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Our Ref: FR/vjr

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Dear Richie and Jim

Knole Park – Events

I write to inform you that the Knole Estate has taken the difficult decision to cancel all forthcoming events in Knole Park with more than thirty participants until 1 January 2021. We will also be reducing the number of smaller events which may be held in the Park until 1 January 2021. The reasons for this decision are outlined below.

The Park has experienced an extraordinarily high number of visitors as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, along with increased incidences of anti-social behaviour, litter dropping and disruption to the deer herd. We are doing all we can with limited resources, alongside the National Trust, to manage the Park during these very difficult times. The added pressure of allowing large events to take place would create a further strain which we are not able to cope with in the current circumstances.

The National Trust have furloughed a very high number of their staff and their capacity for dealing with the increased traffic, visitor queries etc. on event days is therefore much reduced. The National Trust have (nationally) taken the decision to cancel all events at National Trust properties until the end of December 2020. We are mirroring their decision to create continuity and to help support the National Trust during this very difficult time.

Under 'The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No.2) (England) Regulations 2020', events with more than thirty people are illegal (unless planned by an organisation in compliance with COVID-19 Secure guidance). Whilst it is possible that these regulations may change between now and January 2021 we believe that holding events in the Park would constitute an onerous health and safety burden for the Knole Estate. In addition, we believe that cancelling all events until January 2021 will provide all parties with greater certainty, particularly given the constantly changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and the very real risk of further outbreaks and lockdowns over the autumn and winter.

I am very sorry that this will be disappointing news for you. We do hope that you will be able to hold your event at Knole next year.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'F. Reed'.

Frances Reed MSc MRICS FAAV
Associate Director

