

## THE SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE

### Responsible access to the outdoors

#### Know the Code before you go

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors! Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water for recreation, education and for going from place to place providing they act responsibly. It also gives advice to land owners on how to manage their land responsibly for access. These access rights and responsibilities are explained in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

The three main principles of the Code are to:

- Take responsibility for your own actions
- Respect the interests of other people
- Care for the environment

The key points of the code are:

#### When you are in the outdoors:

- Take personal responsibility for your own actions and act safely;
- Respect people's privacy and peace of mind;
- Help land managers and others to work safely and effectively;
- keep your dog under proper control, care for your environment and take your litter home;
- Take extra care if you are organising an event or running a business

#### If you are managing the outdoors:

- Respect access rights;
- Act reasonably when asking people to avoid land management operations;
- Work with your local authority and other bodies to help intergrate access and land management;
- Respect rights of way and customary access

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Check out the pages on access on Renfrewshire Council's web site [www.renfrewshire.gov.uk](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk)

For a paths questionnaire call Renfrewshire Council on 0141 842 5811/5822. Renfrewshire Council, H.Q. Cotton Street, Paisley PA1 1LL.

Visit [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com) - this website is very informative and gives you plenty of information about the Land Reform Act and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

This leaflet can be made available in Braille, large print, audio and community languages on request  
Please contact 0141-842-5000

## Getting out and about in Renfrewshire

# YOUR PATHS THE LAW AND YOU



## THE LAND REFORM ACT

### A right of responsible access to most land and inland water in Scotland

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 came into effect in February 2005.

The Act establishes a right of responsible access to most land and inland water in Scotland. People now have the right to cross land or go onto land for recreational purposes. This right applies to walkers, cyclists and horse riders. It also extends to inland water so includes activities such as canoeing or sailing.

Landowners also have responsibilities under the Act to manage their land responsibly for access and to respect access rights.

There are some places where people cannot go such as fields where crops are growing, school grounds, gardens or around peoples' houses.



## CORE PATHS

### Managing access for everyone; for landmanagers, walkers, cyclists, horse riders and water users.

Although the Land Reform Act allows a right of responsible access to the outdoors, most people actually prefer to use paths. Over the last few years, Renfrewshire Council has worked with some local communities and land owners to develop community path networks around the area.

Under the Act, Local Authorities must produce a draft Core Path Plan for their area by February 2008.

Core Paths will be the most important paths in the area. They should give people reasonable access to greenspace and facilities in urban areas and also provide access to the wider countryside. They will be signposted and shown on maps.

A Core Path may be natural grass, a tarmac path or a field margin or it may be a quiet road, waterway or an urban pavement. The overall network will provide for all abilities but not every path has to provide for everyone. However not all paths in an area will become Core Paths.

Paths are a good way to manage where people go and therefore can help the land owner as well as providing facilities for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

## CORE PATH PLANNING

### Your views count

Renfrewshire Council has to draw up a draft Core Path Plan by February 2008. In order to do this we want to consult with local residents, land owners and visitors to the area.

We will be working with the Community Councils user groups, local people and visitors to find out which are the most popular routes in the area or where new routes are required.

Look out for adverts in the local papers and on posters advertising these events and consultations over the next few months. A postal questionnaire can be obtained from Renfrewshire Council.

Once we have drawn up the draft Core Path Plan we will hold a number of events where people will be able to see the plan and ask questions.

**We want to hear your views because your views count.**

