

# Geocaching Policy



## What is Geocaching?

Geocaching involves people searching for 'hidden' caches using a GPS device.

A Geocacher goes to a location which has usually some special interest or beauty. At the location they hide a small waterproof box containing with varied bits and pieces, a logbook and a pen or pencil. Using their GPS receiver, the cacher records the co-ordinates of their cache and returns home to log its existence onto a website (e.g. geocaching.com).

Once the cache is registered other geocachers will see the listing online where they then enter the coordinates into their GPS receiver and go out and find it. On discovery of the cache an item is taken from the box and something is left in return. For future reference enter details into the logbook to record your visit. When the seeker returns home, he/she should log onto the website where they found the cache and pass on any comments they wish. These logs are important to the cache hider as it is part of their "reward" for hiding the cache. Of course in order to keep the game going, the seekers must also hide some caches too.

## CMRPs Approach

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park (CMRP) recognises the value of geocaching as a means of encouraging people to exercise and enjoy the natural beauty of the Park. It is important however, that geocaching doesn't impinge on other uses of the area or create a nuisance to the over Park users. The safety of participants along with disturbance to wildlife is a primary consideration.

To ensure that the activity can progress in harmony with the many other interests involved in the management of the Regional Park this short policy has been created.

## Policy

1. No caches may be placed on CMRP managed land without the permission of the Park.
2. The Park has the right to refuse both the proposed location and the type of container to be used.
3. The Park reserves the right to remove unauthorised caches.

## **Guidelines for Placing Caches**

1. Geocachers must comply with all the Parks guidelines and notices
2. Geocachers must not cause any damage to trees or property
3. Geocachers must not do anything which might cause a fire
4. All caches must be placed in line with the Geocaching Association of Great Britain (GAGB) Guidelines which follow:

### **GAGB Guidelines**

1. Cache containers must be clearly marked stating that the contents are harmless.
2. Placers may provide an e-mail address or other contact method (e.g. GAGB contact phone number)
3. Only items that would be deemed safe and acceptable for an unaccompanied child to find should be placed in a cache.
4. No cache should be placed in such a way as to risk damage or disturbance to any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)
5. When placing a cache the onus is on the placer to seek the permission of the landowner.
6. Caches should be placed in a way that they will not be accidentally found by non-geocachers.
7. No items of food or drink of any kind should be placed in the cache.
8. Caches should not be buried; holes should not be dug in order to place a cache.
9. Caches should not be hidden in animal holes or runs.
10. Cache containers should not be placed inside a polythene bag.
11. Fences should never be crossed (other than through a gate or by a stile) when placing or seeking a cache.
12. No caches should be of a commercial nature, either in location or content.
13. Maintenance of the cache is the responsibility of the placer.
14. When leaving the cache site, after hiding or placing a cache, there should be no visual sign of disturbance.
15. No cache should be placed in or on a dry stone wall.
16. Please do not bring geocaching into disrepute, never drive your car anywhere other than on the highways and always park legally.

### **Procedure**

If having read this policy and guidelines you wish to place a cache on land within CMRP then please contact one of the Ranger offices to discuss placing your cache.