

THE COUNTRY CODE

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.

Guard against all risks of fire

Especially in forest areas. Do not light any fires and please ensure that all matches are well extinguished before dropping them. Great damage is done every year to crops, plantations, woodland and heaths. A match or cigarette thrown away or a pipe carelessly knocked out, picnic fires not properly extinguished, or lighted near dry crops can quickly start a blaze.

Fasten all gates

Leave gates as you find them, if they are closed make sure you leave them closed; they are there to control stock movements. Escaped animals can damage crops or come into danger on roads – or they can become mixed with other animals and difficult to separate again. If animals get out of a field they stray. As a result they may do serious damage to crops, suffer injury on the roads, or eat food that is harmful.

Keep your dog under control

Especially near stock. Worried animals can become sick or go into shock. Pregnant animals can miscarry. Young animals can be attacked and even killed. Animals are easily frightened, even by small playful dogs. Stillbirths may be the result. Also remember some animals may attack even with your dog on a lead if this happens let your dog loose, so it can run away from you, preventing you from becoming the victim.

Keep to public paths across farmland

Never trample on crops. Remember they are someone's livelihood. If you leave a path, it can be difficult to find the next gate or stile and – especially in the hills – it can be quite easy to get lost in a very short space of time. Crops are damaged by treading; flattened crops are difficult to harvest.

Remember grass is a valuable crop.

Use gates and stiles to cross fences ,hedges and walls

Do not attempt to climb over fences or walls. They are easy to damage and costly and time consuming to repair. If these are damaged, gaps will be caused. Where a person goes, an animal may follow.

Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone

Both animals and farm machinery can be very dangerous to touch. Never touch farm chemicals or animal foodstuffs. Many of the machinery and much of the business stock on which the farmer depends on for his livelihood have to be kept in the open. Take care not to damage them.

Take your litter home

It is dangerous for animals (who may attempt to eat food remains or bags, or cut themselves on glass or hard plastic) and unsightly for local people and other walkers. Litter is not just unsightly, but often a danger as well.

Help to keep all water clean

Do not empty any liquids into rivers, water courses or troughs. Countrymen often depend on wells and streams for water for themselves and their animals.

Protect wildlife, plants and trees

Do not pick wildflowers and never, ever remove a whole plant or bulb. Be careful near young trees whose trunks may be quite delicate. Wild animals should not be disturbed, plants uprooted nor trees damaged.

Take special care on country roads

Farm vehicles can be very large and can travel very slowly. Animal herds may also be moving along the roads and can be difficult to see until the last moment. If there is a footpath, walkers are generally safer on the right, facing on-coming traffic. Care and patience are needed by motorists when passing farm animals or horses being ridden or otherwise.

Make no unnecessary noise

Radios and cassette decks are not welcome anywhere in the open countryside.

Take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footprints

Do not let your dog foul the countryside

Cause no damage

Do not spoil anyone else's legitimate enjoyment

Do not feed livestock or deliberately disturb livestock, wildlife or habitat

Keep to marked access areas and trails

Carry and use Ordnance Survey maps to assist in the navigation of your route

Observe and respond to notices and warning signs for your own safety

Keep to routes provided and permitted for a particular use

Park cars with consideration for other road and countryside users and workers.