

Our Position on large scale events and commercial filming

This document states our expectations of those organising large scale events or filming for commercial purposes on Trust land.

Access to Trust land

1. The Trust welcomes all visitors to its land but does not actively encourage large-scale events. For any proposed large-scale event, the Trust will review the potential impacts and has discretion to withhold permission.

What we expect from people organising large scale events

2. We ask organisations or individuals who are planning to run a large-scale event on Trust land to:
 - a) Make us aware in advance (with at least four weeks' notice) that they are planning an event.
 - b) Consider whether such an event is appropriate on Trust land given the likely impacts on the land, other users, habitats and wildlife, in addition to the staff time and resources that will be involved.
 - c) If the event is a challenge event, read and follow the British Mountaineering Council's Green Guide to Challenge Events in the Hills and plan for turning potential problems into solutions.¹
 - d) Evidence how the event's carbon footprint will be reduced or kept to a minimum.
 - e) Explain how any harmful impacts will be avoided or, if not avoidable, mitigated. If it is agreed that impacts cannot be sufficiently avoided or mitigated, politely withdraw plans for the event. Harmful impacts can arise from litter, car parking, safety risks and poor visitor management and planning.
 - f) Understand that the Trust is a conservation charity first and foremost. As a result we are, in many cases, likely to refuse permission for the event to take place if the impacts have either not been adequately identified or cannot be adequately managed.
 - g) **For group charity events on Ben Nevis:** the Nevis Landscape Partnership has set up a registration scheme for group charity events. Guidance and registration forms are available from the Nevis Landscape Partnership.²

What we expect from commercial film producers

3. As a result for caring for some spectacular wild places, we are often asked for permission to film on Trust properties. Any commercial filming or photography must have landowner permission. A simple enquiry form, FAQs guide and filming fees are available from the John Muir Trust's website.³ Please send any enquiries to: fundraising@johnmuirtrust.org.

¹ <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-green-guide-challenge-events-hills>

² <https://www.nevislandscape.co.uk/organising-a-charity-event>

³ <https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/resources/filming-permissions>

Best practice standards

4. If events are taking place on Trust land, then we expect the event organisers to promote the work of the Trust to their participants and encourage them to donate to the Trust and/or participate in conservation work.
5. We expect that the following codes are followed to minimise the impact on wild places:
 - a) The Countryside Code⁴, which covers the UK, or
 - b) The Scottish Outdoor Access Code⁵, if the event is in Scotland.
6. In addition, we expect those organising large scale events to read, understand and follow, where relevant to the activity:
 - a) The Institute of Fundraising Code of Fundraising Practice for outdoor challenge events including the Three Peaks.⁶
 - b) The Cairngorm National Park Authority Guidance for organised outdoor access events.⁷
 - c) The National Access Forum Outdoor events in Scotland: guidance for organisers and land managers.⁸
 - d) The British Mountaineering Council's Green Guide.
 - e) Nevis Landscape Partnership's event guide.

Extracts from the Scottish Outdoor Access Code

Extracts from Part 3, exercising access rights responsibly.

Section 3.60 states:

'All events are organised to some degree, and their scale and timing can sometimes raise safety concerns, hinder land management operations or harm the environment. If you are organising an event, it is good practice to liaise with the relevant land managers.

You need to obtain the permission of the relevant land manager(s) if your event:

- needs new or temporary facilities and services (such as car parking, fencing, signs, litter bins, marked courses or toilets); or
- due to its nature or to the number of participants or spectators, is likely, to an unreasonable extent, to hinder land management operations, interfere with other people enjoying the outdoors or affect the environment.'

Section 3.61 states:

'For reasons such as safety or charging for entry, you might need to seek an order from the local authority to exempt a specific area from access rights for the duration of your event.

⁴ The Countryside Code: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>

⁵ The Scottish Outdoor Access Code: <https://www.mygov.scot/scottish-outdoor-access-code>

⁶ <https://ciof.org.uk/events-and-training/resources/outdoor-uk-challenge-events>

⁷ <https://cairngorms.co.uk/discover-explore/enjoying-the-park/outdoor-access-advice/>

⁸ <https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/act-and-access-code/national-access-forum>

For larger events, you can help to reduce impacts on the interests of other people and the environment by:

- liaising regularly with the land managers and with others who have an interest in the event and its effects (such as the local authorities, local resident groups and conservation bodies);
- having control of the numbers of participants and spectators, and being sensitive to the capacity of the location to absorb large numbers of people;
- making sure that the privacy of local residents is respected and that they suffer minimal inconvenience (for example, by making sure that local roads and parking areas can cope with the traffic from the event);
- making sure that you have plans for the safety of participants, spectators and others;
- planning the event so that easily damaged places are avoided and consulting relevant conservation bodies on what impacts might arise and how best to avoid these;
- making sure that water is not polluted and that all litter and human waste is disposed of properly;
- accepting responsibility to repair any damage caused;
- helping the local economy by buying goods and services locally; and by
- putting something back into the outdoors, for example by making contributions to the local community or to help enhance the local environment.'

Extracts from the Countryside Code

The Countryside Code is split into three sections: 'Respect', 'Protect' and 'Enjoy'. Relevant extracts are inserted below for ease of reference.

- Take care to keep on the signposted path. If further access is available, it will be signposted as 'common land' or 'open access land'. Regulations differ from area to area so follow local signs to stick to the right path.
- Pack your litter away after a picnic. Remember that it is a criminal offence to leave litter so make sure you take your rubbish home with you or find the nearest bin. Litter strewn across the countryside can bring harm to local wildlife and ruin the beautiful natural scenery.
- Never risk your own safety for a bit of fun, particularly in bad weather. Weather can change rapidly so if you see the weather starting to turn don't be afraid to call it a day. Be extra cautious on mountains and coastal areas as tides and severe weather conditions can catch you out if you are not careful. Always check tide times before heading to the beach.