

How To Guide: Respect Other Campers

A few tips on camping etiquette for a great trip

Camping is a wonderful way of getting back to nature and a great way of teaching children about the outdoors. However, it is important to respect the camping environment and as the old saying still rings true:

Take nothing but memories, leave nothing but footprints

Camping should be a safe and enjoyable experience for all and below are a few things to consider which will help keep everyone happy and generations camping for years to come:

- Use paths and tracks already made and try not to damage natural plant life
- Always close farm gates and use styles if applicable
- Only take pets to sites where they are allowed - it is always best to check before you travel if you are thinking of taking a pet
- If you do take a pet make sure you take control and keep the countryside clean - it might be a natural environment but the next person coming along behind will not want to walk in dog poo
- Many campsites are quieter in the evenings and tents have no soundproofing so respect other people sleeping
- If you intend to be loud or play music, try and camp away from other tents or in an area with natural soundproofing. Some campsites are designed for groups that enjoy this sort of camping experience
- Do not speed through campsites in your car as children may be playing close by
- Never leave rubbish or allow it to blow away – take it with you or bin it if appropriate
- Only take and use fallen wood for fires and kindling, never take from live trees
- Check if open fires are allowed or alternatively use designated fire areas or BBQ pits
- Keep a close eye on fires and keep them under control for your safety and that of other campers - keeping a bucket of sand or water around to douse the fire is a good precaution
- Do not burn metal or plastics as these give off noxious smoke and do not burn away completely
- Respect other campers and their campsite areas
- Cigarette butts are ugly and can be a fire hazard - make sure they are fully extinguished and binned
- Empty toilet chemicals only in designated areas
- Bury toilet waste if necessary and dispose of toilet paper properly
- Leave any campsite facilities in the condition you would expect to find them
- Keep shower trips short in respect of other users
- Do not feed or intimidate local wildlife - keep pets and children under control around wild or farm animals