IRISH DRAUGHT HORSE SOCIETY (GB)

Registered Charity No. 1080522

Irish Draught Stallion Inspections: guidance notes 2026

- **Date: 1 April 2026**
- **Venue: Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell, Warwick CV35 9BP**
- **Closing date: 1 February 2026**

This document provides guidance to help owners submit an application for the inspection of an Irish Draught colt or stallion aged three years old and over for grading under the Irish Horse Register classification system.

Inspections of Irish Draught horse stallions, mares and Sport Horse mares which are eligible for Supplementary Grade Up are run along the same principles and guidelines as the parent studbook holder, currently Horse Sport Ireland.

Please read the Terms and Conditions document for a description of the veterinary options and inspection process. If you have any questions about the inspection procedures, please contact us at inspections@idhsgb.org.uk

Checklist 1: the following must be in place <u>at the time of your application</u>.

Requirement	How to find further information	Tick
You must be a full or joint member of the IDHS (GB).	Membership application forms and payment facility are available online at www.idhsgb.org.uk	
Your horse must be officially 'named' on his passport	**All passports must be brought to the inspection venue on the day.** Irish-bred horses which require naming must have their passports sent to Horse Sport Ireland in good time. Please allow several months. Please photocopy (not photograph) your passport **x 2** before sending it away. You will need one photocopy to accompany your application (see below) and the other one to keep.	
Your horse must be in the correct ownership	Transfer of ownership forms are on our website. You may pay online for this service. Transfers may be done by our own passport office in Cumbria (details below), or by Horse Sport Ireland.	
The passport must be overstamped by the IDHS (GB) if it was issued by Horse Sport Ireland or any other organisation.	Our overstamping form and payment facility are available online. *For overstamping and transfers, please send the passport and forms to:* IDHS (GB), Holme House, The Dale, Ainstable, Carlisle CA4 9RH Email passports@idhsgb.org.uk Tel. 01768 870523 (Available 9-00am to 5-00pm Monday – Friday) This office will also help you with your membership or general enquiries: admin@idhsgb.org.uk	
Download and print the application form, guidance notes and pre-inspection veterinary report form.	All are available on our website. If you don't have a printer and cannot ask anyone else to print them for you, please contact our office (details above) and ask for them to be posted to you.	
Email the inspection management team on inspections@idhsgb.org.uk	Although the closing date is 1 February, would be extremely helpful if you email our team to let us know about your intention to apply. We can then update you with our inspection news. Please include your contact details and the horse's registered name in the email.	

Speak with your vet and show them the pre-inspection veterinary report form and X-ray list.	The examining vet must be an experienced practitioner who normally sees equines as part of their practice. Most stallion owners request a quote for the veterinary work prior to booking the stallion in for this to be done. Any radiographic views which lack clarity will have to be repeated.	
Book your stallion's veterinary examination appointment.	The booking should be made well in advance, but please do NOT x-ray two year olds. They cannot be x-rayed until after 1 January of the year in which they will be three. This will comprise: • Pre-inspection veterinary examination • Endoscopy, using the Geoff Lane scoring system • A set of 16 x-rays views, as per the list of requirements on the form *(see note above if your colt is rising three)* • CEM, EVA and EIA certificates *(from 1 January 2026 onwards)* • Warmblood Fragile Foal Syndrome one-off genetic test	
Ask your vet to check the stallion's vaccination status	Your horse will not be permitted to come to the inspection venue unless he is vaccinated to FEI guidelines and his vaccinations are recorded in his passport. Please see below for details of vaccination requirements as at 31 October 2024.	

Please note that the owner is responsible for all veterinary costs prior to and after the inspection.

Your inspection fee covers veterinary examination related to the inspection on the day, but not any additional procedures, e.g. if the animal becomes unwell and requires treatment .

Once you have read the guidance notes, if you have any remaining questions, please email inspections@idhsgb.org.uk.

Checklist 2: <u>before you submit your completed application</u>:

Requirement	Notes	Tick
Completed and signed application form	Please do not send photocopies or photographs of the form, send the original.	
Inspection fee	£600 inc. VAT for Irish Draught stallions. *£150 of this fee is non-returnable once the x-rays have been submitted to the Panel.* Payment options: • The fees for inspection, membership and stabling can be paid securely online at www.idhsgb.org.uk • You may pay by phoning our office in Cumbria, using your card • You may pay by BACS: Barclays Bank: Sort Code: 20-03-18, Account: 00700487. If paying by BACS, your surname plus 'Stallion' as the reference – e.g. 'Bloggs Stallion'.	
Ask your vet to email the X-rays, as specified on the pre-inspection veterinary report form	X-rays must be labelled clearly. They must be saved digitally and emailed, or sent via a link to inspections@idhsgb.org.uk not later than 1 February 2026. Please note that x-rays will not be submitted to our Panel until the full inspection fee is submitted.	
Pre-inspection veterinary report	Email the veterinary report direct to the inspections mailbox, with the x-rays.	
For those with HSI passports which are being posted to	A clear photocopy (**not a photograph**) of the following passport pages: • Pedigree	

Ireland for naming or other updates (in case of delay in return).	• Marking chart • Certificate of Origin • Zootechnical certificate • Ownership page • Vaccinations page.	
Clean health certificates for: • CEM • EVA • EIA	If these are not available to the owner on the closing date, they are the ONLY item which may be submitted later. They must be in place before the day of inspection.	
Certificate to show that the animal is clear of Warmblood Fragile Foal Syndrome	This is a one-off genetic test which is done from a mane or tail hair sample, taken by your vet and submitted to a suitable laboratory. The choice of laboratory is up to the owner and their vet. Results must be available foru weeks before the inspection date.	
Performance data for your stallion	There is space on the application form for this information, which will be shared with the inspection team. Please use additional pages and attach them to the application form if there is insufficient space on the form.	
Stable booking form	This is not essential at the time of the application, but it helps us. You can submit this any time up to seven days prior to the inspection. Stabling: £48.00 per night. Day stable 8am – 5pm: £25.00 (Stables come with some bedding) Returnable deposit (if stable is left clean): £25	

How to apply:

Please submit all paper documentation to:

Inspection Management Team, c/o Middle Munty Farm, Churchstanton, Taunton, TA3 7RH

Tel.: 01823 601625 Email: inspections@idhsgb.org.uk

by the closing date: 1 February 2026.

Late applications will not be accepted. If you do not have all of the required documentation by the closing date, please contact the team for advice.

Please see below for the fees.

What happens when the application is received?

Your application form will be acknowledged by personal email. If you pay online, there is an automated acknowledgement. The Inspection Management Team will then keep in touch with email updates. We may need to ring you to check that you have carried out the basic passport –related tasks needed before your stallion's inspection.

If you don't have access to email, please ensure that you provide our team with an email address we can use.

We do not post inspection information by surface mail.
Your stallion's x-rays will be sent to our radiograph panel with basic information about him (owner, stallion age, name, breed). The panel of three eminent radiograph specialists will read the x-rays and report back to the inspection administration team.

We will contact you by email when the outcome of your stallion's x-rays is known. If there is an issue with the x-rays, we will phone you to explain the situation with you.

If you have any questions at this stage, please contact the inspection management team on inspections@idhsgb.org.uk

Travelling to Great Britain from Ireland for inspection

We welcome stallions from Ireland for inspection in Great Britain. Our inspection rules are the same in principle, with small differences in detail due to the situation regarding veterinary regulation in our two countries (please see below).

Please will owners bear in mind the following:

- Owners in Great Britain who wish to pursue the option to travel to Ireland are advised to check out the regulations and costs associated with importing and re-exporting a horse into and back from an EU country. The rules are changing regularly and the inspection management team does not have any expertise in this specialised area. Please see the GOV.UK and the DAFM websites for details.
- If you are bringing an Irish stallion into Great Britain for inspection and plan to take him back to Ireland the same day or the following day, you must identify a veterinary surgeon who can complete the export paperwork required for his return journey.
- It is unlikely to be possible to fit this into our vet's busy timetable on the day, and it is not covered by your inspection fee.
- Applicants coming from Ireland have two options with regard to veterinary procedures, but we can only offer one option in Great Britain. We are not permitted to have Designated Centres in Great Britain.

Stables can be booked through the Inspection Management Team

Please email us to say when you intend to arrive and when you intend to leave.

Owners may bring shavings with them (not straw) and/or purchase extra shavings on site. All feed and hay must be supplied by the stallion owner. Stallion stable doors have anti-weave grilles. These must be used for health and safety reasons.

We charge a £25 deposit on booking the stable. This will be repaid by BACS or cheque after the inspection, provided the stable is left clean and tidy with any bedding left up around the stable sides. Please cooperate with this. Our volunteers do not have time to muck out stables, so please cooperate with this rule.

Payment for each stable must be made in advance using our online payment system plus the £25 'clean stable' deposit.

Preparation for your stallion's inspection

Some stallions are prepared at home, and others are sent to professional producers for preparation. Please allow adequate time for your stallion's preparation.

About a month before the inspection, you will receive a timetable with your vetting and inspection times. Please let us know as soon as possible if there is a problem with your allocated times. Stallions are inspected in the morning, mares in the afternoon. The precise times depend on numbers and genders of animals coming forward.

Check In

All owners must report to one of the inspection administrators upon arrival at the centre in order to check in. You must check in not later than one hour before your scheduled veterinary time.

At this time, all owners must present the stallion's passport and sign the disclaimer forms, retaining one copy. We retain the passport for the duration of the inspection. The passport is stamped with the inspection grade and returned to you before you leave.

Please note stallions that have not been checked in **cannot** be presented at the first stage of the vetting and inspection.

Photographs

- The inspection administrator will take photographs of your stallion to form part of the inspection record.
- **1st Class Images** will be available to take professional photographs, which you can purchase direct from them. The steward will ask you to attend for your stallion to be photographed at the appropriate time.
- The stallion must be stood up correctly with all four limbs fully engaged (i.e. not resting a foot) and should show the horse to his best advantage. The stance should be open, so that three or four legs can be seen from the side.
- If you wish to use photographs for publicity purposes, please ask the photographer's permission and always credit each use.

Familiarisation with the Jumping Pen

The jumping pen will be available to stallion owners to walk down (poles on the ground) between the hours of 17.00 – 18.00 on the evening before the stallion inspections. Stallions will be allowed to receive a five-minute familiarisation period in the lane. Jumping is not permitted during the familiarisation period.

Only one handler and stallion may enter the indoor school at a time. This will be strictly monitored and will be available on a first come, first served basis. This facility must be pre-booked with the administration team on inspections@idhsgb.org.uk

If you choose not to come the night before the inspection, there will be a second opportunity to access the lane between 07.30 and 08.00 on the day of the inspection under the same terms as above. Again, must be pre booked and an official must be present at the time to ensure safe passage of all animals.

Please note that we use plastic building site tape to mark out the jumping lane, so it would be a good idea to get your stallion used to this before the inspection. We do not use Heras panels.

Health and Safety

This event is supported by a full and detailed 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 the stable manager.

If anyone needs first aid, please report to any official on site on the day. For any significant medical incident, it is our policy to request external medical support.

Stallion handlers and riders

Stallion handlers and riders must be aged 18 years or over.

We do not discriminate against anyone on the grounds of disability or temporary incapacity. However, our event risk assessment states that **stallion handlers must be physically fit and strong enough to handle the stallion safely in public.** This is for the protection of the handler, the inspection officials and all the horses and people present at the inspection centre.

Stallion owners and handlers must have all the necessary equipment (i.e. tack, lunge whips, lunge lines, etc.) at the inspection. Handlers are required to wear clothing appropriate to showing. Comfortable footwear must be worn in order to present the animal correctly.

In cases where an owner has more than one horse on the premises, sufficient handlers must be on site to cater for each animal. If there are very few stallion entries it may not be logistically possible to separate stallion vetting times by more than one horse. If you have two stallions forward, we will do our best with the timetabling, but you may need an additional person to hold one animal for the vet while the other is being inspected.

For any ridden elements of these inspections, riders must wear 'appropriate competition riding attire'. This includes protective headgear which complies with current British Showjumping or British Eventing standards. This is compulsory for riders, whether jumping under saddle or warming up.

Protective headgear is a requirement for those handling stallions on the ground.

Babies and children under 16 years

Please note that babies and children under 16 years are not allowed in the stable area under any circumstances. This is for child safeguarding/health and safety reasons. If you are bringing a young child to the inspection, please also bring an adult who can help you take care of them if you need to be involved with the stallion.

Baby buggies are not permitted in the stables or trot-up areas.

There is no smoking on site (including vapes).

Dogs must be kept on a short lead at all times.

Mares

Please be aware that there are mare inspections at the same venue. This is necessary in order to make up numbers and keep our inspections viable for all. There are also mares on site for other purposes outside our control, e.g. students' horses and liveries.

The mares will be stabled separately. There are clear rules regarding movement around the site and a one-way system is in operation at all times, to avoid stallions coming into contact with other horses.

Inspection results

The provisional results of the inspection in terms of the classification awarded will be announced publicly on the day along with a brief synopsis explaining the inspection panel's decision. The stallion owner and handler will be informed in the arena shortly before the public announcement.

British-bred Class 1 stallions will receive a BLS Award sash kindly donated by Pam Symonds in memory of her late husband, Bernard Leckie Symonds.

Irish-bred Class 1 stallions receive a rosette awarded by Horse Sport Ireland.

We ask our inspectors and administrators NOT to announce the upper beam scores immediately after the inspection. For this reason, administrators do not show owners and producers the linear profile on the day. Owners will receive a typed report after the inspection results have been verified (see below).

After the inspection

The Inspection Managers check the stallion's paperwork to ensure that it is complete and complies with the inspection rules laid down by our parent body.

Your stallion's passport will be stamped and signed on the 'Gradings' page by a trustee member of the inspection management team (provided that the inspection is complete). You can have your passport back as soon as this has been done.

If you are not in the immediate vicinity of the administration table, it will be placed in the stallion's file to await your return. If you require the passport to be amended throughout with the new classification, you will need to post it to our office in Cumbria, as we cannot do this on the day.

Inspection files are confidential and must not be accessed by the public. Please ask a steward for the passport for you before you leave, do not look for it yourself. **It is the owner or handler's responsibility** to ensure that they do not travel without the passport.

The Inspection Management Team prepares bar charts and reports on all the animals forward for inspection. This can take two to four weeks to complete, depending on numbers forward. These are emailed to the owners, starting with Class 2 animals, as any decision to appeal is time-sensitive.

The inspection report includes a bar chart, the veterinary report and the inspection team's comments. Owners can use the bar chart and comments to inform their future breeding decisions.

If there is anything you do not understand about the inspection report and linear profile, please contact the inspection management team.

Publicity on the web site and in our Yearbook

All inspection results for Class 1 and Class 2 animals are published on our website and in our newsletter and Yearbook. Class 3 animals are not listed in the results.

In addition, your stallion can be listed in the stallion lists on our website and in our Yearbook. This service is included in your inspection fee. Your stallion's details will continue to be posted for as long as you are a Society member and the horse remains at stud or available through frozen semen.

If you wish your Class 1 or Class 2 stallion to be further publicised with a photograph and listing on our website and in our Yearbook, or if you wish to publicise him on the Society's Official Forum Facebook page, the Society will publish a modified version of his inspection report on our website. Please note that stallion owners sign a statement on their application forms to agree that this information will be made public if they choose to stand their stallion at stud.

If you do not want your stallion's linear profile to be published, you will not be able to advertise him in our publications or on our Facebook Official Forum.

Owners of newly-inspected stallions must inform the inspection management team as soon as possible and not later than **15 June** after the inspection whether or not they wish to have him publicised in the stallion listings on the website and in the Yearbook.

Stallions which move overseas can be listed provided that they are available in Great Britain through AI.

The Society reserves the right to remove stallions from the listings if they have not covered mares for the previous five years or if they are not available to the public.

We send out inspection results annually to Horse Sport Ireland, as our parent body. They may choose to publish stallion inspection outcomes for Great Britain in their publications.

Owners and producers: accommodation

The inspection management team does not book 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 at Moreton Morrell as far as we are aware. Members of the public and owners/connections are advised to bring food and drink with them.

Use of public photos and video taken at the inspections

The IDHS (GB) has authorised 1st Class Images to photograph horses. In the interests of confidentiality, owners are asked not to video or audio-record in other people's horses from any location other than the public gallery or the

cordoned off area in front of the covered arena. Recording veterinary and inspection officials' deliberations is strictly prohibited.

The public gallery

There is a good public gallery at Moreton Morrell with plenty of seating and a clear view of the end of the arena.

Visitors and spectators are respectfully requested not to lean over the barrier or enter the surfaced part of the arena without invitation when horses are loose. Owners who are watching their horses from the gallery will be called in to receive feedback when the inspectors have concluded their assessment of the horse.

APPENDIX 1: ARENA AND JUMPING LANE

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.

The size of the indoor arena at Moreton Morrell is 60m x 23m. The inspectors and administrator will be in the arena, as will the arena team comprising five or six people.

Each stallion or mare (athleticism assessment is voluntary for mares) will be required to jump through the jumping lane. The jumping lane consists of three fences and a placing pole in front of the first fence.

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. The maximum height of the fences for 3-year-old Irish Draughts will be 1.00 metre.

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.

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

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.

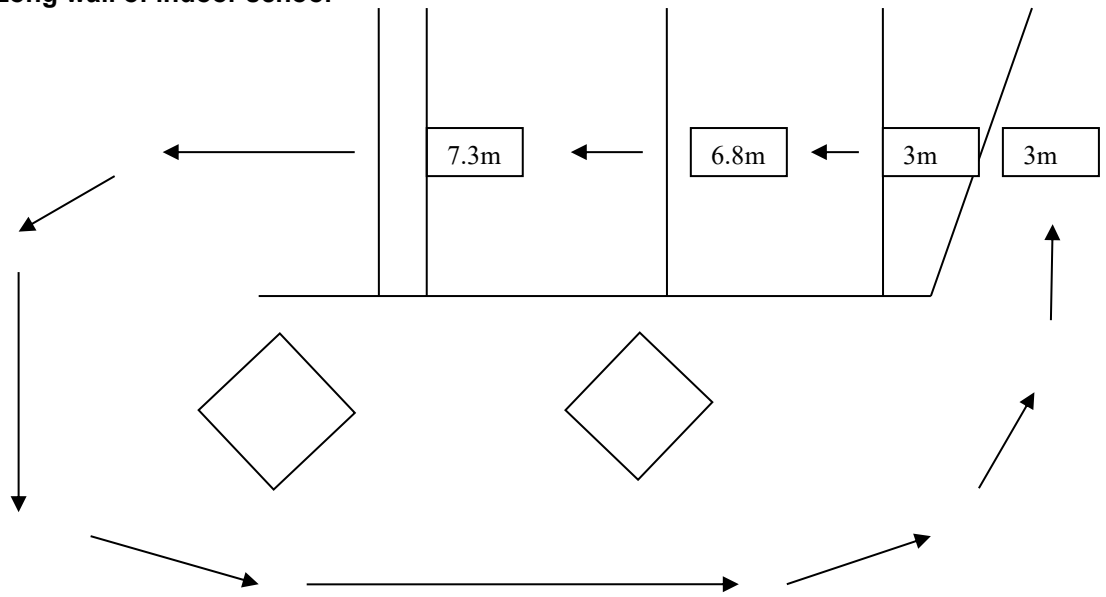
The owner or handler stands in the left hand diamond and the inspection team in the right hand diamond on the diagram below.

Athleticism Assessment under Saddle

The owners of stallions and mares that are four years or older that have chosen to do this element under saddle on their application form will have their horse's athleticism assessed by jumping over a course of fences.

There may be an additional charge made to cover the cost of hiring show jumps for Irish Draught stallions and mares whose owners wish to demonstrate athleticism over a course.

Long wall of indoor school



	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**

Appendix 2: 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.

Inspection guidance last updated: November 2025.

Inspection Management Team members:

Sue Benson
Graham Chaplin
Heather Chaplin
Mark Mortimer
Carol Rudd
Mary Wilson

Veterinary advisor: *Liam Kearns MVB MRCVS*

Volunteers who may be there on the day:

Helena Davies
Lindsey Millar
James Noblett
Mary Tearney
Our Arena Team (5 – 6) and Leader, Andrew Gardiner

There will be three Inspectors inspecting your stallion, at least one of whom will be from Ireland. For security reasons, we do not publicise inspectors' names in advance. Additional inspectors may be participating with certain animals to accommodate any conflicts of interest, but there are never more than three per animal.