

National MicroCar Rally – Guidance to Members Organising/Supervising/Attending Camping rallies

Whenever our organisation runs a rally or other event at a campsite, it is important – for the safety and comfort of our own members and all other people who may be involved, at the campsite or in the surrounding area – that the camping is properly organised and run.

Many dedicated campsites will have their own rules and *those must be followed*.

The NMCR goes further than that, though. It upholds the standards expected of responsible camping organisations, outlined as attached:

- Code of Conduct
- Countryside Code
- Caravan Code
- Marine Conservation Society

If you are organising or supervising an NMCR event at a campsite, it will be *your responsibility* to ensure that those requirements are met and that all members attending understand and follow them.

You will note that there are slightly different requirements for camping with tents and camping with caravans/motorhomes (and our members often do both). If the event is not being held in a formally-recognised campsite, or more units are expected to attend than the campsite is registered for, it may be necessary to have, and be ready to display on site, a current Exemption Certificate. Please consider these things *well in advance of the event*, and if necessary check with the NMCR Administrators, for clarification.

Code of Conduct

General

1. One named member of the organisation (the “rally marshal” or “responsible person”) is to be responsible for the conduct of any exempted touring caravan or camping event and for ensuring that those attending comply with this code.
2. The responsible person must ensure that all members are aware of The Countryside Code, The Caravan Code and Marine Conservation Society (see Annexes 1a-c).

The Venue

3. The organisation will take reasonable steps to satisfy themselves that the site to be used is not subject to a relevant order under paragraph 13 of the First Schedule to the 1960 Act (for caravans), or an Article 4 direction under Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (for caravans and camping), and that it is not one where planning permission has been refused or where enforcement action has been taken.
4. The organisation will consult the local authority before meeting on land adjacent to sites for which planning permission has been granted (ie next to permanent or commercial sites).
5. The organisation will agree to move from and avoid any site to which the local authority maintains a valid objection.
6. The organisation will not meet on sites adjacent to certificated locations/sites unless the proposed site is clearly differentiated and the risk of interference with local people and other users is minimal.
7. The organisation will take reasonable steps to ensure that the siting of units (a caravan, motor home, tent or trailer tent) does not unduly interfere with the activities of local people, their privacy or their enjoyment of their property. They will also ensure that the siting of units does not interfere with the enjoyment by others of the landscape, natural beauty or nature conservation value of the area, particularly in areas designated for their landscape or wildlife qualities.
8. The organisation will undertake not to over-use any venue and will consider carefully before holding successive meetings on the same land.

Nuisance

9. Local people should be able to carry on their normal activities when meetings are in progress. The organisation will take reasonable steps to minimise disturbance and will investigate and deal with the causes of any complaints made.
10. Care should be taken not to damage the site or the surrounding locality. Trees, fences, buildings, equipment and stock should all be respected.
11. Domestic animals belonging to members of the organisation will be kept on a lead and under close control. They will not be allowed to run loose on the site or cause disturbance to local people or animals. They will be exercised away from units and those parts of the site used for communal activities. Any mess will be cleared up.

12. The responsible person will identify open space suitable for the playing of games which might otherwise intrude upon or constitute a danger or annoyance to others on or around the site.
13. Noise should be kept to a minimum for the comfort of others on the site as well as people who live or work nearby.

Road Safety and Access

14. The responsible person will take steps to ensure that travel from major roads to a proposed site is not likely to cause undue disruption or difficulties for other road users. Access to the site must be suitable for the number and likely size of units attending the meeting. The arrival and departure of units should be arranged to minimise disruption to other road users.
15. The speed of vehicles on the site should be restricted to 5 mph.

Spacing and Density

16. Units should be well spaced and sited so they do not restrict access to, or exit from, any other unit or the site in general. At least 6 metres is required between units in all circumstances. For this purpose a unit means a caravan, motor home, tent or trailer tent. In addition, there must be a minimum of 3 metres between any awnings, gazebo's or pup tent and the car or towing vehicle. Emergency vehicles should be able to secure access at all times to within 90 metres of any unit on the site.
17. Where a site is being used by both caravans and tents they must be sited entirely separate from each other for health & safety reasons. However, this does not necessarily mean segregated. If the layout of the field does not allow for separate lines of tents, it is permissible to continue a line of caravans/motor homes with a line of tents, but they must be sited *enbloc* and not interspersed. Trailer tents are classified as tents and must be sited accordingly. Children's "pup-tents" may be erected alongside the parents' unit and should be considered as part of the unit for spacing purposes. It is recommended that there is at least 6 metres between any rows of caravans and tents. See Annex 1d for further advice on spacing issues.

Fire Precautions

18. Open fires and barbecues will not be held except with the permission of the responsible person. Where permission is given for open fires or barbecues, they will be sited on open ground, away from units, vehicles, awnings and any other structures.
19. A fire extinguisher approved to British Standards Institute and/or Fire Officers Certificate standards will be held on site.

Chemical Toilets and Waste Water Disposal

20. Organisations will act responsibly when disposing of the contents of chemical toilets and waste water and take full account of the need to safeguard water supplies and prevent the pollution of rivers and streams.

21. On-site disposal of the contents of chemical toilets and waste water will be in accordance with arrangements agreed with the site owner/occupier. Neither will be allowed to foul the ground except at designated disposal points. If there is any doubt about the disposal of waste, the organisation or, if appropriate, the responsible person will contact the relevant Local Authority for advice.

Refuse disposal

22. Organisations should ensure that refuse is either taken home or disposed of in accordance with on-site arrangements. The rally marshal should be satisfied that appropriate arrangements are in place.

Duration on site

23. The organisation will use every endeavour not to camp on any site for more than 42 consecutive days or 60 days in any 12 consecutive months. The organisation will also endeavour not to camp on any site being used for camping by other exempted organisations if, by doing so, the use of this site would be taken over these limits. This will help avoid overuse of sites, particularly in popular areas.

Annex 1a: The Countryside Code

Helping everyone to respect, protect & enjoy our countryside

The Countryside Code applies to all parts of the countryside. There are five parts to the Countryside code and most of it is just good commonsense. It's designed to help us all to respect, protect and enjoy our countryside.

The Code, which applies in England and Wales (Scotland has its own Outdoor Access Code), makes it clear what the responsibilities are for both the public and the people who manage the land. For further information see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>

Annex 1b: The Caravan Code

The Caravan

- Whether trailer or motor caravan it is a vehicle specifically for caravanning. Its appearance and colour are appropriate and do not offend public opinion.
- It is regularly serviced so that it is safe in all respects when touring on the road, and on site.

On The Road

Selection of trailer caravan and towing vehicle allows adequate performance in line with the Towing Code, namely:

- The actual laden weight of the caravan should be kept as low as possible and should never normally exceed the kerb weight of the towing vehicle
- The engine is powerful enough to keep the outfit at a speed, particularly on hills, that does not baulk other traffic
- The caravan is carefully loaded to provide good balance and avoid instability

The caravan complies with all Road Traffic Acts and other relevant Regulations, in particular that there should be an adequate view to the rear of the caravan.

Where the caravan is a trailer towed by a vehicle, it is insured against third party risks. This must cover not only the caravan when attached to the towing vehicle, but also when detached.

Particular attention is paid to those sections of the Highway Code relevant to trailer caravans.

- To cause the minimum inconvenience to other traffic the caravanner observes traffic to his rear and ensures that every opportunity is offered for other vehicles to overtake. This includes the need always to allow space in front of the outfit for faster traffic to pull into with safety (and never to have two or more outfits bunched together) and on narrow roads to pull in and halt at a safe place to allow following traffic to overtake.
- To carry out normal road manoeuvres with increased care to take account of the length of the outfit, the vehicle's reduced acceleration and its longer stopping distances when braking. This requires greater anticipation, early signalling of

intentions, and a very careful watch of overtaken traffic, particularly cyclists, before pulling in.

On Any Site

The member:

- Pitches on private land only with the express permission of the owner
- Places the caravan where it will not interfere with the convenience or enjoyment of others
- Avoids damage to turf by digging holes only when absolutely necessary, and replacing turf where possible and by considerate use of the vehicle
- Disposes of any rubbish only by the means provided on the site. If no receptacles are provided, as on some small farm sites, rubbish is taken home for disposal, or to any other recognised disposal point that has space.
- For touring other than on sites equipped with toilets, will carry his/her own sanitary equipment (usually chemical closet and approved related fluid) and dispose of the contents only at a point provided for the purpose. If burial is necessary, as perhaps on private property, this will not be done in the vicinity of any water course. Allows no waste water from the caravan to foul the ground, ensures that suitable receptacles are connected to the waste water pipes to collect the waste, and the receptacles emptied as necessary. In the few instances where no disposal point is provided, minimum fouling is achieved by distributing the water over a considerable area, as along a hedge
- Allows neither children nor animals to spoil the enjoyment of others, by keeping them under control
- Drives slowly and quietly when on site
- Respects the privacy and peace of others at all times by keeping to a minimum, mechanical, instrumental or vocal noise
- Ensures that any laundry outside the caravan is displayed as discretely as possible
- Keeps the pitch neat and tidy, with no loose equipment outside the caravan beyond what is necessary or appropriate, and on departure leaves it as clean as, or cleaner than, it was on arrival
- Observes the country code relating to water, cleanliness, fire dangers, litter, public paths, gates, control of dogs, damage to crops, hedges, walls, trees and plants, livestock and wildlife.

General

At all times, on the road or on site, every caravanner shows courtesy and consideration to all comers so that the good will of the general public towards caravanners is maintained and improved.

Annex 1c: Marine Conservation Society

The British Isles have over 16,000 km of coastline. This includes some of our most varied and best loved scenery - sea cliffs, rocky shores, rock pools, sand dunes, salt marshes - and some of our most interesting wildlife.

Please see their website for further information:- <http://www.mcsuk.org/>