



Take the Lead in Responsible Behaviour

Dogs are good companions, but please remember that they can disturb birds, wildlife and other people enjoying the quiet of the forest.

About 25% of New Forest birds nest on the ground and raise young from 1 March to 31 July - birds disturbed at this time may leave their nests. Certain open areas of the forest, outside the Crown lands, are subject to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000). Under this Act, dogs must be kept on a short lead on common land and downland from 1 March to 31 July.

All deer have a strong scent, which can arouse a dog's hunting instincts. Pregnant females and young fawns are particularly vulnerable in spring and early summer.

There are many wild ponies and cattle across the forest, which may be frightened or chased by dogs. Keep your dog close by or on a lead near livestock.

Dog fouling on paths and car parks is offensive and creates serious health risks. Think of others and remove the waste - take it home for disposal or bag it and bin it.

Some landowners have specific regulations. Please obey local signage. If the landowner or his representative asks you to put your dog on a lead, you must comply.

Putting the Forest First

On your visit to the area please...

GUARD.....against all risk of fire

PROTECT...trees, plants and wildlife

LEAVEthings as you find them

TAKEnothing away except your litter

Other codes that you may find useful:

- Out and About in the New Forest
- Horse Riding in the New Forest
- Cycling in the New Forest

For further information please contact:

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This code has been compiled by a forum of local people, representing both conservation and recreation interests, under EU Interreg IIIB funding. The code is endorsed by the New Forest Verderers, the Commoners' Defence Association, the New Forest Dog Owners' Group and the Forestry Commission.



Dog Walking

In The New Forest



A guide to help dog walkers enjoy the New Forest



Conserve • Protect • Enjoy



New Forest Dog Walking Code



Enjoy

The New Forest is a wonderful place to go dog walking. You are welcome to walk your dog here providing you keep it close by and under control. There are beautiful woodlands to explore, or you can strike off along the many tracks on the Open Forest.

Many local people and visitors alike take advantage of the unspoiled landscape to exercise their dogs and enjoy the fresh air. Most dog walkers respect the forest and act responsibly. We want to protect the landscape and ensure that it remains beautiful and safe for everyone who visits. With this in mind, we have put together a code of conduct for dog walking. If you follow the code, you will enjoy yourself and allow other people to enjoy their activities too.

Help us to keep the New Forest a special place.

Remember that local byelaws apply in the New Forest

PLEASE FOLLOW THE CODE ➔



If you cannot control your dog, keep it on a lead.



A dog out of sight may be out of control. It must not be allowed to disturb or chase livestock or wildlife.



Keep your dog to the existing tracks on the forest when birds nest on the ground (1 March - 31 July). At this time, keep your dog close by or you may be asked by a forest ranger or keeper to put it on a lead.



Prevent your dog fouling on footpaths and around car parks. If it does foul, remove the waste.



Groups of dogs can be intimidating to other forest users and wildlife. Keep them under control.



Be considerate to other forest users, particularly children at play and picnickers.



Keep well away from any work taking place in the forest.



Prevent excessive barking from your dog.

