

Dear ....

## **Covid - 19 and Public Access**

### **Current at 8 April 2020 – subject to change with further Government Advice**

This is a worrying time for everyone and we are writing to you in the midst of this health crisis to clarify our position regarding the public right of responsible access because we know that this is likely to be a concern to you.

We have posted our guidance on our website (on path and outdoor access pages) and are keeping this updated in line with Government advice. Please see the current version for information below in a format which may be useful to print out and place on site for public information.

People otherwise confined at home are legitimately going out to take exercise daily and it is important that routes, particularly core paths, remain open for responsible access. It is up to access takers to ensure they do this safely and maintain the required distance and wash their hands regularly, especially before and after exercise.

We realise that pinch points along a route, particularly gates, can be of special concern. Where possible it may be useful to temporarily prop gates open (if not required for livestock control) to reduce handling. Unlike foot and mouth disease this virus does not affect animals so the normal responsible access arrangements around livestock should still apply. Everyone should be following the national social distancing and hygiene guidelines.

We understand that some paths will be more heavily used than usual and want to thank you for carrying on with your work while understanding and respecting the increased need of your local community to use these paths.

If you have any specific worries or concerns regarding this please contact us to discuss them.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Community Greenspace

# COVID 19 Outdoor Access Guidance

The Rights of Responsible Access still apply - but please follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and Government advice:

**One outing for exercise per day** - Walk, run or cycle, alone or with members of your household. **Cyclists and runners** – When passing others please call ahead so that social distancing is maintained.

**Stay local** – use open spaces near to your home and don't travel unnecessarily to other areas

**Keep your distance** - Stay at least 2m away from other people when out and about, but do call a friendly greeting or give a wave. Use grass areas or other spaces to allow safe passing.

**Avoid contact** – Take hygiene precautions when you are outside, and wash your hands as soon as you are back indoors.

**Dogs** need to be kept on a lead or under close control, do not let them approach others and as always pick up and remove all waste.

**Remember** it's lambing time, so give a wide berth to farms where possible, don't take dogs into fields with lambs or other young animals in them and avoid disturbing any wildlife or livestock.

