



New Zealand Alpine Club

Code of Conduct for Rock Climbers

December 2017

1. Permission/Right of Access

Permission and/or a right of access should always be obtained/confirmed before accessing a climbing area.

Any applicable laws, regulations, management plans and/or access agreements should be strictly followed. If you are unsure, check the local guidebook or website (e.g. ClimbNZ) for updated access information.

Even if there is a standing right of access, accept that on some occasions access may be restricted because of current circumstances, e.g. environmental hazards, work activities, family gathering, lambing/calving, birds nesting

2. Impact

Any rock climbing must have the lowest possible impact on the crag and environs. Points to note are:

- No climbing in areas that have identified environmental, cultural and/or other sensitivities. If in doubt about an area, avoid it.
- Climbers should limit their activities at a crag to the cliff, its top and its base, preserving surrounding areas as much as possible.
- Use established access points and tracks, do not create new tracks without permission.
- Avoid unauthorised removal of or damage to vegetation.
- Respect all wild flora and fauna.
- Take care not to disturb livestock through either physical contact or noise and avoid damage to crops.
- Leave pets at home.
- Brush off chalk tick-marks.

3. Safety

Risk is inherent in climbing.

It is the responsibility of each climber to exercise his or her own judgement and discretion at all times when climbing. Each climber must assume total responsibility for his/her climbing safety. That includes assessing the adequacy of any fall protection, whether fixed or temporary (e.g. bolts or trad gear).

Adopt safe climbing practices at all times. Beware of hazards to other users, especially at busy crags and/or crags with loose rock.

4. Behaviour

Be courteous to and respectful of Landowners and other land users at all times.

Avoid large gatherings, loud voices, obscenities and offensive phrases that may upset others.

Be thoughtful when naming new climbs. A well-chosen name can add to climbing culture, but an ill-chosen name can cause offence.

Avoid other obnoxious behaviour such as excessive use of cameras, drones and/or portable speakers at the crag that can intrude on the quiet enjoyment and/or privacy of others.

5. Waste

Use toilets where provided. If not provided, bury human waste at least 15 cm underground and at least 50 m from any water source or access track. In sensitive areas, please carry out human waste (e.g. in poo pot).

All rubbish should be taken from the crag, including food scraps, cigarette butts and climbing tape.

Do not abandon fixed ropes, slings or other cliff 'tat'.

Waste water, particularly soapy water from washing humans or dishes, should also be disposed of at least 50 m from any water source or access track. Do not pollute fresh water supplies.

6. Parking, Camping

Park and camp only in designated areas. Be mindful of others when using parking or camping areas.

Keep tidy camp. Respect fire bans.

7. Online Activity

Be aware that posting photographs and video of, and/or text about or in connection with, a climbing area may have adverse consequences for climber access. Do not post anything that is inaccurate, disrespectful or insensitive to the Landowner, other land users or other climbers. Think before you post or click!

8. List of Resources:

Key supporting documentation:

- NZAC Rock Climbing Access Framework
- NZAC Bolting Philosophy & Standards (for Route Developers)
- NZAC Landowner Guideline (for Landowners)