

New Forest Walker Approved

Walking is an increasingly popular activity whilst on holiday in the UK. Recent research by the Ramblers Association shows that walkers in the English countryside spend around £6.14billion a year, generating income in excess of £2billion and supporting up to 245,000 full time jobs. Walking is the joint most popular activity (along with eating out) for people enjoying domestic days out in England, and the most important reason for 18% of the 3.6billion trips per year (Natural England 2006). Walking in the countryside is the fifth most popular activity for overseas visitors to Britain (VisitBritain 2009).

This scheme has been developed in partnership by New Forest Tourism Association (NFTA), New Forest District Council (NFDC) and New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) to give walkers the confidence that they are booking quality accommodation that meets their particular needs. All New Forest businesses displaying the Walker Approved badge have met the following simple common and activity specific criteria.

All participants must be a member of NFTA

Activity Specific Facilities and Services:

- Facilities available for the cleaning and drying of outdoor clothing and footwear (Boot scrapes are recommended)
- Clothes washing and drying facilities, laundry service or details of nearest launderette facility provided

Activity Specific Food Arrangements:

- Details of the nearest local food shops and delivery options, if available
- Pre-ordered packed lunches may be available at Hotels and Bed and Breakfasts
- Information on local cafes and pubs

Information Provision:

This can be at a central, easily accessible information area within the property

- Maps and books for reference on walking in the area/details of local and regional walking routes
- Details displayed of the *Countryside Code*:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/338299/countryside-code.pdf

- Details displayed of the *New Forest Forestry Commission byelaws*
- Information on public transport and taxi companies operating locally
- Weather information for the area available
- Information on local attractions and events and/or local tourist information centres
- Information on location and opening times of nearest shops available
- Details of nearest bank/cash machine, postal facilities
- Details of nearest doctor, dentist, hospital, chemist and vet (if pets accepted)
- To find information on other businesses participating in the New Forest Walker Approved scheme please visit (www.thenewforest.co.uk/walkerapproved)

