

Taking Care of the Environment ... responsible access

As most orienteering in Scotland takes place off paths, tracks and roads, it is essential that the impact of the sport is minimised—consider who may have been there before you.

- Take care not to disturb wildlife or damage vegetation unnecessarily while orienteering.
- Try to avoid following other orienteers' routes through soft ground, especially marshes and flush areas.



- During the nesting season, usually April—July, try to avoid areas favoured by ground-nesting birds.
- **Take all your litter home with you.**
- Be aware of British Orienteering “Environmental Guidelines for Orienteering” and use this advice every time you go orienteering.

Know the Code before you go ...

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors - responsibly!



Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the **Scottish Outdoor Access Code**.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

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

For further information please visit:

www.outdooraccess-scotland.com, phone your local Scottish Natural Heritage Office, or phone 01738 444177 for a copy of the full Code.

Where to get more information

Scottish Natural Heritage

Government agency responsible for the conservation, enhancement, sustainable use and enjoyment of the natural heritage in Scotland

www.snh.org.uk

Scottish Orienteering Association

The governing body for orienteering in Scotland responsible for the administration and promotion of the sport

www.scottish-orienteering.org

tel. 01479 861374 (National Orienteering Centre)

British Orienteering Federation

www.britishorienteering.org.uk



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Orienteering in Scotland

Advice on Access



The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gives everyone the right of responsible access to the outdoors in Scotland. The Scottish Outdoors Access Code gives guidance to both access-takers and land managers on their responsibilities under the Act.

This leaflet explains the key points of the Code relevant to orienteering (in **bold text**) and provides additional advice from the Scottish Orienteering Association.

Training Activities

If you want to access the countryside to train, either on your own or as part of a small group and do not put out any markers or require any special facilities, you can do this as long as you act responsibly within the principles and guidance of the Code. Understanding the extent of access rights will help you exercise them responsibly.

The definition of “responsibly” will depend on the location, time of year, land management operations, etc in the area you are accessing. Be aware that access rights could change each time you access an area. Contact the land manager if you are unsure of where nesting sites are or what land management operations may be ongoing.

You are recommended to consult the local club access officer or secretary for guidance and advice.

Be aware that on occasions areas may be embargoed prior to events.

There is no requirement to register this type of activity with British Orienteering.

Park your vehicle properly and do not block gateways.

Use local toilet facilities and do not foul the countryside.

If you come across a land management operation:

- **Keep a safe distance and take heed of reasonable advice provided by the land manager to ensure that you do not hinder the work**
- **For some types of operation, such as crop spraying and tree felling, the land manager has to ensure that people are not affected—follow any precautions provided for your safety**



Events

If you are organising an event it is good practice to liaise with land managers if your event involves any facilities such as parking or putting out markers, or if, due to the number of participants, it might interfere with other people enjoying the outdoors, or affect the environment or land management operations. This applies to all events which appear on any club, regional or national fixtures list, including training, coaching or Come-and-Try-Its.

See Sections 3.57 to 3.61 of the Access Code for advice on organising events.

Land managers are encouraged to respond positively to all approaches made to run events on their land. See Section 4.22 of the Access Code.

The event or activity must be registered with British Orienteering to obtain their public liability insurance cover.

When you are competing in an event, you should...

- Obey all instructions issued by the event or activity organiser and the land manager
- Act responsibly within the principles set out in the Access Code
- Show respect for other recreational users of the area at all times

If you are organising an event, you should...

Always contact the land manager well in advance of the proposed date of any event or activity to discuss any concerns they might have relating to land management and environmental issues. For larger scale events it is especially important that very early contact is made and that formal approval is obtained once all concerns have been fully satisfied.

Avoid planning to use areas for events and other activities during sensitive times of the year such as lambing and the bird nesting season if these are an issue in that area.

Act upon any advice or requirements given by the land manager such as avoiding sensitive sites and land management operations, or crossing boundaries at specific places.

Ensure adequate toilet provision is available.

Ensure any litter is collected and removed.

If you require advice on designated sites, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, please contact your local SNH office.

