



NATIONAL COASTEERING CHARTER (NCC) CODE OF CONDUCT

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Access to the coast in the UK is often taken for granted, however much of the coastline, and the paths we use to access the coast, are privately owned. Coasteering providers should familiarise themselves with land ownership of the sites they use, and any site-specific access agreements that are in place.

The coastline is also home to an abundance of wildlife ranging from spectacular birds of prey such as the Peregrine Falcon, and internationally important nesting sites for sea birds, to rare plants and lichens and delicate rocky shore species such as sponges and sea urchins. The rocky shore, caves and remote beaches are also the habitat of Atlantic Grey and Common seals. Much of the coastline and wildlife on our coast is protected by law from damage and disturbance, and as coasteering guides we have a responsibility to lead activities on the coast with minimal impact to the environment and with respect for wildlife and other users of the coast.

The Coast is a special place, so make sure that you:

- **Respect** Other People
- **Protect** the natural environment
- **Enjoy** the outdoors and stay safe

Respect Other People

Please respect the local community and other people using the outdoors.

- The NCC highly recommends that all relevant NCC Members ensure that they have access agreements in place and adhere to such agreements with any landowner whose land is impacted by their activities. These agreements are solely between the providers of the coasteering activities and the Landowner and not the NCC
- Avoid obstructing roads, gateways to fields or entrances to buildings when parking your vehicle.
- Try to keep the size of your group to a level that is appropriate to the venue you are using and be aware not to overcrowd sites.
- If participants need to change at the venue, please ensure they do so discreetly and maintain appropriate modesty at all times. Any toileting should take place in suitable, designated toilet facilities – not in surrounding outdoor areas.
- Show respect for other users of the coast by keeping noise to a minimum when coasteering along a tranquil stretch of the coast.
- Pass on information on any existing access agreements and share best practice to other coasteering guides in your area.



Protect the Natural Environment

- Avoid disturbing wildlife whilst coasteering – be prepared to change your route if necessary. Ensure that you understand and respect any site-specific access agreements that are in place to protect wildlife from disturbance / prevent damage to the environment and that you are conversant in current national wildlife legislation
- Be aware of nesting seabirds from 1st March to the end of July, and of Grey Seals pupping and moulting from 1st August - end of January. These dates are for guidance only, please check with local wildlife experts. Some coasteering routes have agreed seasonal restrictions in place.
- If you come across wildlife stranded, injured or in distress, contact the relevant Wildlife Protection Agency for your area.
- If you can, try to leave the coast tidier than it was when you arrived – where possible, pick-up litter as you go, especially old fishing tackle which can be a real hazard for wildlife.
- Report any pollution incidents / environmental damage to the relevant agency. Criminal damage such as graffiti should be reported to the police on 101.
- Do not damage the rocks or remove any fossils from the coast.
- Before developing a new stretch of coast for coasteering, it is essential that you first find out about land ownership / access at the site and contact local conservation organisations to determine if there is any sensitive wildlife / geology or access issues in that area.

Enjoy the outdoors and stay safe

- Enjoy the outdoors - it is worthwhile learning some interesting facts about the wildlife, geology, culture and heritage at the sites you use. You can then pass on this knowledge to your clients to help them enjoy the session even more, and appreciate how special the coastal environment is.
- Stay safe - follow any guidance and information published on the NCC Website
- You may be lucky enough to see unusual wildlife such as a leatherback turtle, cetaceans, basking shark or large numbers of jellyfish – you can help with conservation of the natural world by reporting your sightings to the relevant nature conservation group