

# NON-TRESPASS POLICY

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## GUIDELINES TO WALK LEADERS

The club's letterhead carries the legend, "To explore disused railway lines and respect ownership." If the club is to respect ownership properly, it must avoid trespass.

Additionally, if members do trespass, they are not covered by the club's public liability insurance policy.

1. Organised walks carried out in the name of the club should access private land only with the consent of the owner.
2. It is recognised that unwitting trespass can occur, in which case it is up to the leader, if the group is challenged, to resolve any problems with the application of common sense and due respect for the law.
3. Remember that landowners may be unable to grant access to some areas. These include:
  - a. Land in countryside stewardship schemes where rare plants etc. need to be protected.
  - b. Land subject to official exclusions, e.g. because of disease or infection.
4. Respect landowners' privacy near buildings.
5. If a landowner refuses access, devise an alternative route.
6. **Trespass on operational railways is a criminal offence.**
7. Trespass on military training land is sometimes a criminal offence. Note that access is permitted to some military training areas except when a red flag is flown. The red flag indicates that training exercises are in progress, when it is usual for live ammunition to be used.
8. Technically, stopping for a picnic on a public footpath is trespass against the landowner since it is not using the right of way for passing and re-passing. In practice, most landowners do not make an issue out of this, but they do have the right to compel picnickers to leave, and a few have exercised this right.
9. Observe the Country Code at all times.