be borne by the owner of the horse. **The decision of the appeal vet is final.**

F.E.I. Equine Influenza rules:

Equine Influenza and Tetanus vaccinations are a compulsory requirement for all horses registered with the Irish Draught Horse Society (GB) if you want to bring your horse forward for inspection or to show him/her at our affiliated shows.

Inspection venues, including Moreton Morrell, will often NOT admit unvaccinated horses. Smaller venues may be willing to do so, but there has to be agreement with the owner of the premises.

If your vaccines are not recorded on the passport, there is no evidence that the horse has received them. Please check your passport and ask your vet to update it if the vaccines are not recorded there.

Newly-vaccinated horses:

Your horse must, as a minimum:

- Have had the first two initial doses of equine influenza vaccine
- The second dose must be given not less than seven days before travel to the inspection.

Booster vaccinations:

- Must be within date
- There must be seven clear days before the booster is due, and if just given to the horse, seven days clear before travel.
- The annual or 6-month vaccine can be done at any time. No clear days are required, other than the annual stipulation.
- Any equine companion animals travelling with the horse must also be vaccinated.

If your horse develops a cough, a snotty nose or seems unwell, do not travel him or her and stay at home. Contact your vet for advice. Vaccination records on passports will be

checked on arrival. Animals with no passport, unvaccinated or obviously unwell horses will not be permitted to enter the premises.

APPENDIX 1: SAMPLE BAR CHART – Class 1 mare

	Conformation trait	Description	Obvious			Average			Obvious			Description
			a	b	c	d	e	F	g	h	i	
1	Body Shape	rectangular				d						square
2	Head appearance	fine					e					plain
3	Head/neck connection	light						F				heavy
4	Length of neck	long						f				short
5	Muscling of neck	heavy			c							poor
6	Position of neck	vertical					e					horizontal
7	Height of withers	high					e					flat
8	Position of shoulder	sloping						f				straight
9	Barrel	deep			c							shallow
10	Line of back	strong						f				weak
11	Line of loins	strong					e					weak
12	Shape of croup	sloping				d						flat
13	Length of croup	long					e					short
14	Forearm	strong					e					weak
15	Cannon bone length	short						f				long
16	Substance of legs	heavy					e					light
17	Stance of forelegs	over at knee					e					back at knee
18	Stance of pastern	sloping			c							upright
19	Heels	high						f				low
20	Stance of hind legs	sickle				d						straight
21	Knees (front view)	big					e					small
22	Stance of forelegs	toed in					e					toed out
23	Shape of feet	wide						f				narrow
24	Quality of legs	clean					e					blurred
25	Hindquarters/gaskins	strong					e					weak
26	Stance of hind legs	cow-hocked				d						bow-hocked
27	Type	breed standard			c							not breed standard
Movement												
28	Walk: length of stride	long				d						short
29	Walk: correctness	toed in				d						toed out
30	Trot: length of stride	long					e					short
31	Trot: correctness	correct					e					incorrect
32	Trot: elasticity	elastic					e					stiff
33	Trot: impulsion	powerful					e					weak
34	Trot: balance	carrying					e					pushing
35	Canter: length of stride	long				d						short
36	Canter: impulsion	powerful			c							weak
37	Canter: balance	carrying		b								pushing
Athleticism (not performed by this mare)												
38	Reflexes:	quick										slow
39	Technique: forelegs	bent										stretched
40	Technique: back	rounded										hollow
41	Technique: haunches	open										tight
42	Scope:	much										little
43	Elasticity:	supple										stiff
44	Care:	careful										not careful
45	Attitude:	much										little

Measurements: **Height**: 160 cms / 15.3hh **Girth**: 211 cms / 83.1" **Bone:** 23 cms / 9"

Example of upper beam scores:

	Conformation *Min. required for Class 1 is 70*	**Type** *Min. required for Class 1 is 65*	**Movement** *Min. required for Class 1 is 70*
Score/100	**70**	**75**	**Walk: 70** **Trot: 70** **Canter: 80**
Totals:	**70**	**75**	**Average: 73.33**

Example of the Chairperson's report:

Conformation: Deep barrel, good Irish Draught head, pasterns slightly weak.

Type: Good Irish Draught type.

Walk, trot and canter: Adequate walk and trot with a very balanced canter.

Overall comments: A very well-presented mare with lots of presence.

APPENDIX 2: ARENA AND JUMPING LANE (COMBINED STALLION/MARE VENUES)

Please note that jumping is **entirely voluntary** for mares. The information in Appendix 1 is only relevant for mare owners if you present your mare for a Bronze Merit Award in Athleticism. Assessments for athleticism are only held at the combined venues because we have the arena team and jumping lane there to facilitate this.

Note: Horses are permitted to wear front tendon boots for the free gait assessment or the free athleticism/jumping assessment. If, in the opinion of the panel, the movement of the horse is affected in any way, the panel reserve the right to request the removal of the front boots.

The use of boots/bandages on the hind legs is not permitted.

Please ensure that you prepare your horse according to the jumping lane dimensions in this document. If you do not prepare your horse adequately, it is unfair on her and she will not perform to her optimal ability.

The size of the indoor arena at Moreton Morrell is 60m x 23m. The inspectors will be in the arena, as will the arena party of six people, and one administrator. Occasionally there may be a trainee inspector or administrator present in addition to the inspection team, as part of their learning. If this is the case, you will be consulted.

Each stallion or mare (only if she is undertaking the athleticism assessment) will normally be required to jump through the jumping lane at least six times. The jumping lane consists of three fences. The selection panel may use their discretion as to the number of attempts they wish to assess each horse over the obstacles and the height of the fences, however the maximum height of the fences for three year old Irish Draughts is 1.00m.

If in the opinion of the selection panel a horse is jumping in an unnatural manner, the selection panel reserves the right to award zero points for their assessment of the horse's athleticism/jumping ability.

The panel reserves the right to terminate the athleticism assessment on welfare grounds if the horse is insufficiently prepared for the task.

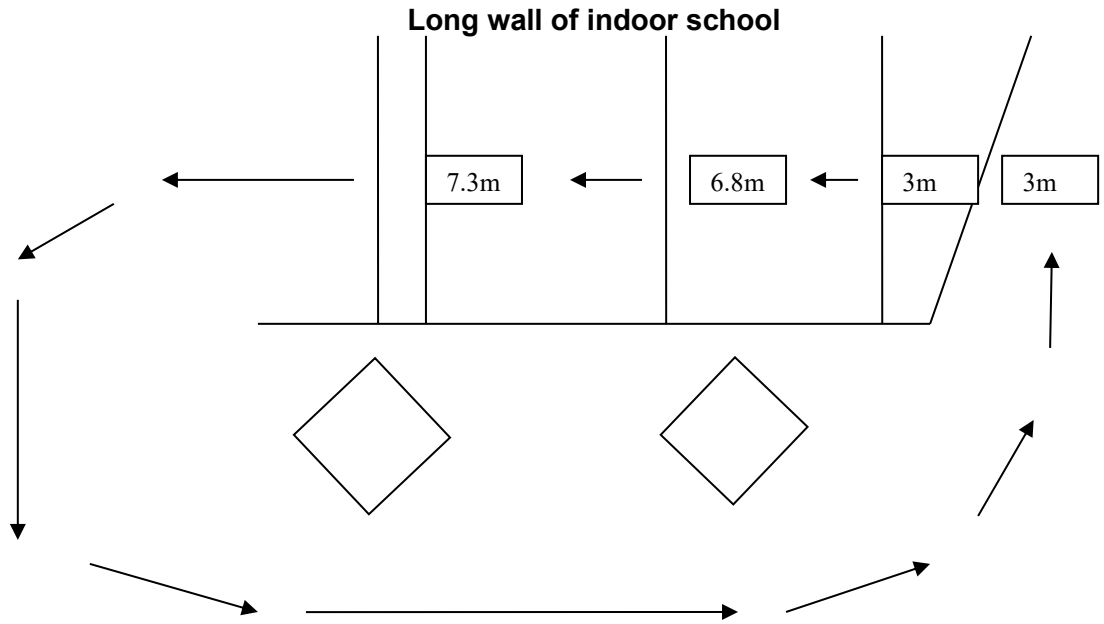
A diagram of the lane is below. This is not to scale. The heights of the jumps are as in the table below, and horses jump anticlockwise.

There is a placing pole on the ground 3m from the end wall of the school, angled at 45 degrees. It is important to practice with this pole in place, as it does make a difference to how horses approach the lane.

Coloured jump poles are used. The sides of the lane will be jump stands and poles.

Fences are placed as follows: fence A is 6m from the end wall and 3m from the centre of the placing pole; fence B is 6.8m from (A) and fence C is 7.3m from fence B.

The owner or handler stands in the left hand diamond and the inspection team in the right hand diamond on the diagram below.



	Height of 1st fence	Height of 2nd fence	Height of 3rd fence (oxer)
Jumping effort 1	**0.75m**	**0.75m**	**0.95m**
Jumping effort 2	**0.75m**	**0.75m**	**1.0m**
Jumping effort 3	**0.75m**	**0.75m**	**0.95m 0.95 width**
Jumping effort 4	**0.75m**	**0.75m**	**0.9m front pole 1.0m back pole 1.05m width**

Familiarisation with the jumping lane

Mares (and stallions) undertaking the jumping lane will be able to **walk** down the lane **with the poles down** from 17.00 to 17.30 the evening before the inspection, OR (if you arrive on the day, or after 17.30) from 07.30 to 08.00 on the day of inspection. This facility MUST be pre-booked, and an official MUST be present to ensure safe movement of all horses around the site. Under no circumstances must horses be schooled down the lane.

APPENDIX 3: The inspection management team: contact details and roles

Team email: **inspections@idhsgb.org.uk**

The inspection management team

Sue Benson – Trustee, Inspection manager.

Graham Chaplin - Inspection manager and non-elected officer.
Heather Chaplin -Trustee, Inspector, Inspection Manager and group Chair.
Mark Mortimer – Inspector and trustee.
Carol Rudd - Inspection manager and non-elected officer.
Mary Wilson - Trustee, Inspector, Inspection manager.

We also have many kind volunteers who help us on the day with individual inspections.

Society Administration Office :

Postal address: IDHS (GB), Holme House, The Dale, Ainstable, Carlisle CA4 9RH

Email: admin@idhsgb.org.uk (general enquiries, membership)
Passport-related enquiries: passports@idhsgb.org.uk

Telephone: 01768 870523 (available 9-00am to 5-00pm Monday – Friday).

Appendix 4: The Breed Objective and Description

Breeding Objective

The breeding objective of the Irish Draught studbook is to breed sound Irish Draught horses with correct conformation, type, movement and action, calm and willing temperaments and sufficient athleticism that conforms to the Irish Draught breed standard. These animals will serve one or more of the following three functions by:

- Participating in preservation and ongoing breed improvement programmes;
- Performing as pleasure, leisure or performance horses;
- Contributing to cross breeding programmes with other breeds.

Breed Summary Description

The Irish Draught Horse is a versatile, powerful and athletic animal with substance and quality. It has a pleasant head, good bone and a short shin, good spring of rib, strong loins and hindquarters and an active powerful stride. Known for its good temperament, docility and willing nature, it has a robust constitution and is inherently sound. The Irish Draught Horse is a foundation breed that, when crossed with other breeds, will produce all types of leisure and performance horses.

Type of horse: detailed description

Height: Ideally Irish Draughts should stand between 158cms (15.2hh) and a maximum of 170cms (16.3hh) at maturity.

Bone: Approximately 23cms (9 inches) of strong, clean, flat bone.

Head: Should be pleasant, not coarse or hatchet like, with plenty of room between the jaw bones. Wide forehead and kind eyes, set well apart, and with large quality ears.

Neck: Good length of rein with head well set on, neck should be correctly muscled and well shaped.

Front legs: Long muscular forearms, short cannon bones with plenty of strong clean, flat bone, not back at the knee or tied in below the knee. Pasterns should be in proportion with good hoof pastern axis. Hooves should be of equal size, hard and sound with plenty of room at the heel. They should not be boxy, over large or flat.

Shoulders: A sloping shoulder neither loaded, nor too heavy, nor too short, with well-defined withers, well set back.

Body, back and hindquarters: Deep girth with a good spring of rib, strong back, loins and quarters. The croup and buttocks should be long and gently sloping. Hips should not be too wide.

Hind legs: Strong gaskins, well shaped clean hocks set into short shins. Should not be cow-hocked or wide apart at the hocks.

Action: Should be straight and free, not heavy or ponderous.

Movement: Should be active and strong, with sufficient athleticism showing good flexion of joints and freedom of the shoulders.

Colour: Any strong whole colour including bay, grey, chestnut, black, brown and dun. Excessive white markings are not desirable.

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Heather Chaplin, Inspection management team