

## Access to the countryside

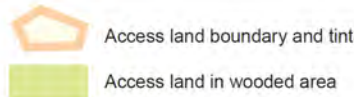
Access rights and responsibilities are different in different countries of the UK. Please be aware of your rights and responsibilities when conducting wildflower surveys.

In **England and Wales** only enter private land with permission to do so - otherwise keep to public footpaths, rights of way, Open Access land and other public access land - e.g. common land. Similar provisions apply to **Northern Ireland**, although there is no defined Access Land as is the case in England and Wales. Note that there are sometimes restrictions placed on access Land - observe local signs and follow the Countryside Code.

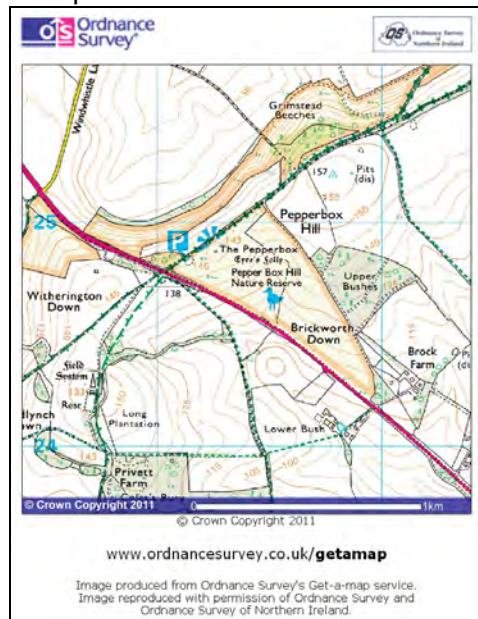
You can find out whether land is Open Access in **England** by using this mapping website: [www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk/](http://www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk/)

Similarly, for **Wales**, access the interactive map from this web page: <http://www.cw.gov.uk/interactive-maps.aspx>

Open Access land is depicted on Ordnance Survey Explorer-series maps (scale 1:25,000) as a highlighted boundary or area:



### Example



In **Scotland**, everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. When undertaking surveys of plots, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code advises surveyors to contact the land manager(s) and follow their advice on what precautions you might need to take at the time of your survey. Further details can be found here: <http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com/>

Good general principles apply when in the countryside. For **England and Wales**, the Countryside Code gives advice. In **Scotland**, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code defines rights and responsibilities, and in **Northern Ireland** guidance is given by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

The advice can be summarised as follows:

- Be safe, plan ahead and respect landowners' wishes - e.g. follow any signs.

- Take responsibility for your own actions - e.g. leave gates and property as you find them.
- Keep dogs under close control and give farm animals plenty of space.
- Respect the interests of others - as well as being responsible for the safety of others in your care, be considerate to other people enjoying the countryside.
- Care for the environment - e.g. avoid damaging wild plants and animals and take your litter home.

**Further information:**

England

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/countrysidecode/default.aspx>

Wales

<http://www.countrysidecodewales.org.uk/>

Scotland

<http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com>

Northern Ireland

<http://www.leavenotraceireland.org/>

[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/places\\_to\\_visit\\_home/access\\_to\\_the\\_countryside.htm](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/places_to_visit_home/access_to_the_countryside.htm)

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