



The Countryside Code are dedicated to helping members of the public or scouting to protect and enjoy the countryside.

1. **Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs.** Refer to up to date maps OS are good but guide books can be useful. **Weather conditions** before you leave, you'll need changeable clothing. Let someone know where you're going and when you expect to return. Get to know the **signs and symbols** used in the countryside.

2. **Leave gates and property as you find them.** A farmer will normally leave a gate closed to keep livestock in, but may sometimes leave it open so they can reach food and water. Leave gates as you find them or follow instructions on signs. Use gates, stiles or gaps in field boundaries - climbing over walls, hedges and fences can damage them and increase the risk of farm animals escaping.

3. **Protect plants and animals and take your litter home.** Litter and leftover food doesn't just spoil the beauty of the countryside, it can be dangerous to wildlife and farm animals and can spread disease so take your litter home or pick some up. Cache In Trash Out. Wild animals and farm animals can behave unpredictably if you get too close, especially if they're with their young - so give them plenty of space.

4. **Keep dogs under close control.** You do not have to put your dog on a lead on public paths, as long as it is under close control. But as a general rule, keep your dog on a lead if you cannot rely on its obedience. By law, farmers are entitled to destroy a dog that injures or worries their animals

5. **Consider other people.** A Scout Law! Keep out of the way when farm animals are being gathered or moved and follow directions from the farmer. Respect the needs of local people - for example, don't block gateways, driveways or other entry points with a vehicle.