



Brocks Hill Dog Walkers Code of Conduct



Brocks Hill Country Park and Centre

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

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Brocks Hill Country Park



Brocks Hill Country Park Dog Walkers Code of Conduct

Brocks Hill Country Park is a wonderful place to visit and exercise your pets. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council has a Dog Walkers Code of Conduct and visiting guidance so that the Country Park is a safe and enjoyable place for all visitors, their pets and the local wildlife.

Brocks Hill Country Park welcomes dogs and responsible dog owners and aims to be a dog-friendly place for visits. Facilities provided include:

- Dog waste bags available from the Country Park Centre
- Water point dog bowls outside the Country Park Centre
- Tether points at either side of the Country Park Centre
- You can use the external seating at the café to enjoy refreshments with your dog at your side.

Please, as considerate dog owners, follow these simple guidelines to ensure that you, your dog and other users of the Country Park have a safe and enjoyable visit. We would like to remind you that you are legally responsible for your dog and its actions for the entirety of your visit.

This Code of Conduct explains the legislation that applies to you as a dog owner and the standard of behaviour expected of you and your dog by the Council when on the Country Park. The Council reserves the right to ask any person not complying with this Code to leave the Country Park and to prevent them from returning in future. If you commit an offence whilst in the Country Park the Council may prosecute you or assist in another enforcement agency prosecuting you.

A Clean and Pleasant Country Park

Help us to keep the Country Park a clean place for all visitors to enjoy by clearing up after your dog, no matter where it may have fouled. This includes the ridge and furrow field and wild flower fields.

One of the main concerns our visitors have relate to dog owners who do not clear up after their dogs, or owners who do clear up but leave their bags by the path side, throw bags into the meadows, or even worse left hanging in the trees!

Please clear up immediately if your dog fouls.

The Council had adopted an Order under the Dogs (Fouling of Land Act) 1996 and any person not cleaning up after their dog could be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £50.00.

Dog waste is not only unpleasant it can pose a health hazard to humans and other animals as dog faeces carry harmful infections such as Toxocariasis. **Due to the significant public health risks the Council will take the strongest action possible where dog owners have failed to clear up after their dog.**

Think of others, especially as we have visiting school groups and many younger visitors. Remove dog waste and either **take it home for disposal or bag it and bin it.**

Brocks Hill make it easy for you to comply with this requirement as we provide a number of dog bins around the Country Park where you can deposit waste and we provide **free** dog poop bags from the reception at the Country Park Centre during its opening hours (weekdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends 10 a.m. until 4 p.m).

Dogs should be under Close Control

Please keep your dog under close control at all times when on the Country Park and in the car park. "Close control" means your dog should remain in your sight at all times and come back when called. A dog out of sight may be a dog out of control. If you can not rely on your dog's obedience, please walk them on a lead. We have had incidents of dogs being struck by cars in the car park, please keep them on a lead in these areas, especially when the Centre is busy. We do not want to see dogs harmed.

Many dogs are generally loveable and playful. Don't assume that everyone likes dogs though. Other visitors and wildlife may not feel this way - they may feel frightened, ambushed or uncomfortable. Please be considerate to everybody's needs, and keep your dog under control. This is particularly important at busy holiday times when many families visit. Please put your dog on a lead when approaching school groups and families picnicking.

Do not allow your dog to interfere with other Country Park visitors (or their dogs) and spoil their visit. You may know your dog is friendly but the person it runs up to may not - this seemingly innocent action could be deemed "dangerous" under the legislation mentioned below. If in doubt please keep your dog on a lead.

It is a criminal offence to allow your dog to be out of control on private or public land. If prosecuted you may receive a custodial sentence, a fine, a ban from keeping a dog or any combination of the three. If your dog's behaviour is sufficient to make someone reasonably apprehensive it is classed as being out of control.

Children's Play Areas

In the centre of the Country Park is a large children's play area. This is regularly used by families and so can become very busy and noisy. Please keep your dog on a lead while in this area, including when walking down the side of the Natural Play areas.

There is also a smaller fenced off play area for the younger children. This has been made a dog free area and dogs are not permitted.



A Haven for Wildlife

Brocks Hill is not only a great place to walk; it also provides a valuable home for local wildlife.

Please help us to protect in our conservation aims by ensuring that your dog does not disturb wildlife. Please keep dogs out of any of the Country Park ponds and prevent them from chasing any animals within the County Park. Do not allow any dogs to enter animal holes.

During spring and early summer ground nesting birds and other wildlife may be disturbed by dogs allowed to run through the meadows and woodland undergrowth.

Put your dog on a lead if it has a tendency to chase wildlife.

Damage by dogs

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council operates a zero tolerance policy for both vandalism and destruction or damage to the Country Park's equipment by both vandals and dogs alike. Owners of dogs who are responsible for such damage will be reported to the police.

The Legal Stuff!

The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (as amended) makes it an offence for any person to allow their dog to be out of control in a public or private place.

The Dogs Act 1871 allows any person to complain to the Courts about the behaviour of a dog permitted by its owner.

Not only could you be fined or imprisoned under both Acts, your dog may be destroyed.

The Council and staff of Brocks Hill will report incidents to the Police and take appropriate steps to assist them in the prosecution of offenders

The Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 gives the Council and the Police the power to apply for Orders or Injunctions against a dog owner where they or their dog are the cause of anti social behaviour.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 requires pet owners to ensure that they fulfil the five needs of their pet. These are:

- The need for a suitable environment
- The need for a suitable diet
- The need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- The need to be housed with, or apart, from other animals
- The need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

The Council, the Police and the RSPCA all have the ability to prosecute under this Act and the Council will either report to the Police or the RSPCA or take action of its own accord if it witnesses any individual causing pain, suffering or injury to an animal or otherwise not providing for one of the above five needs.

Other Information for Dog Owners

Thirsty dog?

There are drinking bowls around the Centre so that you can provide your dog with a drink after its walk. Staff fill these every morning. If they are empty or your dog knocks them over, please let the reception staff know.

Forgot your poop scoop bags?

Biodegradable dog mess bags are available free from the Centre during normal opening hours.

Dogs die in hot cars

Never leave your dog locked in your car especially during the summer months. Staff will report incidents to the Police.

Dog tethers

We have a number of tie points around the Centre, as dogs (other than assistance dogs) are not allowed in the building. Please do not leave them unattended for long periods of time.

Identifying your Pet

We would ask that dogs visiting Bocks Hill have a collar with the owners contact information or are micro-chipped, so lost pets can always be returned promptly to their owners. If you are concerned about a dog's behaviour or suspect a stray dog please contact the Centre team, or in an emergency situation contact the Police.

... and thank you for your support

We recognise that dog walkers are the 'eyes and ears' of a site and therefore appreciate and welcome responsible dog owners. If you have any comments, or wish to report anything, the Country Park team will be pleased to hear from you.

We hope you and your dog enjoy your visit to Brocks Hill Country Park.

For more information contact:

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