



# West End Parish Council

## Geocaching Policy

Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity that involves using GPS coordinates to locate hidden containers (geocaches) in various locations. As a parish council, we recognize the popularity and benefits of geocaching in our community. This policy aims to provide guidelines for geocaching activities within our parish, ensuring safety, respect for the environment, and responsible participation.

### Geocache Placement and Approval

- All geocache sites will need to be approved by the Parish Clerk and/or other designated staff member before being placed.
- Once site approval has been established, the approval will last for one year after which it will need to be renewed.
- Geocaches placed within parish boundaries should adhere to the guidelines set forth by the global geocaching community, such as those defined by Geocaching.com or other recognized geocaching organizations.
- Geocache placement should respect private property rights and avoid sensitive areas such as schools, places of worship, hospitals, and cemeteries, unless explicit permission has been obtained from the relevant authorities.

### Geocache Maintenance

- Geocache owners are responsible for the regular maintenance of their geocaches, including ensuring the container is intact, the logbook is in good condition, and the cache remains hidden according to the original intent.
- If a geocache becomes damaged, needs repair, or no longer meets the guidelines set by the council, the geocache owner should promptly address the issue or remove the cache.

### Environmental Considerations

- Geocachers should respect the natural environment and follow the principles of "Cache In, Trash Out" (CITO). They should strive to leave the environment cleaner and better than they found it.
- Geocaches should not be placed in ecologically sensitive areas, protected habitats, or places where wildlife could be disturbed.
- Geocachers should adhere to any local regulations regarding access to certain areas or protected lands.

### Safety

- Geocachers should prioritize their safety and the safety of others at all times.
- Geocaches should not be placed in potentially hazardous locations or areas that require trespassing, climbing, or other risky activities.
- Geocachers should be aware of their surroundings, including potential dangers such as traffic, water bodies, or steep terrain.



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### Reporting and Complaints

- Any concerns, complaints, or incidents related to geocaches within the parish should be reported to the Parish Council.
- The Parish Council will investigate reported incidents and take appropriate action if necessary, including contacting geocache owners for resolution or removal if required.

### Liability and Indemnification

- Geocachers participate in geocaching activities at their own risk.
- The Parish Council assumes no liability for accidents, injuries, or damages that may occur during geocaching activities.
- Geocachers agree to indemnify and hold the Parish Council harmless against any claims, damages, or expenses arising from their participation in geocaching activities.

### Policy Review

- This geocaching policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure its effectiveness and relevance to the community's needs.
- Any amendments or updates to the policy will be communicated to geocache owners and relevant stakeholders.

By adhering to this geocaching policy, we aim to promote safe and responsible geocaching within our Parish while preserving the natural environment and respecting the rights of property owners.



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### Application to place a Geocache

Please complete the below form and return to: [enquiries@westend-pc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@westend-pc.gov.uk)

Full Name:	
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Contact Number:	
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Email Address:	
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Proposed Location of Geocache: <i>Please include the What Three Words location code</i>	
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Please provide a brief description of where you plan on placing the Geocache:	
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When do you plan to place the Geocache and for how long? <i>Maximum length One Year. If longer is needed, please reapply after the current period has lapsed</i>	
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**I have read and understand West End Parish Council's Geocaching Policy. I agree to abide by the policy and all other rules/regulations of West End Parish Council.**

**I understand that I may not place a geocache until this application has been approved by the Parish Clerk for West End Parish Council or the Deputy Clerk in their absence.**

**I understand I will be notified when this application has been approved/rejected.**

**I will only place the geocache in the exact location specified after I have received approval.**

Signature	
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Date	
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**For Office Use Only**

**This application was approved/rejected on:**

**This application was rejected on the following grounds:**

Approver  
Signature: