

# Code of Conduct

For activities within Camden Council Nature Reserves and nature areas in Parks

## General Principle

Camden's nature sites and green spaces provide valuable opportunities for engagement with nature and learning about the natural environment. They can only do this if that nature is respected and looked-after. You should therefore seek to leave no trace and avoid disturbing wildlife. You must also be respectful to other site users.

Please note that this Code of Conduct does not negate the need for you to assess task and site specific risks to health and safety.

## Entering and leaving the site

If you are using a site that is normally closed to the public while you are using it, please make sure that the gate is locked behind you once your whole group has entered, and ensure it is locked when you leave.

If the area you are using is not lockable, then it is likely there is public access, and other users should not be prevented or discouraged from sharing the area.

## Boundaries

Ensure all members of your group know where they can and cannot go, including any restricted or ecologically sensitive areas, as agreed with Camden Council or as indicated by on-site signage.

## Ponds

Stay at a safe distance from the edge of ponds, and if pond dipping use the platform if present. Ensure pond dipping equipment is clean, and do not bring any material, plants or animals from other ponds, or take material, plants or animals from the pond to other ponds.

## Fires

Fires are not permitted within Camden Council sites.

## Sticks and stones

Use only loose twigs and branches during natural play; do not pull twigs from living trees or remove sticks, branches or logs from insect hotels, log piles or dead-hedging.

## Plants and flowers

Use dead or fallen leaves for your learning or play activities. Do not pick wild flowers or dig up plants. Try to stick to the edges of meadow areas; do not use these areas to gather, and avoid excessive trampling.

## Wildlife

Bug hunting and 'minibeasting' is encouraged, but ensure stones and logs are placed back in their original positions. Do not look in bird or bat boxes.

## **Digging**

Dig small holes using your fingers or lollipop sticks. Do not make them too big or deep. Remember to fill them in afterwards.

## **Eating and drinking**

Do not eat or drink anything you find on site, unless you have specifically planned and assessed the risks beforehand e.g. blackberry picking. Remember to wash hands before you have any drinks or snacks. Make sure that any soap you use is natural / environmentally friendly, and take any rubbish away with you.

## **Shelters/Tarpaulins**

If you have permission to erect a temporary shelter ensure that the attachments do not damage trees, and that the attachment structures are more than capable of supporting the weight of the shelter.

## **Toileting**

Travel toilets / potties may be set up inside a pop-up, but please take away the contents for disposal back at your childcare setting and take down and remove the tent at the end of your session.

## **Reporting any issues**

The Council relies on a number of different teams to tackle anti-social behaviour. Such issues should be reported directly to the relevant contact below but please also make [natureconservation@camden.gov.uk](mailto:natureconservation@camden.gov.uk) aware of the issue.

### Reporting ASB / crime incidents as they are happening

- Call 999 to report a crime that is taking place or about to take place
- The police number for non-emergencies is 101 (24 hours) or [www.met.police.uk/report](http://www.met.police.uk/report)

### Reporting ASB incidents after they have happened

Contact Community Safety to report issues around antisocial behaviour and to request advice, assistance and Community presence officer patrols on 020 7974 4444 or [communitysafety@camden.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@camden.gov.uk)

Your local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

Needles and drug paraphernalia in public areas can be reported via

<https://www.camden.gov.uk/report-needles>

For other sites and issues go to <https://www.camden.gov.uk/contact-the-green-space-team> to find the relevant contact.

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