

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) provides detailed guidance on the responsibilities of those exercising access rights and of those managing land and water.

This is a summary of the SOAC to provide guidance, where relevant, in the management in Gifford Community Woodlands

The Code is based on three key principles and these apply equally to the public and to land managers.

- Respect the interests of other people. Acting with courtesy, consideration and awareness is very important. If you are exercising access rights, make sure that you respect the privacy, safety and livelihoods of those living or working in the outdoors, and the needs of other people enjoying the outdoors. If you are a land manager, respect people's use of the outdoors and their need for a safe and enjoyable visit.
- Care for the environment. If you are exercising access rights, look after the places you visit and enjoy, and leave the land as you find it. If you are a land manager, help maintain the natural and cultural features which make the outdoors attractive to visit and enjoy.
- Take responsibility for your own actions. If you are exercising access rights, remember that the outdoors cannot be made risk-free and act with care at all times for your own safety and that of others. If you are a land manager, act with care at all times for people's safety.

A summary of your access rights

1. Everyone, whatever their age or ability, has access rights established by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. You only have access rights if you exercise them responsibly.
2. You can exercise these rights, provided you do so responsibly, over most land and inland water in Scotland, including mountains, moorland, woods and forests, grassland, margins of fields in which crops are growing, paths and tracks, rivers and lochs, the coast and most parks and open spaces. Access rights can be exercised at any time of the day or night.
3. You can exercise access rights for recreational purposes (such as pastimes, family and social activities, and more active pursuits like horse riding, cycling, wild camping and taking part in events), educational purposes (concerned with furthering a person's understanding of the natural and cultural heritage), some commercial purposes (where the activities are the same as those done by the general public) and for crossing over land and water.

What you can do under access rights

You can exercise access rights for recreational purposes, some educational activities and certain commercial purposes, and for crossing over land and water.

"Recreational purposes" is not defined in the legislation. It is taken to include:

- pastimes, such as watching wildlife, sightseeing, painting, photography and enjoying historic sites;

- family and social activities, such as short walks, dog walking, picnics, playing, sledging, paddling or flying a kite;
- active pursuits, such as walking, cycling, horse riding and carriage driving, rock climbing, hill-walking, running, orienteering, ski touring, ski mountaineering, caving, canoeing, swimming, rowing, windsurfing, sailing, diving, air sports and wild camping; and
- participation in events, such as walking or cycling festivals, hill running races, mountain marathons, mountain biking competitions, long-distance riding events, orienteering events and canoeing competitions.

Access rights extend to any educational activities concerned with furthering a person's understanding of the natural or cultural heritage. For example, access rights would extend to the students, leader and any support staff on a visit to the outdoors to learn about wildlife or landscapes or geological features. People carrying out field surveys of the natural or cultural heritage, such as of birds or plants, as a recreational activity or for educational purposes, are covered by access rights.

Access rights extend to activities carried out commercially or for profit, provided that these activities could also be carried on other than commercially or for profit (ie by the general public for recreational purposes or for educational activities or for crossing land). For example, a mountain guide who is taking a customer out hill-walking is carrying on a commercial activity but this falls within access rights because the activity involved – hill-walking – could be done by anyone else exercising access rights. The same would apply to a canoe instructor from a commercial outdoor pursuits centre with a party of canoeists. Other examples would be a commercial writer or photographer writing about or taking photographs of the natural or cultural heritage.

Access rights can also be used to cross land and inland water. This means going into land or inland water, passing over it and then leaving it for the purpose of getting from one place to another place, and is not limited to recreational purposes or educational activities. Access rights for recreational purposes, for relevant educational activities and for relevant commercial purposes refer to going into, passing over and remaining on land or inland water for these purposes and then leaving it.

Where do access rights not apply?

Land on which there is a house, caravan, tent or other place affording a person privacy or shelter, and sufficient adjacent land to enable those living there to have reasonable measures of privacy and to ensure that their enjoyment of the house or place is not unreasonably disturbed. There are several other circumstances in which access rights do not apply. Please refer back to The Code for guidance.

What activities are excluded from access rights?

Access rights must be exercised in ways that are lawful and reasonable. By definition this excludes any unlawful or criminal activity from the time at which it occurs. Furthermore, being on or crossing land for the purpose of doing anything which is an offence or a breach of an interdict or other order of a court is excluded from access rights. This means that a person intent on such a purpose is excluded from access rights at the time they seek to enter the land. This is also taken to include the carrying of any firearm, except where the person is crossing land or water to immediately access land

or water, or return from such, where shooting rights are granted, held or held in trust or by any person authorised to exercise such rights.

A list of the more obvious statutory offences relating to people's behaviour is provided at Annex 1. This list includes poaching, vandalism, not clearing up after your dog has fouled in a public place, being responsible for a dog worrying livestock, dropping litter, polluting water, and disturbing wild birds, animals and plants. There are also common law offences, such as breach of the peace.

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 excludes some other conduct from access rights¹⁴, including:

- Hunting, shooting or fishing. These activities still require the permission of the relevant owner.
- Motorised activities, such as motor biking and scrambling, off-road driving, the use of any powered craft on water, microlighting, and the use of powered model craft. These activities still require the permission of the relevant owner or manager. Access rights, however, do extend to a person with a disability who is using a motorised vehicle or vessel built or adapted for use by that person¹⁵.
- Being on or crossing land while responsible for a dog that is not under proper control (see paragraph 3.55).
- Being on or crossing land or water for the purpose of taking away, for commercial purposes or for profit, anything in or on the land or water (for example, mushrooms or berries picked for commercial use, or gravel and stones).

Exercising access rights responsibly:

1. Take personal responsibility for your own actions. You can do this by:

- caring for your own safety by recognising that the outdoors is a working environment and by taking account of natural hazards;
- taking special care if you are responsible for children as a parent, teacher or guide to ensure that they enjoy the outdoors responsibly and safely.

2. Respect people's privacy and peace of mind. You can do this by:

- using a path or track, if there is one, when you are close to a house or garden;
- if there is no path or track, by keeping a sensible distance from houses and avoiding ground that overlooks them from close by;
- taking care not to act in ways which might annoy or alarm people living in a house; and
- at night, taking extra care by keeping away from buildings where people might not be expecting to see anyone and by following paths and tracks.

3. Help land managers and others to work safely and effectively. You can do this by:

- not hindering a land management operation, by keeping a safe distance and following any reasonable advice from the land manager;
- following any precautions taken or reasonable recommendations made by the land manager, such as to avoid an area or route when hazardous operations, such as tree felling and crop spraying, are under way;

- checking to see what alternatives there are, such as neighbouring land, before entering a field of animals;
- never feeding farm animals;
- avoiding causing damage to crops by using paths or tracks, by going round the margins of the field, by going on any unsown ground or by considering alternative routes on neighbouring ground; and by
- leaving all gates as you find them. 4 Care for your environment. You can do this by:
 - not intentionally or recklessly disturbing or destroying plants, birds and other animals, or geological features;
 - following any voluntary agreements between land managers and recreation bodies;
 - not damaging or disturbing cultural heritage sites;
 - not causing any pollution and by taking all your litter away with you.

5. Keep your dog under proper control. You can do this by:

- never letting it worry or attack livestock;
- never taking it into a field where there are calves or lambs;
- keeping it on a short lead or under close control in fields where there are farm animals;
- if cattle react aggressively and move towards you, by keeping calm, letting the dog go and taking the shortest, safest route out of the field;
- keeping it on a short lead or under close control during the bird breeding season (usually April to July) in areas such as moorland, forests, grassland, loch shores and the seashore;
- picking up and removing any faeces if your dog defecates in a public open place.

6. Take extra care if you are organising an event or running a business. You can do this by:

- contacting the relevant land managers if you are organising an educational visit to a farm or estate;
- obtaining the permission of the relevant land managers if your event needs facilities or services, or is likely, to an unreasonable extent, to hinder land management operations, interfere with other people enjoying the outdoors or affect the environment;
- talking to the land managers who are responsible for places that you use regularly or intensively.

Key points to remember in taking responsibility for your own actions:

- care for your own safety by recognising that the outdoors is a working environment and by taking account of natural hazards; and
- take special care, if you are responsible for children as a parent, teacher or guide, to ensure that they enjoy the outdoors responsibly and safely.

Key points to remember in respecting people's privacy and peace of mind:

- access rights do not extend to people's gardens;
- use a path or track, if there is one, when you are close to a house or garden;

- keep a sensible distance from houses, and avoid ground that overlooks them from close by, if there is no path or track;
- take care not to act in ways which might annoy or alarm people living in the house, and keep noise to a minimum; and
- at night, hazards may be less obvious, so take extra care by keeping away from buildings where people might not be expecting to see anyone and by following paths and tracks.

Access over land on which a management operation is under way

Land managers need to conduct their work as safely and effectively as possible, i.e. trees being felled and harvested in a forest. Hindering such work can cost them time and money and can be potentially hazardous to your safety and to the safety of those working on the land. Under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974, land managers need to take reasonably practicable steps to protect people's safety. Most situations will be adequately dealt with by recommendations and advice.

Key points to remember if you come across a land management operation:

- keep a safe distance and take heed of reasonable advice provided by the land manager to ensure that you do not hinder the work;
- for some types of operation, such as crop spraying and tree felling, the land manager has to ensure that people are not affected – follow any precautions provided for your safety;
- do not climb over any stored materials, such as straw bales or timber stacks.

Key points for land owners and managers to remember:

- do not purposefully or unreasonably prevent, hinder or deter people from exercising access rights on or off paths and tracks;
- use paths and tracks as a way of providing for and managing access across your land so that access is integrated with land management;
- take account of access rights when planning and implementing any major land use change or development.

Guidance on specific activities or circumstances

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY THE PUBLIC	RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY LAND MANAGERS
➤ CAR PARKING Access rights do not extend to any motorised activities. However, many people use their cars to get into the outdoors and parking a vehicle without regard to the interests of other people can cause problems. Therefore, when you park your vehicle it is important not to cause any damage or create an obstruction by: • not blocking an entrance to a field or building; • not making it difficult for other people to use a road or track; • having regard for the safety of others; • trying not to damage the verge; and • using a car park if one is nearby.	Where appropriate, such as where there is a lot of informal parking causing local concerns, work with your local authority and other bodies to see if a formal car park could be provided.
RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY THE PUBLIC	RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY LAND MANAGERS
➤ CYCLING Access rights extend to cycling. Cycling on hard surfaces, such as wide paths and tracks, causes few problems. On narrow routes, cycling may cause problems for other people, such as walkers and horse riders. If this occurs, dismount and walk until the path becomes suitable again. Do not endanger walkers and horse riders: give other users advance warning of your presence and give way to them on a narrow path. Take care not to alarm farm animals, horses and wildlife. If you are cycling off-path, particularly in winter, avoid: • going onto wet, boggy or soft ground; and • churning up the surface.	Where possible, work with your local authority and other bodies to help identify paths or routes across your land which are suited for cycling. If you need to put a fence across a path or track then install a gate which allows multi-use access.
RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY THE PUBLIC	RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY LAND MANAGERS
➤ DISABLED ACCESS Access rights apply to everyone, including people with a disability. Access rights extend to being on or crossing land in a motorised vehicle or vessel which has been constructed or adapted for use by a person with a disability and which is being used by that person. Follow the Highway Code at all times. If you are using such a vehicle or vessel, take care to avoid disturbing animals or wildlife, and respect the needs of other people exercising access rights and the needs of land managers.	Where appropriate, work with your local authority to identify routes, including core paths that can be easily used by people with a disability. Wherever reasonably practicable, provide gates, rather than stiles, on paths and tracks. This will help some disabled people, such as wheelchair users.

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY THE PUBLIC	RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY LAND MANAGERS
> DOGS Access rights apply to people walking dogs provided that their dog(s) is kept under proper control. Your main responsibilities are: • never let your dog worry or attack livestock; • do not take your dog into fields where there are lambs, calves or other young animals; • do not take your dog into fields of vegetables or fruit unless there is a clear path, such as a core path or a right of way, but keep your dog to the path; • if you go into a field of farm animals, keep your dog(s) on a short lead or under close control and keep as far as possible from the animals; • if cattle react aggressively and move towards you, keep calm, let the dog go and take the shortest, safest route out of the field;	Do not allow a guard dog or working dog to alarm people, especially close to paths and tracks

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY THE PUBLIC	RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY LAND MANAGERS
> DOGS <i>cont.</i> • during the bird breeding season (usually April to July), keep your dog under close control or on a short lead in areas such as moorland, forests, grassland, loch shores and the seashore; • in recreation areas and other public places avoid causing concern to others by keeping your dog under close control or on a short lead; and • pick up and remove your dog's faeces if it defecates in a public open place.	

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY THE PUBLIC	RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY LAND MANAGERS
> FORESTS AND WOODS You can exercise access rights in forests and woods. If you are cycling or horse riding, keeping to suitable paths and tracks can help to minimise any damage. If you have a dog with you, keep it under close control or on a short lead during the spring (April to July) so that breeding birds are not disturbed. Livestock might be present in some forests and woods so take care if you come across any animals. Be careful not to trample young trees.	Assess the level and nature of public use of the forest or wood, and develop a plan to help manage for access on busy sites. Where possible, provide paths and other facilities, including interpretation, to help people to exercise access rights responsibly.

> FORESTS AND WOODS WITH ONGOING FOREST OPERATIONS

Tree felling, timber extraction and haulage may affect an area of forest and forest roads for several months. Read any signs warning you of forest operations, such as tree felling and extraction, and follow any precautions taken by the land manager. This will ensure that you do not hinder these operations and ensure your safety and that of people working there. In some cases, signs may indicate that it is safe to go along a route if the activity has stopped, such as for the weekend.

If you come across machinery, keep a safe distance. Take extra care if you are walking, cycling or riding along forest tracks as heavy timber lorries might be using the tracks. Do not climb on to timber stacks and keep children away from them.

Follow good practice, as set out in industry-approved guidance, in the management of work sites where people are taking access. Keep the area affected, and the duration and type of any precaution, to the minimum required. Tell people about these at the main access points and, if possible, provide alternative routes. If possible, concentrate felling and extraction at times when public use is likely to be lowest. Allow people to use particular routes when work has ended (such as for the weekend) and would not cause significant safety hazards. Ensure that all site operators and vehicle drivers are aware that people might be present.

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY THE PUBLIC

> HORSE RIDING

Access rights extend to horse riding. Riding on firm or hard surfaces, such as wide paths and tracks and well-drained ground, causes few problems. On narrow routes, horse riding may cause problems for other people, such as walkers and cyclists. If this occurs, take extra care by giving way to walkers where possible or by looking for an alternative route. If you are riding off-path, particularly in winter, take care to avoid:

- going onto wet, boggy or soft ground; and
- churning up the surface.

cont.

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY LAND MANAGERS

Where possible, work with your local authority to help identify paths or routes across your land which are suitable for horse riding and help to integrate access and land management.

> HORSE RIDING *cont.*

Take care not to alarm farm animals and wildlife, particularly if you go round a field margin. Do not go into fields where there are grazing horses or animals that might be a danger. Get permission if you wish to carry out repetitive schooling on other people's land or wish to use jumps or custom-made gallops when these are not in use.

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY THE PUBLIC	RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY LAND MANAGERS
> HUMAN WASTE If you need to urinate, do so at least 30m from open water or rivers and streams. If you need to defecate, do so as far away as possible from buildings, from open water or rivers and streams, and from any farm animals. Bury faeces in a shallow hole and replace the turf.	
> LIGHTING FIRES Wherever possible, use a stove rather than light an open fire. If you do wish to light an open fire, keep it small, under control and supervised – fires that get out of control can cause major damage, for which you might be liable. Never light an open fire during prolonged dry periods or in areas such as forests, woods, farmland, or on peaty ground or near to buildings or in cultural heritage sites where damage can be easily caused. Heed all advice at times of high risk. Remove all traces of an open fire before you leave.	At times of drought, work with your local authority (fire services) to inform people of the high risks involved.

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY THE PUBLIC	RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY LAND MANAGERS
> LITTER Take away all your litter. Take particular care not to drop things like bottles, cans or plastic bags as these can damage machinery and if eaten by a farm animal or a wild animal they can cause severe injury or death. Do not leave any food scraps or associated packaging as these might be eaten by animals and help to spread diseases.	If you have a litter problem on your land, you could raise this with your local authority or local access forum.

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY THE PUBLIC	RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY LAND MANAGERS
> PATHS AND TRACKS Access rights extend to all paths and tracks except where they go over land on which access rights do not apply. Rights of way are unaffected by the legislation. Access rights apply off-path, but when you are close to houses or in fields of crops or in places where the environment is particularly vulnerable to damage, it may be sensible to follow paths and tracks where they exist. This can help to facilitate access and help safeguard the interests of land managers and the environment. Walkers, cyclists and horse riders can all exercise access rights on paths and tracks. However, on some paths, such as those which are heavily-used or which are prone to damage, the local authority may have provided local advice on what types of use are appropriate or how different users should behave to reduce risks to safety or to minimise damage to the path surface. Following such advice can help to minimise problems.	You could work with your local authority and other bodies to help identify best routes across your land for land management and access purposes. Wherever possible, routes should be multi-use and maintain their local character. Avoid deliberately or unreasonably blocking paths or hindering access along them. If you wish to divert or close a path, follow any formal procedures if these exist. Avoid erecting any signs or notices that discourage access.

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY THE PUBLIC

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY LAND MANAGERS

> PICKING WILD BERRIES AND MUSHROOMS

Customary picking of wild fungi and berries for your own consumption is not affected by the legislation. Care for the environment by following any agreed guidance on this activity. However, being on or crossing land or water for the purpose of taking away, for commercial purposes or for profit, anything in or on the land or water is excluded from access rights.

> PICNICKING

Access rights apply to picnicking. Take care to consider the needs of other people in choosing where to picnic. For your own health, avoid picnicking in fields where there are farm animals (or may have been recently) or where the farmer has indicated that the field has recently been sprayed with lime or slurry. Do not feed any farm animals and take all litter, including any food scraps, away with you.

Where possible, tell people about the area sprayed, the material used and the duration of the risk, at any obvious access points, such as car parks and gates, which are well-used by the public.

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY THE PUBLIC

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY LAND MANAGERS

> PUBLIC PARKS AND OTHER MANAGED OPEN SPACES

Access rights can be exercised in most urban parks, country parks and other managed open spaces. These parks are normally provided for recreational and educational purposes, but may also be managed to help safeguard the environment. Where the levels or types of use are such that people's safety or the environment is at risk, local guidance or management measures, such as management rules, regulations or byelaws, might have been introduced. Follow such guidance to help ensure that safety or the environment is not put at risk.

Promote the exercise of access rights in such places where this would not put safety or the environment at risk. Use measures such as management rules or byelaws as a last resort.

> WILD CAMPING

Access rights extend to wild camping. This type of camping is lightweight, done in small numbers and only for two or three nights in any one place. You can camp in this way wherever access rights apply but help to avoid causing problems for local people and land managers by not camping in enclosed fields of crops or farm animals and by keeping well away from buildings, roads or historic structures. Take extra care to avoid disturbing deer stalking or grouse shooting. If you wish to camp close to a house or building, seek the owner's permission. Leave no trace by:

- taking away all your litter;
- removing all traces of your tent pitch and of any open fire (follow the guidance for lighting fires);
- not causing any pollution.

If you are experiencing large numbers of roadside campers or have well-used wild camping areas, you could work with your local authority and with recreational bodies to assist the management of such camping.

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY THE PUBLIC	RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY LAND MANAGERS
> WILDLIFE WATCHING AND SURVEYS	
Watching and recording wildlife is a popular activity and falls within access rights. If you wish to intensively survey an area, make frequent repeat visits or use any survey equipment, consult the relevant land manager(s) to let them know of your intentions. Take extra care not to disturb the wildlife you are watching.	Wherever possible, co-operate with people who wish to carry out a survey and allow the taking of small samples where this would not cause any damage.

Legislation relevant to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code

Control of dogs (fouling)	Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Section 48)	If you are in charge of a dog and allow it to foul: • a footpath or footway, or • a grass verge maintained by a council and adjacent to a footpath/footway, or • any place maintained by a local authority for recreational or sporting purposes, you are guilty of an offence.
Control of dogs (fouling)	Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 (Section 1)	A person commits an offence under this law if they do not immediately remove the faeces defecated by their dog in any public open place.
Damage or disturbance to animals	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (Sections 9–10) and The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994	For protected species, it is an offence to: • kill or injure the animal, • capture or keep the animal, • destroy, damage or obstruct access to its place of shelter, and • disturb the animal while using its place of shelter. Other offences relate to badgers, bats, deer, seals, whales and dolphins. For protected species such as bats, otters, wildcats, great crested newts and natterjack toads, under European legislation it is an offence to: • capture, kill or disturb the animal, • take or destroy its eggs, • damage or destroy its breeding site or resting place. Contact your local Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) office for further information.

Damage or disturbance to wild birds	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (Sections 1–6) and The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994	There is a wide variety of offences relating to the killing or injuring any wild bird, capturing or keeping any wild bird, destroying or taking eggs, or destroying, damaging or taking the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built. Contact your local SNH office for further information.
Damage to plants	Wildlife & Countryside (Section 13) and The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Act 1981 Regulations 1994	It is an offence to dig up or remove any wild plant without the permission of the landowner. Certain plants are specially protected and it is an offence to pick, collect, cut, uproot or destroy these species, even if the landowner agrees. It is also an offence to keep, sell, advertise or exchange such plants. Specially protected plants are listed in Schedule 8 to the 1981 Act and in the list of European protected species in Schedule 4 to the 1994 Regulations. They include Killarney fern, floating-leaved water plantain, slender naiad and yellow marsh saxifrage. Contact your local SNH office for further information.

Activity	Statutory reference	Comments
Driving a vehicle off road	Road Traffic Act 1988 (Section 34)	It is an offence to drive a motor vehicle without lawful authority on: • land of any description (not forming part of a road), or • a footpath or bridleway except in an emergency. It is not an offence to drive a motor vehicle on land within 15 yards of a road for the purpose of parking the vehicle – although this does not confer any legal right to park the vehicle.
Dropping of litter	Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Section 87)	It is an offence to leave litter in any public open place (a place in the open air where you can go without paying).

Lighting fires	Trespass (Scotland) Act 1865 (Section 3)	You are guilty of an offence if you light a fire: • on or near any private road, • on enclosed or cultivated land, • in or near any plantation, without the consent of the owner or land manager.
Lighting Fires	Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Section 56)	Any person who lays or lights a fire in a public place so as to endanger any other person, or to give reasonable cause for alarm or annoyance, or so as to endanger any property is guilty of an offence. A public place is any place to which the public have unrestricted access.
Obstruction in a public place	Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Section 53)	Any person on foot in a public place who wilfully obstructs the lawful passage of any other person is committing an offence. A public place means any place to which the public have unrestricted access.
Poaching	Night Poaching Act 1828 (Section 1)	It is an offence to take or destroy any game: • on any land, whether open or enclosed, or • on any public road. It is also an offence to go on any land at night with a gun for the purpose of taking or destroying game.

Activity	Statutory reference	Comments
Poaching	Game (Scotland) Act 1832 (Section 31)	It is an offence to trespass on land without the leave of the owner or proprietor in search of game, woodcock, snipe, wild ducks or rabbits during daytime.
Polluting water	Water (Scotland) Act 1980 (Section 75)	If you deliberately or accidentally pollute any spring, well or adit used or likely to be used for: • human consumption, • domestic purposes, • manufacturing food or drink for human consumption, you are guilty of an offence.
Polluting water	Control of Pollution Act 1974 (Section 31)	If you cause or knowingly permit to enter surface or ground water • any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter, or • any solid waste matter, you are committing an offence.
Safety	Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 (Sections 8, 33)	It is an offence to interfere intentionally with or misuse anything provided for the safety, health or welfare of people.

Activity	Statutory reference	Comments
Using metal detectors in a protected place	Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (Section 42)	It is an offence to use a metal detector in a protected place without the written consent of Ministers. A protected place is any place which is either a site of a scheduled monument or of any monument under the ownership or guardianship of Ministers or a local authority by virtue of this Act or is situated in an area of archaeological importance. It is also an offence to remove any object of archaeological or historic interest discovered through the use of a metal detector in a protected place without the written consent of Ministers. Under Scots Law, all finds must be formally reported to the Crown and not to do so is an offence under Treasure Trove and under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.
Vandalism	Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 1980 (Section 78)	Anyone who, without reasonable excuse, wilfully or recklessly destroys or damages another's property commits this offence of vandalism.