

**COVID-19 Recovery Planning Guidance Webinar**

**Question and Answer Transcript**

Q = Question C = Comment A = Answer

Not all presenters were able to join online to participate in the Q&A panel. However, some of the questions below were put to them in the Q&A session which you [watch here](https://youtu.be/DA5sxO_cY1o?t=3611).

**Q.** Jon Wayte - National Parks - who have you compared your guidance with (eg NGBs?)

**A.** Graham Clowes: Jon....a small group of VSG members have been in constant touch and shared documents. RSPB. WWT. HRP. Woodland Trust. EH.

**Q.** Jon Wayte @ National Parks - Graham - Essential Services - did your BCG have a system for identifying these?

**A.** yes, a small working group reporting into BCG.

**Q.** Graham, Opening Cafes. Have you opened them yet? Do you have a policy, protocol/case study?

**A.** Graham Clowes: I will ask F and B colleagues to send you the plans they have.

**Q.** Graham Clowes - Toilets - Graham, how do we get hold of your framework/guidance on toilets? Will it be available with this webinar?

**A.** Graham Clowes: I will send to Elizabeth for sharing.

**Q.** John Ireland - Are you considering what changes you would make to a visitor centre if you were building from scratch to make it ready for the 'new norm'?

**Q.** John Ireland - Toilets - At several of our very busy/visitor centre sites which we opened this week we haven't been able to open the normal toilet facilities due to narrow corridors, poor circulation space and blind corners which prohibit social distancing - have you found any solutions to this as yet? As an alternative we have provided portaloos, emptied 2/3 times per week and cleaned 3 times per day - it's not ideal because of the presence of sewage and lack of running water for handwashing (hand sanitiser provided instead) - anyone come across similar issues and found better solution?

**A.** Graham Clowes: is fleeting passing in corridors close contact. We think not so have not been hung up on this - so managing queues has been the big issue rather than a fleeting passing of individuals.

**Q.** Overnight parking trial - this is a huge issue for us, would really like to hear more about how the trial goes - would you be able to feedback some outcomes via VSG or ORN?

**C.** Great to see the collaborative approach for the code of conduct

**C.** Statement rather than Question - The biggest lesson and success of this experience has been the sharing of info, lessons learnt and testing ideas with VSG members and others in the outdoor recreation industry. The support has been incredible - we can do so much together and collaborative working is going to be crucial looking forward post covid. Thank you all

**C.** John - Car Park Camping - Also been a huge problem in the Lake District. We counted over 300 camper vans parked up overnight just in the Buttermere Valley last weekend. Problems with powers to move people on and if we did, we know they would simply drive a couple of miles up the road and park up again! Would be interested in the outcomes of your trial.

**Q.** Great presentation so far. Do people have a view on how many people can get together for an outdoor volunteering activity/group fitness activity - is it 6 people, 2 family groups/clusters of up to 30, or just a different number based on a covid-19 secure risk assessment/methodology. Thanks. (I think it probably depends if you class it as a work activity or social activity!)

**A.** Graham Clowes: In England it depends on how you interpret the guidance. It could be six people, but it could be limitless if covid secure. Due to this we are actively considering setting an internal policy. Regardless social distancing must be maintained. Based weddings guidance my personal feel would be up to 30 - but that is not NT policy at present. In NI I believe you can gather with 30 generally already.

**Q.** Hi, are any of you using byelaws to try to control car park/roadside camping in busy coastal towns?

**A.** Graham Clowes: Not at NT. Too difficult to prosecute for what would be a very minor fine.

**Q.** To what extent have the orgs started planning or thinking about a winter second wave? Adaptations to these controls? Great session by the way.

**A.** Graham Clowes: we have just kept records of how we closed so we can re-enact in the event of new lockdowns.

**C.** In the Woodland Trust we are not planning on bringing volunteer groups back until at least the end of august, maybe into september. and only then if government restrictions allow. we are also currently not allowing organisied group activities on our sites, but are currently waiting for a risk assessment from an organisation that wants to run a "socially distanced fun run" for 100 people. to be honest, at the moment, I don't think we are likely to go ahead as we don't see how it could be managed - car parking, pinch points on the site etc. maybe if restrictions ease further and the virus is better controlled we could consider it in coming months. that’s if they have a good robust RA in place. as for general public, we generally keep out of it - as Dave said previously, we're not the COVID police :) All the best.

**A.** Graham Clowes: General public - we first assume it’s an innocent transgression so remind people. If there are repeated transgressions staff can call police - but no recorded incident of that happening. We give greater latitude to anyone with disabilities. So we remind but have not had to police.

**Q**. Tom - Outdoors for everyone. Can someone circulate a link to that material please? It is interesting that the Countryside Code has been modified slightly and re-launched in England and Wales

**C.** With regards to the legionella risk in toilet facilities, there should not really be an issue as it's an inhalation risk so must be some way of inhaling water droplets. Unless you have showers fed from the hot/cold water system in which case purging the system /heating hot water to 60 degrees C, cleaning the shower heads etc. should be sufficient control. Generally testing for legionella is not recommended. If legionella contractor believes that there may be a risk of inhaling water droplets from flushing toilets or running taps then I would suggest that legionella is not the most significant risk (bearing in mind what is flushed down the loos/washed from hands etc). Sounds like the legionella contractor is over egging the risk.

**Q.** Gen question, when will the paper version of the Managing... publication be available?

New edition of Managing Visitor Safety in the Countryside can be purchased here: <https://www.ypdbooks.com/misc/2089-managing-visitor-safety-in-the-countryside-principles-and-practice-YPD02361.html> There is a PDF version free for members. Email e.rogers@outdoorrecreationni.com for a copy.

**C.** We are seeing a surge of impacts from Wild camping and irresponsible behaviour. Leave No Trace Ireland collaborated with the "Outdoors for everyone" campaign. We are now close to launching our first Government of Ireland Inter-agency public awareness campaign with all core members.