



Environmental Policy

I follow the Reduce – Reuse – Recycle philosophy in my personal life, and have always tried to have a minimal impact approach to the mountains. I aim to operate *Out in the Hills* along the same lines, and have therefore developed the following Environmental Policy for *Out in the Hills*:

Leave No Trace

When out in the hills, we should aim to take nothing away and leave nothing behind. For example, although banana skins and orange peel are biodegradable, in a mountain environment this can take a long time, and they are unsightly in the meantime. They also risk adversely changing the nutrient balance of the soil, and encouraging scavengers.

The mountain environment is also a working environment, and access to the hills comes with responsibilities. We will always attempt to minimise our impact on other users of the land, for example in relation to lambing and stalking, but also in relation to flora and fauna such as fragile plants or nesting birds.

I follow the *Leave No Trace* philosophy, which is a set of ethics to help us:

- value the natural environment;
- understand the impact of our activities;
- enable us to make decisions to minimise that impact;
- enjoy our activities in a sustainable way;

and I have successfully completed the Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop.

Clients will also be made aware of the *Cairngorm Snow White facility* (formerly the Cairngorm Poo Project), and encouraged to make use of the facilities provided, especially when visiting the hills in winter.

Use of vehicle transport

All walks and expeditions are planned around the assumption that clients do not need to use their own transport, and we pick up at appropriate locations. The vehicle journey is a part of the expedition, in terms of introducing visitors to the area, and clients will be encouraged to travel in our vehicle, rather than travelling separately in their own cars to the start point of the walk.

Recycling

Facilities will be provided so that clients can leave their recyclable waste with us at the end of an outing.

Office procedures

As far as is practical, and as long as all legal requirements are met, all correspondence will be by email, and all financial transactions by online methods. Where paper does have to be used, then stationery supplies will be sourced from certified renewable or sustainable sources where possible.