

Shallowford Farm code of practice for road users

Everyone who visits Shallowford farm arrives in a vehicle. We wish to minimize the impact of vehicles on the lanes in the area. Therefore we would ask that all road users consider the following when driving to and from the farm.

1. Environmental impact

It is recognised that there is a risk that the exhaust gases from petrol and diesel engine vehicles can have a harmful effect upon the quality of the air that we breath and on the environment both locally and globally. In order to minimise this risk it is essential that care and thought is given to reducing fuel consumption by the manner in which vehicle journeys are planned as well as how the vehicle is driven and operated. When considering any journey, ask yourself:

- is the journey really necessary?
- can you share the vehicle?
- can you use public transport?
- is the vehicle being fully utilised?
- can I use an alternatively fueled vehicle?

Please do not leave engines running whilst the vehicle is stationary and do not start vehicles up from cold and leave them running to warm up.

Drive carefully and considerately to reduce pollution. The “greenest” engine is one that is switched off.

2. Plan your journey and drive responsibly

- i) Know where you are going before you set off. This avoids distractions en-route trying to find the right road or location.
- ii) Give yourself time – allow enough time for the journey to avoid having to rush.
- iii) Give yourself time to decide – allow enough space between you and the car in front to react and stop in time.
- iv) Drive to the conditions – if the weather is bad, reduce your speed.
- v) Take regular breaks – if you are feeling tired or ill, stop driving, take a break, and some water.
- vi) Give plenty of room to cyclists
- vii) When on narrow lanes:
 - a. be courteous and allow other vehicles to pass

- b. when approaching a horse and rider either stop and keep quiet to allow them to pass or wait for them to find a safe place to move off the lane and allow you to pass
- c. give plenty of room to pedestrians
- d. allow roaming animals to find a safe place off the road before you pass
- viii) Don't get wound up – if you are in congested traffic or behind a slow tourist keep relaxed, investigate alternatives and let someone know if you are running late.
- ix) Don't get distracted – don't eat, drink, read a map, smoke or hold an intense conversation whilst driving.

3. Driving on Dartmoor

- The roads on Dartmoor require drivers to take extra care. The speed limit is 40mph
- Take steep hills slowly as it will be more difficult and take a greater distance to brake.
- When the lanes are narrow be aware of rocks protruding from walls, especially on bends.
- Be prepared to reverse if the road is not wide enough for two cars to pass, especially if you are near to a passing place or if the on-coming vehicle is towing trailer.
- Animals can be found wandering on any of the roads so drive slowly and be prepared to stop suddenly. Expect to find an animal in the middle of the road around every corner and then drive at that speed.
- At night black ponies and cows can be very difficult to see. Take extra caution by driving slowly.
- If you meet a farmer walking animals along the road, pull in & turn your engine off until all the animals have passed.
- Cold weather can mean icy roads. Check the forecast and weather reports. If in difficulty use the salt grit from the green bins beside the steeper sections of road. There may also be buckets of grit inside gateways.
- After torrential rain many of the roads will flood. It might be necessary to wade through the flood first to check the depth rather than drive into the middle and then get stuck
- In the winter the roads will often be icy or even covered with snow. Very few of the roads will be salted. Only drive if you have to and keep in a low gear driving slowly. If you touch your breaks you are likely to skid.

4. Choice of vehicle?

Check that the vehicle is suitable for the journey/task.

- Does it have enough carrying capacity?
- Is it suitably designed to transport passengers or goods?
- Could there be smaller vehicle available?

5. Have you the right driving licence for the vehicle?

All drivers must hold a current full driving licence applicable to the type of vehicle that they drive. If you hold a B category on your licence ensure you are driving a permitted vehicle. For clarity check with your line manager.

All minibus drivers should have a D1 on their licence and /or have the appropriate training for the hiring requirements. Check the insurance requirements on age limits.

6. Are you familiar with the vehicle?

Become familiar with your vehicle before driving it

7. Check you are not impaired by alcohol or drugs

Drivers must not consume alcohol or take non-prescribed drugs (other than “over the counter” medicines) at any time whilst they are driving. Drivers should be aware that any alcohol/drugs taken remain within the body system for at least a 24-hour period. When taking “over the counter” medicines, drivers should not exceed the dosages and take heed of any warnings given on any leaflets or packaging accompanying the medicine.

8. Daily vehicle checks

The vehicle checks are essential to the safe operation of vehicles. Before commencing daily driving, drivers must check to ensure that their vehicle is in a safe and roadworthy condition.

9. Seat belts

All passengers and drivers must occupy a seat constructed for that purpose. Where a seat belt is fitted, the vehicle driver and all passengers must wear a seat belt at all times the vehicle is in motion. It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that all passengers wear seatbelts

10. Mobile phones/radios

The practice of using mobile phones or other wireless transmitting or receiving devices whilst the vehicle is in motion is unsafe and, in the case of holding a mobile phone in the hand, is illegal. Drivers must ensure that in the event of receiving a call whilst the vehicle is in motion, that they stop the vehicle in a safe manner before answering the call.

11. Go easy on the “gas”

Drive at all times in a considerate manner. Avoid harsh acceleration and braking. This will result in a significant reduction in collisions, as well as a reduction in fuel consumption and wear and tear on the vehicle.

12. Vehicle heights/widths:

Drivers should be aware of the height or width of their vehicle and be cautious when approaching narrow bridges, low bridges, suspended cables, overhanging tree branches or width restrictions

13. Tidy vehicles

Drivers are to ensure that there are no loose items on the floor of the vehicle that could roll or move about whilst the vehicle is in motion. These could interfere with the drivers controls i.e., drink cans under the foot brake pedal.

Loose personal items, such as mobile phones, bottles, sweet packets, lighters, keys etc. should be stored in the appropriate glove box or compartment provided for the purpose so as to prevent them from moving around inside the vehicle.

14. Drive to the conditions:

Statutory speed limits are to be observed at all times and should be used for guidance only. Drivers should drive according to road conditions and with due regard, first and foremost, to the consideration of other road users and pedestrians. Therefore, conditions may require drivers to travel at a much less speed than the statutory level set for the road they are driving on.

15. Parking of vehicles

When parking their vehicle, drivers must ensure that the vehicle is parked correctly and in a safe and legal manner