

Code of Conduct

For use of 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. Please 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.

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 nature sites. If you wish to hold fire lighting/safety please enquire as it may be possible to use BBQ areas of our parks.

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 deadhedging.

Plants and flowers

Use dead or fallen leaves for your learning or play activities. Do not pick wild flowers or dig up plants.

Wildlife

Bug hunting and 'minibeasting' is encouraged, but ensure stones and logs are put 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. Always fill them in again 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 erecting a shelter ensure that the attachments do not damage trees, and also 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

If you are using a nature site contact natureconservation@camden.gov.uk to report any issues or concerns.

The Nature Sites are:

- Adelaide Local Nature Reserve
- Baynes Street Canalside Garden
- Belsize Woods Local Nature Reserve
- Russell Nurseries
- Belsize Sensory Garden
- Westbere Copse/Jenny Wood Nature Reserve
- Jane Evans Nature Reserve
- St Andrew's Garden Nature Area

For all other sites go to <https://www.camden.gov.uk/contact-the-green-space-team> to find the relevant contact for your issue.

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