

KEEPING YOUR DOG SAFE

Keep your dog close. Dogs often dash off to explore interesting smells, and can end up lost, trapped or injured. Evidence shows that most livestock attacks are by dogs escaping from their homes at night. Keep your dog safe and secure and make sure they are micro-chipped so you can be reunited if they get lost.

Read and follow any signs on stiles or gates – they are there to ensure the safety of you and your dog.



BE TICK AWARE



Ticks are common in the countryside and can cause disease by transmitting bacteria and microbes when they bite an animal or human

- Stick to paths to reduce your chances of picking up ticks.
- Check your dog and yourself for ticks after a walk.
- Remove ticks carefully. See advice on the NHS website [nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease)

FIND YOUR WAY

Footpath		
Bridleway		
Restricted byway		
Byway		
Open access land		National Trail Acorn

CANINE CONFESSIONS

Watch our Canine Confessions films to see how our four-legged friends have seen the error of their ways and now take the lead!

southdowns.gov.uk/takethelead



BECOME AN AMBASSADOR

Help encourage responsible dog walking in the South Downs National Park. As part of our Heathlands Reunited project we are recruiting volunteer dog ambassadors.

southdowns.gov.uk/takethelead



DISCOVER ANOTHER WAY

For information on public transport to and around the South Downs National Park visit southdowns.gov.uk/discovery-map, [traveline.info](https://www.traveline.info) or call 0871 200 22 33. For train timetables visit [nationalrail.co.uk](https://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or call 03456 484950

CONTACT

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@SDNPA @Ranger_sdnpa

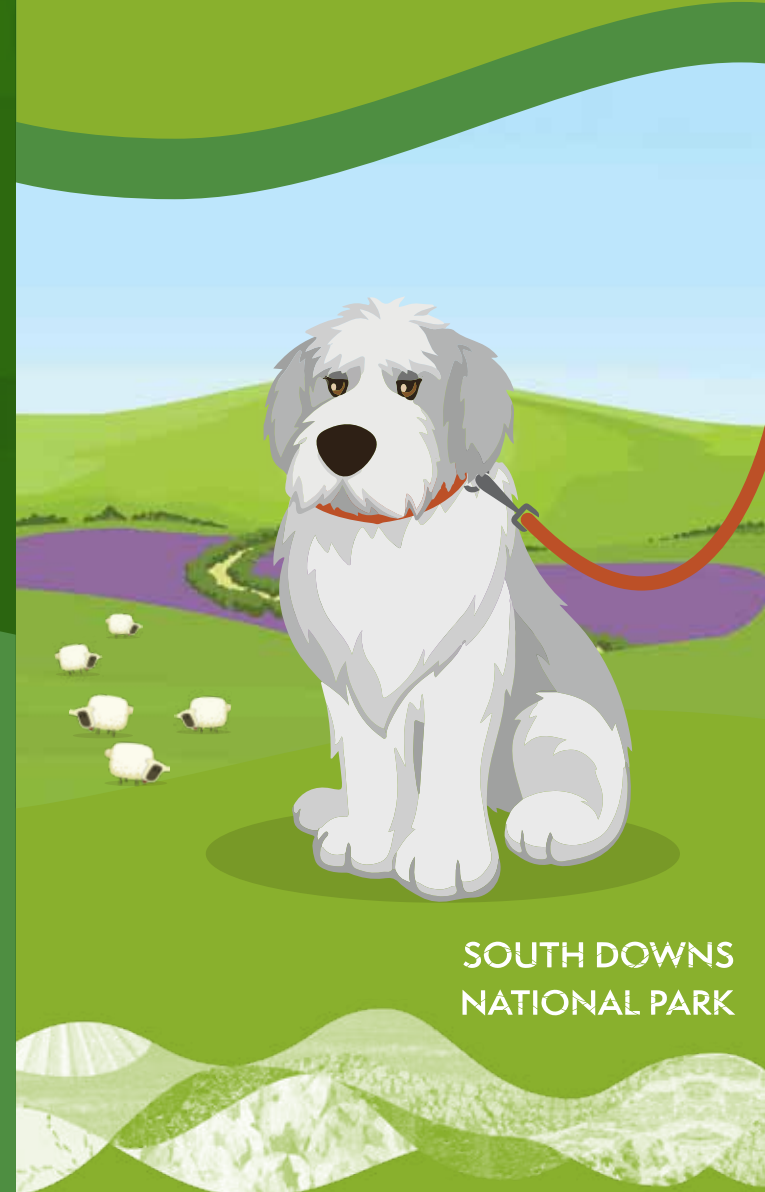
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[SOUTHDOWNSGOV.UK](https://southdowns.gov.uk)



TAKE THE LEAD IN THE SOUTH DOWNS



SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK

Take the Lead in the South Downs

Our top tips for a fun and safe visit with your dog

With over 3,300km of rights of way and lots of open access areas, the South Downs National Park is the perfect place for a walk with your four-legged friend. Our top doggy tips will make sure you have a great day.

Red flag warning

Stay out of MoD danger areas when the red flag is flying.

MoD land is usually clearly marked, and at certain times can be off limits as military training may be taking place making it unsafe.

When the flags are down you are free to use the paths on MoD land but stick to them and keep your dog close as there may be discarded ammunition on the ground.

Be sure to bag and bin dog poo on MoD land. By sharing this space responsibly, we can keep the land open for future generations to enjoy.



Take the Lead near livestock

Remember sheep can die from shock and pregnant ewes can lose their young if scared. Farmers are legally allowed to shoot any dog which is chasing or harming their livestock.



Keep your dog on the lead around cattle and never walk between a cow and her calf. If you feel threatened by cattle, let your dog off the lead and get to safety quickly.



Love birds?

Stick to the path and keep your dog close, particularly during ground nesting bird season (1 March – 15 September)

Areas such as our heathlands are home to ground-nesting birds. Curious dogs can disturb these birds, causing them to abandon their nests and leave their eggs or young to die. Help protect them by sticking to the paths.



The scoop on picking up poop

Always bag and bin dog poo and encourage fellow dog walkers to do the same.

The countryside is full of poo. But dog mess is different to farm or wild animal droppings:



- Dogs eat meat which means their poo smells bad and can contain worms and diseases which can be passed on to humans or livestock or contaminate the soil and water table.
- Thousands of people walk their dogs here every day. Can you imagine how much poo that generates!
- Dog poo is bad for people and bad for the countryside. Please bag and bin it – any bin will do.

