



Conservation Access and Recreation Information for Visitors



Welcome

United Utilities owns and manages 58,000 hectares of land in North West England, and is committed to accommodating conservation and heritage issues, sports and recreation, biodiversity and access, whilst ensuring the protection of raw water quality.

Much of our land has enjoyed a tradition of public access, and our aim is to provide freedom of public access to open land, at the same time as meeting our own operational, land management and conservation requirements. Freedom of access on our land is available through the use of public rights of way, concessionary routes, access areas and other special access arrangements, for appropriate quiet recreational pursuits. We monitor and maintain rights of way on our land to ensure that they are kept fit for purpose, and we honour access permitted to our land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and other statutory obligations.

We are always looking to improve our service and would appreciate any feedback you may have.



Catchment Team contacts

North

Thirlmere Forestry Office.

Thirlmere, Near Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4TQ.

Telephone: 01768 772334, Fax: 01768 773712

Bowland

Stocks Board House.

Catlow Road, Slaidburn, Near Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 3AQ.

Telephone: 01200 454400, Fax: 01200 454404

Central

Rivington Water Treatment Works.

Bolton Road, Horwich, Bolton BL6 7RN.

Telephone: 01204 664301, Fax: 01204 664308

South

Longdendale Office.

Tintwistle, Glossop SK13 1HS.

Telephone: 01457 851083, Fax: 01457 864158

United Utilities information for visitors to its water gathering land

We welcome you to come and enjoy our land and reservoirs that make up some of Britain's most beautiful landscapes. United Utilities owns and manages around 58,000 hectares of water gathering grounds and reservoirs, within three National Parks, four Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and 54 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. You are welcome to come and explore these areas, just please remember that these environments are sensitive to the impacts of visitors. Thank you.

Please protect your drinking water and act responsibly.

Visitors

These landscapes represent local history and have been shaped over thousands of years by the people who lived and worked in them and more recently by the people who visit them for enjoyment.

You can respect the natural and historic environment and help keep water clean by:

- Not moving stones, rocks and boulders
- Keeping to designated routes when not on CROW land
- Using gates and stiles where possible and not damaging walls, hedges or other such structures
- **Taking all your litter home**
- Respecting all warning signs

- Parking your vehicle in a sensible place – not obstructing gateways, as these need to be available for emergency access and farm access at all times
- Using toilet facilities and not fouling in or near water
- Not driving on any path, bridleway or access land
- Always follow the Countryside Code and the Moorland Code
- Checking for access restrictions on www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk
- You may unwittingly be damaging an archaeological feature or important habitat, so please take care to avoid leaving your mark

Dogs

Allowing dogs to roam freely can cause disturbance to livestock and breeding birds. Please be responsible for your dog; always clean up after it and keep it under close control:

- Please keep your dog on a lead of no more than 2 metres when near farm animals and horses, and during the lambing and bird nesting seasons - 1st March to 31st July





Fire

A high proportion of our land is moorland and woodland which are fragile places, at high risk from fires and erosion. Moorland and woodland can become very dry, particularly during the summer. Fires can be as devastating to wildlife and habitats as they are to people and property so please be careful not to drop a match or smouldering cigarette at any time of year.

- Please do not throw or stub out cigarettes in areas of vegetation or peat
- **Do not light fires on moorlands** - not even gas stoves or barbeques

Health & safety

Even in the hottest weather, water bodies in this country remain extremely cold just below the surface. This can cause shock among

even the most experienced swimmers. Around 50 people drown every year in lakes and reservoirs. These waters are deep, have hidden structures and the water is untreated.

- Reservoirs are good places for fishing, bird watching, walking and riding around – enjoy these activities (where permitted) instead of swimming
- Swimming in reservoirs is not allowed because of the inherent danger, regardless of your ability
- Cold water shocks the body and can cause drowning within seconds
- You should avoid direct contact with waters with algal blooms as they can be toxic to humans and animals

Thank you for your consideration

For details on how to book a group activity, contact your local UU catchment team or visit www.unitedutilities.co.uk/recreation

For further information about the countryside visit www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk



United Utilities Water PLC
Haweswater House, Lingley Mere Business Park,
Lingley Green Avenue, Great Sankey, Warrington WA5 3LP
www.unitedutilities.com

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