

Nearly Wild Camping Location Provider Discussion, 07/03/2024

This is a brief summary of some of the conversations from the discussion between Steve (founder and location provider) and some of our NWC location providers. The following should not be treated as formal guidance, but merely as helpful hints to consider based on our experience and that of the locations who took part in the discussion.

Nearly Wild Camping is not in the position to provide formal legal guidance and all locations should ensure they are fully conversant with any local planning or legal issues, especially since they vary country to country and within certain designated areas.

The evening was not video recorded since we wanted all participants to be able to speak freely and share experiences without fear of redress.

Planning:

3 options: 28 days, 60 days, certified

- 60 days without planning but you will need to inform planners of this regardless
- **Or** you can become a certified location
- The decision between these two is dependent on how big you want your site to be/how many campers and associated on-site provisions
 - If you will regularly be having upwards of 30 campers, it is recommended that you get planning permission
 - It can be harder if you are in an Area of Natural Beauty and/or a National Park, so you will have to do additional research if this is the case for you
 - If you're going for smaller number of units over less days, you will probably be fine with 60 days
- For more information you can look into: The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development etc.) (England) (Amendment) Order 2023 (legislation.gov.uk)

Becoming Certified:

- Ask Lee for an application form – straightforward terms and conditions then Lee issues a certificate. No cost
- Needs to fit the ethos, but the likelihood is that you are if you are approaching us in the first place
- If you have the license with us it removes the necessity of your liaising with the planners

Insurance:

- We deliberately use the word “camp location” because they tend not to be commercial campsites, and the use of the word “campsite” can be misleading for the insurer and lead to higher costs
 - Certain expectations are associated with “campsite” which in turn is reflected in the insurance
 - “I’m going to be having some people camping on my land with a few compost toilets” etc. *this of course depends on the size of your land and the onsite provisions*

- The main thing when keeping the cost of insurance down is anticipating the questions of the insurers
 - Don't assume anything – show that you have **considered all of the possible problems** that could arise and show that you have systems in place to protect from this e.g. fire buckets
- Every landowner's set up is different – different activities, they may already have insurance (could be connected to the house) so you should take everything into account when considering insurance
- On our website there is some guidance from some companies – [Mann Broadbent](#) and [The Tourist Trail](#) familiar with insurance for small land providers

A few recommendations from other land providers:

- Ashburnham insurance services (farming, camping and woodlands)
- NFU
- FUW (farming and camping)
- Mann Broadbent (children's activity, dog agility, camping)
- Aston Lark

Sanitation:

- Completely composed compost toilets (removes chemical disposal element of chemical toilets and doesn't interfere with water sources)
 - Leave for a year (need to ensure it has composted properly so needs to reach a certain temperature)
 - Other members have found compost loos great
 - Not allowed to dig down more than 1 metre if in a national park, so carpenter made them buckets and containers to add into the toilet
 - Means the land can revert back to being a sheep field out of season
 - Sawdust in a bucket next to the toilet, ash from campers' fires can seal the smell in if put on top (though another land provider said that the sawdust was enough to keep the smell in for them)
 - Compost breaks down relatively quickly (3 or 4 months in the summer)
 - [The Centre for Alternative Technology](#) has good guidance on compost toilets

No-shows:

- "Late night emailing" – "do you have space for x number of people", "yes" and no reply – you're not alone in experiencing this, many other land providers on the call also shared this frustration
- Automating booking can make it more likely for no shows – NWC made the decision to not encourage this and instead to encourage person-to-person communication

Opportunities for Nearly Wild Camping Locations: Experience Weekends

- Different themed camps (trialled last year to success) from carving to wool spinning to hedgerow maintenance and tracking
- Always on the look out for locations with skills/activities/interest in supporting these weekends

- Stipend for locations who would be compensated for their time in addition to paid pitches for participants
- Would be dependent on suitability of site and compatibility with activity/tutor