

Enjoying the countryside

Cracking the codes

The Countryside Code, the Outdoor Access Code, Leave No Trace, the Code for Campers and the Code for Caravans are designed to help us all appreciate the great outdoors responsibly. They are based on common sense and allow us to enjoy our pastime without causing problems for other people or the countryside we enjoy.

The Countryside Code (which applies in England and Wales) is supported by Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales, the **Outdoor Access Code** is supported by Scottish Natural Heritage and **Leave No Trace** is the scheme covering Northern Ireland, supported by the Countryside Access and Activities Network. All these organisations are government backed and set up to help people enjoy the natural environment in a sustainable way.

The Code for Campers was introduced by the Club in 1933 to encourage all its members to camp responsibly.

The Caravan Code is approved by the National Caravan Council, the International Federation of Camping and Caravanning, the Caravan Club and many other caravan and motorhome organisations.

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, those enjoying the outdoors are encouraged to follow the principles of Leave No Trace:

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Be considerate of others
- Respect farm animals and wildlife
- Travel and camp on durable ground
- Leave what you find
- Dispose of waste properly
- Minimise the effects of fire

Find out more at leavenotraceireland.org



© Ardman Animations Ltd 2004

The Countryside Code for England and Wales

■ Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs

Even when going out locally, it's best to get the latest information about where and when you can go; for example, your rights to go onto some areas of open land may be restricted while work is carried out, for safety reasons or during breeding seasons. Follow advice and local signs, and be prepared for the unexpected.

■ Leave gates and property as you find them

Please respect the working life of the countryside, as our actions can affect people's livelihoods, our heritage, and the safety and welfare of animals and ourselves.

■ Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home

We have a responsibility to protect our countryside now and for future generations, so make sure you don't harm animals, birds, plants or trees.

■ Keep your dog under control

The countryside is a great place to exercise dogs, but it's every owner's duty to make sure their dog is not a danger or nuisance to farm animals, wildlife or other people.

■ Consider other people

Showing consideration and respect for other people makes the countryside a pleasant environment for everyone – at home, at work and at leisure.

The Code for Campers

1 Where to camp

Camp only on private land, or on land where camping is officially permitted, and only with permission, and conform to any regulations of the site owner.

2 Be tidy

Never leave litter anywhere. If receptacles are not provided take your litter home with you. Never leave loose items outside your tent or caravan.

3 Be clean

On organised sites, obey all the sanitation regulations. On undeveloped sites, use your own chemical sanitary equipment.

4 Do not cause damage

Be careful not to damage crops, wild flowers or woodlands. Always observe the country code particularly with regard to fire regulations, livestock, crops and trees.

5 Control your pets

If you take your animals with you when camping, be sure they cause no nuisance.

6 Be courteous and respect privacy

You are visitors in the countryside. Respect all the rights of the people who live there.

The Code for Caravans

1 The Caravan

- a) Whether trailer or motor caravan, it is a vehicle designed for caravanning. Its appearance and colour are appropriate and do not offend public opinion.
- b) It is regularly serviced so that it is safe in all respects when touring on the road, and on site.

2 On the Road

- a) The selection of trailer caravan and towing vehicles allows adequate performance in line with the Towing Code, namely: (i) The actual laden weight of the caravan should be kept as low as possible and should never normally exceed the kerbweight of the towing vehicle. (ii) The engine is powerful enough to keep the outfit at a speed, particularly on hills, that does not baulk other traffic. (iii) The caravan is carefully loaded to provide good balance and avoid instability.
- b) The caravan complies with all Road Traffic Acts and other relevant Regulations, in particular that there should be an adequate view to the rear of the caravan.
- c) Where the caravan is a trailer towed by a vehicle, it is insured against third party risks. This must cover not only the caravan when attached to the towing vehicle, but also when detached.
- d) Particular attention is paid to those sections of the Highway Code relevant to trailer caravans. (i) To cause the minimum inconvenience to other traffic, the caravanner observes traffic to his rear and ensures that every opportunity is offered for other vehicles to overtake. This includes the need always to allow space in front of the outfit for faster traffic to pull into with safety (and never to have two or more outfits bunched together), and on narrow roads to pull in and halt at a safe place to allow following traffic to overtake. (ii) To carry out normal road manoeuvres with increased care, to take account of the length of the outfit, the vehicle's reduced acceleration and its longer stopping distances when braking. This requires greater anticipation, early signalling of intentions, and a very careful watch of overtaken traffic, particularly cyclists, before pulling in again to the nearside of the road.

3 On any Site

The member:

- a) Pitches on private land with the express permission of the owner.
- b) Places the caravan where it will not interfere with the convenience or enjoyment of others.
- c) Avoids damage to turf by digging holes only when absolutely necessary and replacing turf where possible and by considerate use of the vehicle.
- d) Disposes of any rubbish only by means provided on the site. If no receptacles are provided, as on some small farm sites, rubbish is taken home for disposal, or to any other recognised disposal point that has space.
- e) For touring, other than on sites equipped with toilets, will carry his own sanitary equipment (usually chemical closet and related fluid) and dispose of the contents only at the point provided for that purpose. If burial is necessary, as perhaps on private property, this will not be done in the vicinity of any water course.
- f) Allows no waste water from the caravan to foul the ground, but ensures that suitable receptacles are connected to the waste pipes to collect the waste, and the receptacle emptied as necessary. In the few instances where no disposal point is provided, minimum fouling is achieved by distributing the water over a considerable area, as along a hedge.
- g) Allows neither children or animals to spoil the enjoyment of others, by keeping them under control.
- h) Drives slowly and quietly when on site.
- i) Respects the privacy and peace of others at all times by keeping to a minimum mechanical, instrumental and vocal noise.
- j) Ensures that any laundry outside the caravan is displayed as discretely as possible.
- k) Keeps the pitch neat and tidy with no loose equipment outside the caravan beyond what is necessary or appropriate and on departure leaves it as clean as, or cleaner, than it was on arrival.
- l) Observes the Countryside Code relating to water cleanliness, fire dangers, litter, public paths, gates, control of dogs, damage to crops, hedges, walls, trees and plants, livestock and wildlife.



Responsible caravanning



Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of other people
- care for the environment.