
WILD CAMPING: CODE OF CONDUCT

- Obtain permission whenever possible, especially organised groups
- Only camp above the fell wall, out of sight of any highway or private dwelling
- Tents to be erected after 5.00pm and taken down before 9.00am
- All litter and waste to be carried out. Bury or preferably carry out faeces, especially if close to watercourses. Leave no trace of your occupation
- Take particular care not to pollute watercourses and to protect fragile habitats
- Take personal responsibility for the care of our fragile environment. Light no fires. Avoid damage to vegetation, wildlife, geological and man made features
- Respect the peace and quiet of the hills

The above statements were an amalgam of a number of different codes, written from a realistic rather than a purist point of view. For example it is often impossible to trace the landowner to obtain permission. Most groups should however be able to plan sufficiently far ahead to be able to obtain permission.

Some statements set a height limit i.e. 450m. The above statement is clearer to interpret from a map, whilst avoiding most fly camping situations.

Whilst it has been suggested that a number of other points should be included, most are covered by legislation. For example the control of dogs is covered under the CROW Act, and safety matters are covered in more general mountain codes/guides.

Since this voluntary Code was produced, the **CROW Act 2000** excluded camping from a list of approved activities on open access land. Recent advice has been that:-

“Wild camping is not a permitted activity within the provisions of the CROW Act, but advice has been received that it will continue to be tolerated by the majority of landowners on `recognised` wild sites. Groups should however, wherever possible, seek permission from the landowner.”

The **LDNPA** have also stated:

“Although camping should be confined to authorised sites, the Lake District National Park Authority accepts that wild camping on un-enclosed fell land, remote from the roads, is generally accepted if undertaken responsibly by small numbers of people. Most land in the Lake District is privately owned and the attitude of most landowners is to tolerate wild camping unless damage or serious nuisance occurs. Unsanitary behaviour is a particular problem.”

The code of the outdoor loo

As more and more people discover the joys of the outdoors issues like toilet business rapidly gain importance.

Where to go: try whenever possible to use public toilets. If you have to go outdoors help the environment to deal with your deposit in the best possible way by following a few simple guidelines:

- **Choose your site carefully:** it should be at least 30 meters away from running water. Dig a small hole to bury your faeces in.
- **Pack out toilet paper and sanitary:** the best method for dealing with used toilet paper is to pack it out. Put it in a paper bag placed inside a plastic bag and then dispose of it at the next toilet. Sanitary towels and Tampons also need to be packed out in a similar way.