

Guiding Principles

Achieving the **Best of Both Worlds** in outdoor recreation and nature conservation

We want our Principles to guide all bodies that represent outdoor sports and recreation interests, and those for conservation or land/water management interests.

We have adopted these principles because we want to improve and increase opportunities for outdoor sports and recreation in ways that respect and safeguard the environment. We can do this by sharing our knowledge, skills and experience of promoting recreational use and managing our natural resources.

We start by agreeing:

- fresh air, exercise and a good quality natural environment improve health, spiritual and physical well-being and quality of life;
- we need to remove unnecessary barriers to enjoying our natural heritage or the recreational opportunities it provides;
- we must protect our natural heritage for present and future generations;
- recreation, conservation and other land use interests can usually be reconciled through active management, and increased understanding - optimising recreational opportunity, wildlife, and wider benefits of our natural heritage;
- we will work in a spirit of cooperation, partnership and enhanced awareness to promote to the public, and in our organisations, these aims:
 - produce, promote and review voluntary codes of conduct, working with the bodies representing these interests;
 - talk and listen to the relevant bodies to develop mutual understanding;
 - respect, and encourage others to respect the needs of:
 - local communities and residents;
 - farming, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture and other countryside-based commercial activities;
 - other individuals and groups enjoying their leisure;
 - develop consistent, evidence-based, approaches to evaluating issues;
 - share information and good practice, showing how sustainable recreation need not compromise our natural heritage.