

## **Geocache Guidelines for Public Access land Owned or Managed by New Forest District Council**

NFDC where relevant and appropriate can support Geocache as an activity which can be suitable in public open spaces and can be enjoyed by a range of age groups and abilities.

We will consider applications for our land to be used for these purposes on an individual, site by site, case by case basis and the request must comply with the following guidelines.

Before placing a cache permission must be obtained from the Council to ensure that the cache does not compromise the management of the site. Email

**[Open.Spaces@NFDC.gov.uk](mailto:Open.Spaces@NFDC.gov.uk)** for permission.

Caches are not to be placed in or adjacent to our Cemeteries.

Maintenance of the cache is the responsibility of the placer.

Ensure the cache container is clearly marked, stating that the content is harmless and giving the placer's email address or other contact method.

Only items that would be deemed safe and acceptable for an unaccompanied child to find should be placed in the cache.

No cache may be placed in such a way as to risk damage or disturbance to any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Nature Reserve (LNR), Protected Wetland or Special Protected Area (RAMSAR and SPA) or Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM).

Caches should not be adjacent to public safety or rescue equipment or hinder their access in any way. Caches should be placed away from water hazards and in line with local guidance and safety advice on sites where water is present. Siting should not put yourself or other geocachers in danger or at risk – regardless of sea/tidal state, season, or weather. Some areas may seasonally flood, be cut off during high tides, have dangerous mud or deep/fast flowing water, or be subject to erosion – contact us for pre application advice if your chosen site may fall into one of these categories.

No items of food or drink of any kind should be placed in the cache.

Caches must not be buried, and holes must not be dug in order to place a cache.

Caches must not be hidden in animal holes or runs.

Cache containers must not be placed inside a polythene bag.

Caches should not be placed within 5 metres of the cliff edge, within 5 metres of the cliff toe or anywhere on the cliff face due to the unstable nature of our cliffs. Caches should not be placed within closed areas or in locations that require seekers to cross closed areas to access.

Fences should never be crossed when placing or seeking a cache.

No caches should be of a commercial nature, either in location or content.

When leaving the cache site, after finding or hiding a cache, there must be no visual sign of disturbance.

For reasons of safety and security New Forest District Council cannot approve geocaching on their land during the hours of darkness or when weather/ground conditions represent a high risk to participants.

Please do not bring geocaching into disrepute, never drive your car/motorbike/motorised transport anywhere other than on the official marked highways and byways, and always park sensibly in approved places only.