

Commercial Dog Walking Licence Information

The Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust recognise that the Pebblebed Heaths are much visited and valued by the local community. Although designated as Common land and Open Access, under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000, such rights of access do not give automatic permission for organised activities. As land managers we have a legal obligation to ensure that we responsibly assess, and where appropriate issue licenses, for activities taking place on the heaths. The Pebblebed heaths are amongst the most important conservation sites in Europe due to the rarity of the habitats and species supported. We are also responsible for preserving the sites' cultural heritage features, many of which are nationally important.

All organised and commercial activities must be licensed by the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust. This includes use by commercial dog walkers and trainers. We support responsible, sustainable use of the heaths that is in line with our conservation objectives. Our licencing policy is designed to ensure that activities:

- are appropriate for the site
- will not negatively impact on wildlife or habitats
- will not negatively impact on archaeological features in the landscape
- will not negatively impact on other visitors
- will not leave lasting damage to paths and other visitor infrastructure

All commercial licences are subject to an annual fee. We would also welcome any donations which people would like to make to reflect their level of use to reinvest in the maintenance and conservation of the Pebblebed Heaths. We are keen to develop positive relationships with the businesses that use the heaths and hope that they will act as ambassadors for the heaths and demonstrate responsible enjoyment of the area. We want to work with business that share the value we place on the area to ensure they are operating in a sustainable and professional manner. We are creating a badge that businesses will be able to use for promotion and are working towards listing licenced operators on the new Pebblebed Heaths website (currently under construction).

Key information for commercial dog walking licence:

- Need to follow and actively promote the Pebblebed Dog Code.
- Must have appropriate public liability insurance.
- Licence fee of £50 per year in 2018, subject to review annually.
- Annual licence, renewed each year.
- Recognition by Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trusts as a licenced operator.

For more information please contact Kim Strawbridge, Pebblebed Heaths Site Manager
kim.strawbridge@clintondevon.com



We welcome visitors who enjoy spending time on the heathland and recognise that many are dog walkers. Here are some simple ways that you can help look after this special landscape and the wildlife that lives here while sharing the space with other visitors. By following this code and encouraging others to do the same, you can be sure that you are enjoying the area in a way that respects other visitors, landowners, animals and wildlife.

Keep your dog in sight, on the path, and have good recall, otherwise use a lead

Please ask before you let your dog approach people or dogs, train them not to jump up and have good recall. If you don't have good recall it is best to use a lead. By keeping them close by you can see that they are safe and are not a concern to other visitors.

Always pick up after your dog, take waste home or put it in a bin

Dog walkers have a legal responsibility to clear up after their dog and dog poo left in the countryside is just unpleasant for everyone! Dog poo damages the plants and wildlife that make the heaths so special. Clearing up after your dog protects the area as well as preventing the spread of diseases that can affect people, dogs, and grazing animals and keeps the heaths clean for other visitors. By keeping your dog in sight at all time you can be sure that you haven't missed any. Don't get caught short; bring more bags than you think you need. Take waste home or put it in any litter or dog waste bin.

Prevent your dog from disturbing wildlife or grazing animals

Dogs should be kept under close control and on paths while visiting the heaths. This special place is a home to rare wildlife and grazing animals. Keeping dogs on paths leaves the animals in peace, this is particularly important during the bird breeding season from 1st March to 31st July. Many heathland birds breed on the ground so are easily disturbed, leaving eggs or chicks exposed to the cold and predators. If you are not confident that your dog will stay with you then you should keep them on a lead to keep them safe and to avoid scaring animals and other visitors. You can then relax and enjoy your walk.

Walk no more than 6 dogs, ensure you can manage them at the same time

One person can legally be responsible for up to 6 dogs when visiting the Pebblebed Heaths. You should only take dogs out together if you are confident that you are able to manage them at the same time and pick up after all of them.

Read and follow signs, report any problems

We want all visitors to stay safe and enjoy their visit so we will put out information that we feel would be useful. This is often the best way to find out about work that is happening or about grazing animals that may influence where you chose to walk. You can also help us by reporting any problems that you see during you visit.

Commercial dog walkers need a licence from the land manager

All commercial activities on the heaths need to be licenced by the land manager, this includes commercial dog walking. Please contact the land manager if you are a commercial dog walker and require a license. If you use a company to walk your dog please check that they have permission from the land owner.

