

# Signs Guidance for Farmers and other Land Managers:

Using advisory signs to inform the public about your day-to-day land management operations

Natural Heritage Management





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**Using advisory signs to inform the  
public about your day-to-day land  
management operations**



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# Section 1

## Introduction

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gives everyone a right of responsible access to most land and inland water in Scotland. The Act is underpinned by the Scottish Outdoor Access Code ('the Code'), which provides detailed guidance on the rights and responsibilities of countryside users and land managers. The purpose of this publication is to advise and reassure land managers (farmers, crofters, estate factors etc.) on when, where and how to use appropriate and effective signage in accordance with the Act and Code. It therefore has a limited and specific purpose. The focus is on circumstances where it's reasonable for land managers to want to put up advisory signs on their own, rather than situations – such as protected areas – where they would be working in partnership with others. The publication does not cover signage for waymarking or promoting visitor facilities and infrastructure, and it's not meant in any way to replace existing Health & Safety obligations and guidance.

## 1. Planning for access

Signs can help you meet your responsibilities under the new legislation. They can encourage the public to use



Most people prefer to use paths and tracks rather than go across fields or along roads.

paths, direct people away from sensitive areas, help them find the best route, provide information on their responsibilities or warn about potential hazards. Of course, lots of people enjoy the countryside without land managers needing to communicate with them. But where you do have to manage land and water for access then signs can be a useful tool.

They're not the only answer, however; they're just one of the options open to you. The best approach for getting your message across will depend on the site, the sorts of information you're communicating and the levels of recreational use.

The Code promotes paths and tracks as a good way of providing and managing for access on your land so that you integrate access with land management. Most people prefer to walk or ride along paths and tracks rather than go across fields or along roads. Having access routes across your land will also mean you have a better idea of where people are likely to be and paths enable access takers to minimise their risk taking.

Another option is to plan your work – whenever conditions and operations allow – to avoid the times when, and places where, people are most likely to be on your land.

There are also ways of managing for people that can support or take the place of on-site signage. If you get a lot of visitors then you could work with others to provide information off-site in a local information centre / public building or face-to-face, and consider using local leaflets, ranger services and/or websites.

Where you have a recurring problem, then it might be better looking for a wider visitor management solution rather than continuing with signage that doesn't work. You could contact your local authority or national park authority access officer to see if he/she can help – you'll find contact details for them on the website

[www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com).

It's important to look at all the options if you're to manage for access successfully. Certainly, putting up too

many signs will dilute the important messages and people may end up ignoring them altogether. Oversigning can also confuse people and spoil the attraction of the countryside. So only use signs where and when needed.



Putting up too many signs can confuse people and dilute your message.

## Key points

Signs are not the only way of managing for access across your land. You should consider other options, such as:

- *providing paths and tracks;*
- *planning your work, whenever conditions allow, to avoid the times when, and places where, people are most likely to be on your land;*
- *working with local authorities and others to develop wider management solutions for recurring problems.*

Only use signs where and when needed. Avoid putting up too many signs as it will dilute your message and confuse people.

## 2. Signage and duty of care

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 affirms that the public have to take responsibility for their own actions (one of the three central principles of the Code) and makes clear the outdoors cannot be risk-free.

The Act also confirms that the duty of care required of land managers is unchanged by the new access rights. This duty is set out in the Occupiers' Liability (Scotland) Act 1960, which states that an occupier of land has a duty to show care towards people on his/her land so that they don't suffer injury or damage. Where circumstances indicate there is a need, signage is one way that you can provide relevant information, thereby helping you deliver on your duty of care.

### Key points

**The legislation highlights that the public must take responsibility for their own actions. It also confirms that the new access rights do not affect the land manager's duty of care.**

**An occupier of land has a duty to show care towards people on his/her land. Signage is one of the options available to help you fulfil this requirement.**

## 3. When to use signs

The Code advises the public that they have a responsibility to help land managers and others to work safely and effectively by:

- keeping a safe distance and following any reasonable advice from the land manager so as not to hinder operations;
- following any precautions taken or reasonable recommendations made by the land manager, such as avoiding an area or route when hazardous operations are under way;
- checking to see what alternatives there are, such as neighbouring land, before entering a field of animals;
- not causing damage to crops by opting to use paths or tracks, going round field margins, going on unsown ground or considering other routes on neighbouring ground.

The Code states that you must manage your land or water responsibly for access. You should act reasonably when asking people to avoid land management operations by:

- asking people, if you have an opportunity to do so, to follow a particular route;
- taking precautions, such as asking people to avoid using a particular route or area, or avoid a particular activity, where there are more serious or less obvious hazards to their safety;
- keeping any precautions to the minimum area and time needed to safeguard people's safety;
- telling the public about precautions at any obvious access points (such as car parks and gates), especially if levels of public access are high or if the operation is particularly dangerous.

With these principles in mind, you wouldn't normally need signage for these activities:

- ploughing, sowing and harvesting crops;
- planting trees and hedges;
- putting up fences, hedges and gates;



- routine maintenance and repairs on reservoirs or water intakes;
- dredging in rivers and lochs.

You'll be visible when carrying out these tasks and they will only create very local and obvious hazards or last a short time. In these circumstances, the Code advises the public to proceed carefully, keep a safe distance and heed any advice from the land manager such as following a particular route.

The public should expect to come across livestock in fields when they're out in the countryside, but they

shouldn't always expect to find a sign alerting them to the presence of livestock. The Code advises that when access takers come upon a field with farm animals in it they should, where possible, look for a suitable alternative route in a neighbouring field or on adjacent land. Land managers should anticipate that in most circumstances signage will not be necessary, but on occasion you'll need to put up signs and you must exercise your informed judgment in deciding where and when these situations arise.



You don't need to put up a sign at every field with livestock in it.

Land managers must take reasonably practicable steps to make sure the public are not put at risk by their work. The Code advises that in order to carry out your work safely and effectively you should consider signage in the following situations:

- where the hazard raises significant risks (such as tree felling) or isn't obvious to the public;
- where the hazard lasts longer than the time it takes you to complete the work (for instance, spreading slurry in areas frequently used by visitors);
- where the public might not be sure what you want them to do to avoid a situation (for example, at a farmyard where visitors may have several choices but you have a preferred option for operational reasons).

Any request you make has to be reasonable, practicable and appropriate for the type of operation and level of risk involved. So you can ask people to go around the edge of a field or go into a neighbouring field if you require this to undertake a land management operation safely and effectively. And where there are more serious or less obvious hazards, the Code says you can take precautions, such as asking people to avoid using a particular route / area or asking them not to undertake a particular activity. These precautions should be restricted to the minimum area and time required to protect people's safety. If the activity isn't continuous – you may, for instance, suspend the activity at weekends – then you should take down signs for the period when they no longer apply or make sure the signs clearly identify the periods when they don't apply.

Use signage sparingly. The Code indicates that generally, the higher the likely levels of public access (such as along well-used routes, at popular places or at the weekend) or the more dangerous an operation is likely to be, the more you need to give information or identify alternative routes.

Existing safety signs are readily available for some specific high risk land management activities, such as forestry operations, crop spraying or warnings about bulls. The signs and symbols used are normally designed



Use signs to highlight operations like slurry spreading in areas you know the public are likely to visit.



Use signs to help the public with situations like farmyards where they may not be sure what to do.

to meet health and safety at work obligations [such as The Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996 and British Standard BS5499:2002]. This guidance does not deal with these situations and you should continue to use the signs developed to meet these legal obligations.

The Standard and Regulations referred to above relate to health and safety at work obligations; they do not apply to information for the public. You should therefore consider what extra information you could give or include with these signs to help the public understand the nature of the risk and what you want them to do to avoid the situation.

Land managers have traditionally relied on signage with behavioural messages like 'Please leave gates as you find them' and 'Take your litter home'. These reminder signs are already widely used and will continue to have a role in managing for access.



Continue to use standard safety signs but consider adding more information.



Reminder signs still have a role in managing for access.

## Key points

You don't need to put up signs for every job. Use them to ensure the public are not put at risk and to allow you to work safely and effectively. In particular, use signs:

- where the hazard raises significant risks or isn't obvious;
- where the hazard lasts longer than the time it takes you to complete the work;
- where the public might not be sure what you want them to do to avoid a situation.

If you currently use standard safety signs then you should continue to do so.

## 4. Making signs helpful and effective

It's important that the wording and requested actions you use on signs are accurate and in keeping with the Code. The public may well ignore a sign that they believe to be carrying an unreasonable message. Certainly, signs saying 'No Access' or 'Private – Keep Out' should not be used on land or inland water where access rights apply.

The public expect that signs will be used responsibly. Local authorities can take action against land managers who put up signs that obstruct access rights or discourage people from using the countryside.

People naturally want to feel welcome in the countryside and respond best to polite and reasonable requests. A positive approach to paths and tracks, and to informing the public about land management operations, will go a long way towards minimising problems and encouraging responsible attitudes.

Helpful signs (see templates in Section 3) include the following key points:

- the activity or hazard that visitors need to be aware of;
- the area affected;
- how long the activity or hazard will last;
- the action you're asking people to take and the reason for it;
- how people can contact you if they want to get in touch.

A simple 'thank you' at the end will also be appreciated.

The public are likely to take more notice of a sign that gives the reason for a request. Providing a reason will also help educate people in the longer term, as some irresponsible behaviour in the countryside is certainly due to a lack of knowledge of farming practices.

When you're describing the boundaries of the area affected you should try to use easily identified features

on the ground – such as a stream, wall, gate or fence – or give a precise distance if there's no clear feature.

For your signs to be effective they need to be seen by as many people as possible at the most appropriate place. This means either warning people about circumstances in advance or alerting the public nearer to, or at, the activity or hazard. Sometimes both may be needed.

Remember to take down signs as soon as the activity is finished or the hazard is no longer present. This will minimise disruption to the public, maximise the power of the message and reduce visual impact on the landscape. Taking down signs when they're no longer valid also plays an important part in gaining respect for signage in general. It's worth remembering too that it's easier to retrieve a small number of signs rather than having to take down lots of them.

In light of the new legislation you should review any signs that you have used in recent years and remove those that are no longer suitable in terms of content and quality.

By using helpful and effective signs – and only where and when needed – you're much more likely to get the public to do what you ask.





Take down signs when the activity is finished or hazard is no longer present.

## Key points

For your signs to be helpful and effective they need to be positive, provide a reason for any requested action and be well positioned. They should include:

- *information about the land management operation;*
- *its location;*
- *how long it will last;*
- *what you'd like the public to do and the reason for it;*
- *your contact details.*

Remember to take down signs as soon as the activity is finished or the hazard is no longer present.

## Section 2

This section picks up on some of the points made earlier and looks at them more closely.

### 1. Where to locate your signs

Basically, there are two options: in-advance or at-site of the activity. For in-advance signing, you'll need to make a judgment on whether it will be helpful to the public. The big advantage is that you can warn people about a risk before they come to it. For instance, an in-advance sign about farm traffic can be helpful, and an early warning may alert an adult in case children under their care run ahead and reach the hazard on their own. You can also locate your sign so that people can think about alternative routes rather than having to turn back or retrace their steps. If you help people in this way you stand more chance of them doing what you ask. Be aware though that you need to strike a balance – you don't want the sign so far in advance that people forget the message by the time they reach the hazard.

At-site signage is located beside or within sight of the hazard or land management activity, and alerts or reminds people of the need to take care. For example, a message asking the public not to take dogs into a field where sheep are lambing would have most effect at the entrance to the lambing field. This means the information is presented at the key location and you're not relying on people remembering messages introduced earlier in their visit.

Where you want to inform or warn people who are crossing land rather than using paths or tracks, you should put up signs at regular access points such as car parks and gates.



In-advance signs give people the chance to decide on alternative routes before they reach the hazard or activity.

### Key points

There are two options to consider when locating signs: they can either be in-advance or at-site.

- *In-advance signs allow you to warn people of a risk before they come to it and give visitors the chance to decide on alternative routes before they reach the hazard or activity.*
- *At-site signs provide the public with information when they reach the hazard or activity. This means you're not relying on people remembering messages introduced earlier in their visit.*

Where people are crossing land rather than using paths or tracks, locate your signs at regular access points.

## 2. Where and how to place signs

Signs need to be carefully placed so that people can get close enough to read them. Some 15-20% of the UK public have a disability such as impaired eyesight or limited mobility. You therefore need to take care that visitors can access your signs without difficulty and ensure they can read them easily by using large lettering.

Based on a viewing distance of about a metre (3 ft 3 ins), you should aim to position signs so that the bottom is

at least 800mm (2 ft 6 ins) above ground level or the top is no more than 1850mm (6 ft) high. Mounting a sign at this level will mean it won't be hidden by plants and most of the public will be able to see it. At the same time, you need to guard against signs being so striking that they spoil people's enjoyment of the countryside.

Signs should normally be set back about half a metre (1 ft 8 ins) from the edge of the path, so that they're less likely to be hit by vehicles.



Position your signs so they're easy to access and read, and not hidden by plantlife.

Remember that where the public can approach the site of a land management operation from several directions, then there may be a need to put up a sign on each approach.

Signs need to be well secured and you should try to put them up on existing posts or other suitable supports rather than using new posts. Gate posts, stile posts, the parapets of bridges, steps, fences, walls and buildings are all possible supports. If you don't own the support, or it's not on your land, then you should ask the owner's permission before putting up a sign (the same applies if you're putting posts in the ground). Signs can be tied to trees or other plantlife but don't attach them with nails or pins.

Try to position your sign against a backdrop so that it hides the back of the sign and makes it less prominent. Sometimes you may need to position them in the open, but try to avoid these sites as much as possible.

You don't usually need planning permission for temporary signs of the size and type we're talking about here (see templates in Section 3). For bigger signs, or those with a longer life span, you'll need to consult your local planning authority. You should also make sure that putting in a post won't interfere with any underground services (electricity, telecommunications, gas, water etc.). If you're unsure about the position of underground

services then you can check by clicking on [www.moleseye.com](http://www.moleseye.com) or contacting Moleseye on 0845 140 0270.

Keep an eye on your signs and maintain them if they're up for any length of time. They can be knocked about by the wind, hidden by plants or even vandalised by a thoughtless visitor. It's also worth watching how people react to your signs so that you know if they're in the right place and whether people are reading them and doing what you ask.

## Key points

**Signs need to be carefully placed so that they are:**

- *readily accessible;*
- *easily read;*
- *free of surrounding plants.*

**Position signs against existing posts and other supports where possible.**



Watch how people react to your signs so that you know if they're reading them and doing what you ask.



### 3. What materials are available?

For short-term purposes you can use laminated card or paper, but you have to make sure any nails or staples only go through the plastic border. Where the plastic is punctured and has paper underneath, water will get in and make your sign impossible to read.

If you intend to use the signs several times through the season, or from year to year, you should invest in a stronger product and have the signs made on rigid or corrugated PVC. These are waterproof, lightweight, durable materials that can easily be fixed to fenceposts and other supports. You can write on these signs with a waterproof paint marker pen and then remove your message with turps or petroleum based spirit.

For longer term fixtures, such as a sign advising the public what to do when approaching a farmyard, use fibreglass. Although they're quite light, fibreglass signs are very strong and therefore stand up to weathering and vandalism.

#### Key points

The length of time you need a sign for is important in deciding which material to use:

- *for very short-term signage you can use laminated card or paper;*
- *for most temporary signs opt for a more durable material like rigid PVC;*
- *for signs with a longer life span use fibreglass.*

### 4. Which colours work best?

The colour of a sign should contrast with the background so that people with impaired eyesight can see it clearly. However, you don't want the sign so striking that it becomes annoying. Finding a way between these two positions is a delicate balance.

The preferred option for signs is dark text contrasting with a light background. Brighter signs are good at attracting attention because they're more visible, so dark text on a cream or beige background gives good contrast. But white lettering against a dark background (such as dark blue – see templates) also works well in the countryside. The white lettering on a dark background has an eye-catching appearance, making the message more noticeable than the sign, and it can be effective even in shady and overcast places. The choice of colour for your sign(s) depends on what you feel works best in your own situation.

Many land managers will of course use black and white because this is readily available on computers and the easiest option to print out. This provides high contrast but

#### Key points

Clearly visible and easily read signage with good contrast can be:

- *dark text on a light background;*
- *white lettering on a dark background.*

can be a bit harsh, especially in bright light, and some people find it hard to focus on the lettering.

Avoid the use of black lettering against a dark background and avoid combinations that will confuse people who are colour blind, such as red/yellow/green, red/black and blue/green/purple.

## 5. How to get your message across

It's important that signs are clear, consistent and concise. A wide range of people use the countryside and you need to get your message across to everyone, including children and people with disabilities. Use language suitable for the reading age of about a 12-year-old (more like 'The Daily Record' than 'The Herald!') and you'll communicate with as wide a cross-section of your visitors as possible.

Address the public as 'you' and use other personal pronouns like 'we', 'they' etc. This helps people relate to the information at a personal level and makes it more likely they'll take notice of your message.

Avoid jargon, technical terms and legal language, and always try to use words that the reader will understand. For instance, 'We'll be using a controlled fire to help regenerate the heather ....' tells people exactly what you're doing, whereas 'We'll be muirburning....' is more direct but assumes a certain level of understanding on the part of the visitor.

Keep your signs to under 100 words – and aim to use far fewer – or people won't read them. Use positive language and keep sentences short. For example, 'High fire risk – please guard against fire' is better than 'Be careful not to light fires during this prolonged dry period'.

In parts of the Highlands & Islands with a strong Gaelic tradition you may wish to consider using bilingual signs.

Use recognised symbols where you can, but add words

to highlight hazards and explain the action that visitors should take.

Only a small number of the public can read maps properly. If you're going to use them, stick to sketches and make them simple and clear. You also need to highlight obvious features on the map so that visitors find it easy to orientate themselves to what appears on the ground.

You can help make a map easier to understand by including a description of the area it covers. The description should draw attention to distinctive elements of the landscape – such as a stream, wall, gate or fence – or give an accurate distance if there's no clear feature.

## Key points

### Keep your messages:

- *short and free of jargon;*
- *easy to understand with straightforward language;*
- *personal by using 'you', 'we' and 'they';*
- *specific by referring to features that are easily seen on the ground.*

## 6. How to sign for all abilities

Creating signs that are understandable by all isn't just about considering the needs of people with disabilities. A wide range of visitors – including older folk, people with temporary medical conditions and children – will also appreciate the efforts you make.

For maximum readability your text should be in type. However, where you need to give local up-to-date information you may have to include handwritten entries. For example, the templates at the end of this publication have text boxes where the land manager would be expected to insert handwritten information. Where handwritten entries are necessary, they should be kept to a minimum.

### Key points

Basic ways to make your signs understandable by all are:

- *use type on signs and keep handwritten entries to a minimum;*
- *choose easy to read typefaces;*
- *use upper and lower case lettering;*
- *follow the guidelines for size of lettering on signs.*

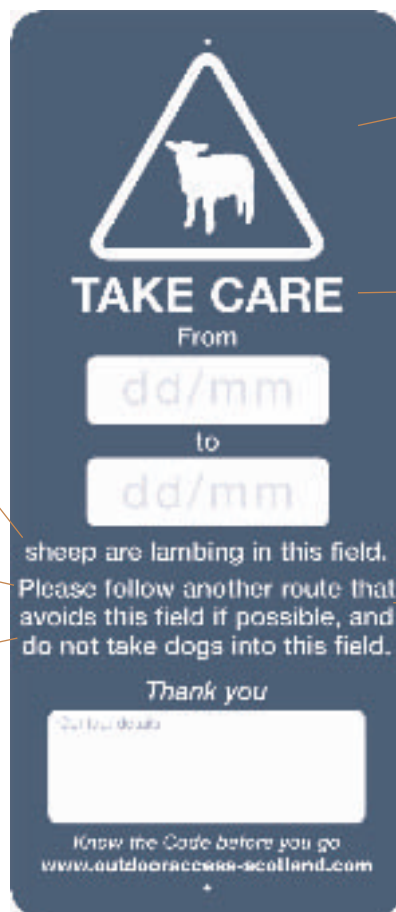
Key points to consider on type and layout:

Font size should be big enough for everyone to read at a reasonable distance. The smallest type sizes recommended for signs are: titles, 60-72 point; subtitles, 40-48 point; body text, 24 point; captions, 18 point. The templates follow these guidelines.

Spacing between words and letters is important – it makes for easier reading if it's not too tight.

Line length should be no more than about eight words. Long lines are tiring to read.

Don't mix typefaces – use bold and different type sizes for emphasis.



Leave plenty of background space – it allows the eye to rest as it reads.

Headings can be in capitals but the text should be in upper and lower case. Text in capitals is hard to read.

Use a simple and highly readable typeface, such as Helvetica or Arial. Try to avoid serif typefaces, which have pointed bits (serifs) on the letters.

## Section 3

This section applies the guidance from Sections 1 and 2 to the specific circumstances for which land managers most commonly require signage. The standardised signage presented here offers a quick and easy way to integrate access with your day-to-day land management operations.

### 1. Sign templates

The use of standard templates means you don't have to create a new sign for every occasion. We have developed the set of ten templates shown at the end of this publication with the help of a sub-group of the National Access Forum. These can be adapted for most situations where you might wish to sign.

You'll find digital versions of these templates on the [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com) website. The templates are in Portable Document Format, commonly known as PDF. The creator of this file format, Adobe Systems, offers a free viewer so that you can view any PDF file. You can easily download the programme and install it on your computer. Instructions for installing are available at the Adobe Systems website.

You can give the digital templates to a sign maker for production on a durable and waterproof material such as rigid PVC. You can then insert handwritten information in the blank boxes to provide visitors with relevant local advice. These entries can be made on strips of removable clear vinyl that you fit over the boxes and remove again when the sign is taken down. This means the boxes remain unmarked underneath the vinyl. The other option is to add the details with a waterproof paint marker pen and remove the text later with turps or petroleum based spirit. Both of these will allow the sign to be re-used with new information.

The ten templates appear on the website as screen size PDFs but manufactured sizes should be as follows:

- Sign 1 (lambing) - 300 x 130mm (12 x 5 ins)
- Sign 2 (young livestock) - 345 x 130mm (13 x 5 ins)
- Sign 3 (shooting) - 455 x 130mm (18 x 5 ins)
- Sign 4 (land management operation) - 460 x 130mm (18 x 5 ins)

- Sign 5 (woodland management operation) - 460 x 130mm (18 x 5 ins)
- Sign 6 (working farmyard) - 325 x 130mm (13 x 5 ins)
- Sign 7 (fire risk) - 225 x 130mm (9 x 5 ins)
- Sign 8 (field margin) - 325 x 130mm (13 x 5 ins)
- Sign 9 (wildlife breeding site) - 350 x 130mm (14 x 5 ins)
- Sign 10 (farm traffic) - 325 x 130mm (13 x 5 ins)

In terms of who pays for signs, SNH's role is to provide the guidance that enables farmers and other land managers to put up signs, and to help promote this guidance. The extent to which individuals choose to use signage will be up to them and it is not SNH's responsibility to supply or pay for the signs. However, it would obviously be helpful for land managers if costs could be reduced as much as possible through large-scale production and distribution. There may be a role here for local authorities, who might have the resources to give a local service, and/or for representative organisations who may wish to help their members by seeking favourable deals.

You'll also find black-and-white, A4 on-line versions of the templates on the [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com) website. Land managers can insert the information relevant to their own particular circumstances directly from their computer, and then print out the signs and laminate for use.

These templates provide handy, ready-made options for the most common land management situations where signs are likely to be needed. For circumstances where they're not relevant you can use the templates as examples of the sort of signage that's consistent with the Code. Using the templates and the information in this guidance, you should be able to create suitable and acceptable signs for your own situation. If your signs are already Code compliant then you have no need to use the templates.

The fact that templates exist does not mean you have to pepper your land with these signs. You only need to use them where they support your land management operations and help the public, as outlined in Section 1.



Your risk assessment will tell you whether you need to put up a shooting sign.

Bear in mind that the Code says generally, the higher the likely levels of public access (such as along well-used routes, at popular places or at the weekend) or the more dangerous an operation is likely to be, the more you need to give information or identify alternative routes. The shooting sign, for instance, will not be needed on all occasions. You must decide as part of your risk

assessment whether it would be appropriate on shoot days to put up signs on neighbouring paths or tracks that are used by the public.

## Key points

Templates provide standard layouts for signs. However, the fact that a template exists doesn't mean you have to put up a sign whenever the relevant situation arises. Patterns and levels of public use, and the sort of land management operation you're undertaking, will identify the need.

You can use this publication to help you adapt the templates to suit your own circumstances or for other situations where you've identified that a sign is needed.

The templates are available on the [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com) website. They can be given to a sign maker for production and you can add handwritten information to provide local advice.

Black-and-white, A4 on-line versions of the templates are also available on the [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com) website. These are suitable for inserting information directly from your computer, printing out and laminating for use.

## 2. Symbols and standard texts

The templates cover the range of situations where land managers are most likely to require signs. These are:

- Lambing
- Young livestock
- Shooting
- Land management operations
- Woodland management operations
- Working farmyard
- Fire risk
- Field margin
- Wildlife breeding site
- Farm traffic

The land management operations template is the most adaptable of those available. However, it provides prompts to ensure that details of the activity and the requested actions are included. These will need to be reasonable, practicable and appropriate for the type of operation and level of risk involved.

Each template has a symbol at the top to highlight the subject / hazard being addressed. The purpose of the symbol is:

- to attract the attention of the public;
- to highlight what the sign message is about;
- to establish a suite of widely used, easily recognised countryside signs.

Standard texts have been developed for the templates. These provide the overall structure to the signs, with blank boxes where you can give visitors relevant local advice. These entries make the signs more personal and credible.

## Key points

The templates cover common situations where signs may be needed. Each one has:

- *a symbol at the top to highlight what the sign is about;*
- *standard texts with blank boxes where you can insert relevant local information.*





## TAKE CARE

From

dd/mm

to

dd/mm

sheep are lambing in this field.  
Please follow another route that  
avoids this field if possible, and  
do not take dogs into this field.

*Thank you*

Contact details:

Know the Code before you go  
[www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)

•



## TAKE CARE

From

dd/mm

to

dd/mm

this field is being used for  
young farm animals.

Parent animals can be  
aggressive when protecting  
their young.

Please follow another route that  
avoids this field if possible, and  
do not take dogs into this field.

*Thank you*

Contact details:

Know the Code before you go  
[www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)

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## TAKE CARE

We're managing the following shoot in this area.

Type of shoot  
Area covered

The shoot will occur

☐ AM ☐ PM

on

dd/mm

Please help to minimise disturbance by following another route.

Suggested route

*Thank you*

Contact details

Know the Code before you go  
[www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)



## TAKE CARE

We're carrying out the following land management operation in this area.

Type of activity  
Area covered

The work will last from

dd/mm

to

dd/mm

Requested action

For example:  
Please – proceed with caution  
– use the following route etc.

*Thank you*

Contact details

Know the Code before you go  
[www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)



## TAKE CARE

This is a working farmyard.

### Requested action:

- ☐ Please proceed through farmyard with caution.
- ☐ Please go round farmyard to left / right.
- ☐ Other action:

Details

*Thank you*

Contact details

*Know the Code before you go*  
**[www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)**



## TAKE CARE

High fire risk.  
Please guard against fire.

*Thank you*

Contact details

*Know the Code before you go*  
**[www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)**



## TAKE CARE

We're managing this field margin for wildlife. Please keep dogs on a short lead or under close control between

dd/mm

and

dd/mm

to avoid disturbing wildlife. Don't linger if you're causing alarm to wildlife.

*Thank you*

Contact details

Know the Code before you go  
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## TAKE CARE

This is an important wildlife breeding site from

dd/mm

to

dd/mm

Dogs running free can disturb breeding wildlife and their young.

Please keep dogs on a short lead or under close control. Don't linger if you're causing alarm to wildlife.

*Thank you*

Contact details

Know the Code before you go  
[www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)



## TAKE CARE

Short-term increase  
in farm traffic.

From

dd/mm

to

dd/mm

look out for farm vehicles.

*Thank you*

Contact details

*Know the Code before you go*  
[www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)

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## TAKE CARE

We're carrying out the following  
woodland management operation  
in this area.

Type of activity  
Area covered

The work will last from

dd/mm

to

dd/mm

Requested action

For example:  
Please – proceed with caution  
– use the following route etc.

*Thank you*

Contact details

*Know the Code before you go*  
[www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)

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## REFERENCES & SOURCES OF ADVICE ON MANAGING FOR ACCESS

Scottish Outdoor Access Code (2005), ISBN 1 85397 422 6 – [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)

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## Scottish Natural Heritage

is a government body responsible to Scottish Executive Ministers, and through them to the Scottish Parliament.

### Our mission:

Working with Scotland's people to care for our natural heritage.

### Our aim:

Scotland's natural heritage is a local, national and global asset. We promote its care and improvement, its responsible enjoyment, its greater understanding and appreciation, and its sustainable use now and for future generations.

### Our operating principles:

We work in partnership, by co-operation, negotiation and consensus, where possible, with all relevant interests in Scotland: public, private and voluntary organisations, and individuals.

We operate in a devolved manner, delegating decision-making to the local level within the organisation to encourage and assist SNH to be accessible, sensitive and responsive to local needs and circumstances.

We operate in an open and accountable manner in all our activities.



### Further information

Further copies of this publication are available from:  
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