

Sharing the National Park with others

While you're out walking, it's important to respect other people in the National Park. For example, dogs can be intimidating to some people, especially children, so we ask that you:

- Keep your dog from approaching or jumping up at other walkers
- Keep away from horse riders and cyclists
- Show respect to other dogs, especially those that are on a lead
- Try to keep away from people who are picnicking

Keep it clean

Nobody likes treading in dog waste, so please try to prevent your dog from fouling around car parks, on footpaths and near picnic areas. If your dog does foul, please bag it up and take it home or put it in a waste disposal bin (please don't bag it up and leave it on the path).



© Finn Balden

The South Downs National Park

The South Downs National Park is Britain's newest National Park, rich in landscape, culture and wildlife. Discover ancient woodland and enjoy spectacular views as you explore the open downs and heathlands.

Within these landscapes lie bustling market towns and peaceful rural villages, historic houses and the remains of ancient settlements.

For more information on walking opportunities – with or without your pet – visit our website at www.southdowns.gov.uk

Discover another way to explore

Try using public transport next time you visit the South Downs National Park. Visit www.traveline.info or call 0871 200 22 33 for information. For train timetables, visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or call 08457 484960.

Contact us

South Downs National Park Authority

Tel: 0300 303 1053

Web: www.southdowns.gov.uk

 Twitter: @SDNPA  Facebook: SDNPA

Please follow the Countryside Code:
Leave gates as you find them and keep dogs under close control or on a lead.



South Downs National Park Guide for dog walkers



© Natural England

A National Park for everyone

Walking with a dog for company is a very popular activity in the South Downs National Park. It has wonderful health benefits and it's a great way to enjoy the unique landscape.

When we're out walking, we share the countryside with other walkers, cyclists, horse riders, farm livestock such as sheep and cattle and a wealth of wildlife, much of which is sensitive to disturbance.

The following guidelines are to help make sure that the South Downs National Park remains a special place for everyone to enjoy, while keeping you and your dog safe.



Your dog's welfare

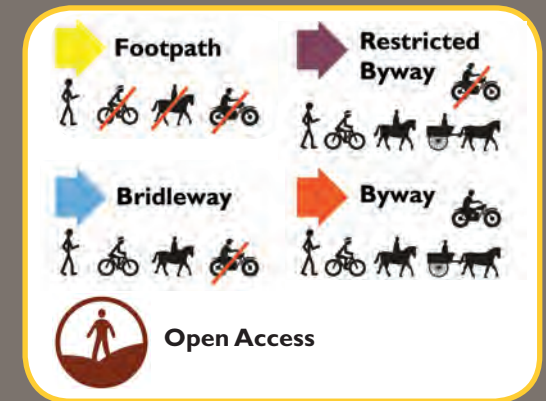
We want you and your dog to be safe in the National Park. Here are some tips on protecting your pet:

- Dogs can easily pick up worms and other parasites so treat your dog regularly with wormer
- There are many interesting smells and distractions (rabbits, pheasants etc.) that may cause your dog to run off. In such cases dogs can easily get injured, trapped or lost, so please keep your dog close to you at all times and have your dog micro-chipped so that if it is found, it can easily be returned home
- Cattle with young can be protective when dogs are near, so stay aware and avoid walking between a cow and their calf. If you feel threatened, let your dog off of the lead and leave the field quickly to ensure your safety
- Be aware that there are many natural dangers in the area including adders and ticks
- There are many people working in the countryside, often with machinery, so please keep away from any work in progress

Protecting grazing animals and wildlife

Farming takes place across the South Downs National Park, so it's important to avoid damage to crops or disturbance of grazing animals.

- Please keep to designated rights of way or open access land at all times – look out for these symbols as your guide:



- Ensure that your dog does not chase livestock, especially sheep. All livestock are easily disturbed and chases can lead to injury or death (both sheep and dogs)
- Please keep your dog close to you and under control at all times. If necessary, use a lead
- Be aware that dogs that attack sheep or other animals can legally be shot

Many visitors enjoy seeing the wealth of wildlife in the National Park. For example, there are many rare ground nesting birds found on the South Downs. Please avoid disturbing these creatures, as this may lead to nests being abandoned and eggs or chicks being lost.

