



Look out for other good practice advice about specific activities including:

- **Camping**
- **Canoeing**
- **Dog walking**
- **Horse riding**
- **Off road cycling**

These are all endorsed with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code logo.




  
 Scottish Natural Heritage
   
 Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
   
**nature.scot**

### Where to get help

Local authorities and national park authorities have powers to help manage access rights. Contact your local outdoor access officer or find out more about your access rights and responsibilities on our website.

To see a copy of the full Code visit [outdooraccess-scotland.scot](http://outdooraccess-scotland.scot)

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### Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

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



# Enjoy Scotland's Outdoors

How to enjoy your access rights and follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code



# Enjoy Scotland's Outdoors

Throughout the year there are opportunities for you to see and experience attractive outdoor places on your doorstep.

### Access Rights

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gives you some of the best access rights in the world. You have the right to be on most land and inland water for recreation, education and going from place to place, providing you act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.



## How to follow the Code

### Take responsibility for your own actions

The outdoors is a great place to enjoy but it's also a working environment and natural hazards exist. Be aware of this and take care of yourself and others with you, including your dog.

### Respect the interests of others

Respect the needs of other people enjoying or working in the outdoors and follow any reasonable advice from land managers. Respect people's privacy and peace of mind. Avoid causing alarm to people, especially at night, by keeping a reasonable distance from houses and gardens or by using paths or tracks.

### Care for the environment

Our environment contributes greatly to everyone's health and quality of life so treat it with care. Take your rubbish home and consider picking up other litter as well. Don't disturb or damage wildlife or historic places. Keep your dog on a short lead or close at heel where needed.

## Getting out and about

**Responsible access can be enjoyed over most of Scotland including:**

- Urban parks
- Hills and woods
- Most grass fields and field margins
- Beaches
- Lochs, rivers and canals

**Access rights cover many activities including:**

- Informal pastimes such as walking, camping, picnicking and sightseeing
- Active pursuits including cycling, mountaineering, canoeing and horse riding
- Dog walking, provided your dog is under proper control
- Taking part in recreational and educational trips
- Simply going from one place to another

**Places and activities not covered include:**

- Buildings and their immediate surroundings
- Houses and their gardens
- Most land where crops are growing
- Motorised activities (unless for disabled access)
- Hunting, shooting and fishing





### On and by the water

**Lighting a fire.** Use a stove if possible. If you must have an open fire, keep it small and under control. Heed all advice at times of high fire risk.

**Going paddling.** Keep an eye out for anglers. If you see someone fishing, think about how you can best pass them with the least disturbance.

**Sharing a path.** Let people know you are coming so you do not alarm them. You might need to slow down, stop or stand aside to allow others to pass. Try to call out a friendly warning if you approach a horse and rider from behind.

**Camping out.** Leave no trace of your campsite. If public toilets aren't available, carry a trowel and bury your own waste and urinate well away from open water, rivers and burns.



### In the woods

**Fire warning.** Never cut down or damage trees. Never light a fire in forests, woods, farmland, on peaty ground, near buildings or where damage can be easily caused.

**In the woods.** Keep away from log piles and machinery. Pay attention to signs and follow any advice from the forester or land manager.



### On the farm

**Farmyards.** Access rights do not usually apply to farmyards. However, if a right of way or core path goes through a farmyard, you can follow this at any time.

**Gates.** Use a gate or stile where one has been provided. Do not climb over walls or hedges unless there is no alternative. Leave gates as you find them – even if they are open. If you need to climb a gate, climb it at the hinge end.

**Fields of farm animals or growing crops.** Keep to unsown ground, field edges or paths. Do not take your dog into fields containing growing crops, calves, lambs, or other young animals. Never let your dog worry or attack farm animals.

**Safety around cattle.** Keep a safe distance from cattle. If they act aggressively, take the shortest safest route out of the field. If you have a dog with you, release it and let it find its own way to safety.



### Close to houses and in towns and villages

**Dog waste.** Pick up and dispose of dog waste carefully. Keep your dog close at heel or on a lead.

**Golf courses.** If golfers are playing shots, wait for them to go by, then cross, avoiding tees and greens.



### On the hill

**Heading for the hills.** Stag stalking takes place between July and October, but mostly from August onwards. Visit Heading for the Scottish Hills (at [outdooraccess-scotland.scot](http://outdooraccess-scotland.scot)) for more information and avoid crossing land where stalking is taking place.

**Rock climbing.** Follow any advice about safeguarding a rare bird nesting site. This might ask you not to climb particular crags or sections of crags during the breeding season.

**Ground nesting birds.** Reduce the chance of your dog disturbing birds during the nesting season (usually from April to July) by keeping your dog on a short lead or close at heel in sensitive areas of moorland, loch and sea shores, woods and grasslands.

