



1. Introduction

The Lymm Photographic Society (LPS) prides itself on being a responsible and ethical amateur community group. As such, it encourages its members to act in accordance with these Guidelines when undertaking their photographic activities or when representing the Society.

We have an obligation, both as a collective and as individual photographers, to manage ourselves in many situations such as when photographing people, nature/wildlife, landscapes and undertaking street photography and photojournalism, as well as when meeting as a group to share our enthusiasm for our hobby.

Please act respectfully and responsibly at all times. Society members alone are responsible for their own actions and these are not the responsibility of the Society.

2. Scope

These guidelines are intended for the reference of LPS members. Any legal points mentioned are specific to UK law only. Whilst LPS relies on its members' good judgement when it comes to their involvement in the Society's activities, this best practice guide is presented to provide an opportunity for members to have a reference point for responsible behaviour in their photographic endeavours when acting in the context of the Society. What it sets out is mostly common sense.

There is an expectation that the spirit of these Guidelines will extend to guests, speakers and others involved in LPS's activities and the Society looks to its members to support this.

3. Out and about

3.1 At all times remember that the welfare of the subject, be it geological or biological, is more important than the photograph. Respect the rights of other photographers and non-photographers to enjoy a scene as well. Just because you can take a photograph, doesn't necessarily mean that you should.

3.2 Please respect the environment and private/public property; do not take any actions which conflict with the protection of nature and wildlife subjects and do not cause them distress or harm – consider if your proximity to wildlife is appropriate. Familiarise yourself with the subject and any associated restrictions (e.g. threatened species or site of special scientist interest). At all times remain aware of the fragility of the ecosystem - do not damage, tamper with or remove any plant, life form or natural object in such a way that could lead to temporary or permanent defacement or destruction. It is preferred that live baited wildlife photographs are not shown at the Society. ¹



3.3 Whilst members of the public do not need a permit to photograph in public places and the police have no power to stop them, police officers do have the power to stop and search and view photographs taken by anyone who they reasonably suspect to be a terrorist under Section 43 of the Terrorism Act. Do not publish anything where the information contained could be regarded as being designed to provide practical assistance to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism (Terrorism Act 2000); this could include taking photos of police officers, intelligence services, and members of HM Forces or certain incidents. Use sound judgement and do not put yourself into difficult situations.

3.4 Even though UK laws regarding public photography are reasonably relaxed e.g. if you are on public property, you can take photos of anything or anyone of any age without their consent, **within reason** of course (e.g. the photograph isn't indecent, and you aren't harassing the person you're trying to photograph), please note that laws abroad may be more stringent.

4. Children, young people and vulnerable adults

4.1 At all times the Society aims to create a safe environment in which children, young people and vulnerable adults are listened to and everyone is encouraged to participate within the environment of Society meetings and activities; members are requested to support this endeavour.

4.2 It is generally best to get the permission of the parent/legal guardian to photograph people in this group. Be prepared for the possible reaction of parents, guardians, their friends and indeed the young subjects themselves if taking a photograph without permission. Also be prepared to share or delete any photos taken if requested. In some cases, you may be required to complete a permission form.

4.3 There are situations where you may choose not to seek permission, for example, taking a candid shot in a street scene or a photograph of older children who are clearly happy to have their photograph taken. Also some institutions and clubs allow photography because parents have already signed agreements for their children to be photographed and their photos used in that context. In such circumstances specific permission is not usually required however it is usually a good idea to double check.

4.4 Whilst there is no law against photographing children, knowing that this area can be a "minefield", members are advised to exercise caution when photographing young subjects. Ensure your photography is legal and decent.

4.5 Consider carefully how you use photographs of people in this group and that you have permission, where this is legally or in your judgement required, for their sharing on the internet/social media or other publication. This includes their inclusion in photo galleries on the Society web-site, where the Society takes it on good faith that the photographer has obtained any necessary permissions or that the photographer will otherwise request the



Society's web-master not to publish. Do not assume that people of a certain generation are happy to have their photos published on, say, social media, the internet or other publications by you as the photographer just because the child or their parents may partake in such activity themselves. Actual and perceived consent are not the same thing.

5. Health & Safety

H&S is everyone's responsibility; always follow safety instructions; outside look after your own safety and promote safe conduct to others – act sensibly in all locations. When photographing animals keep in mind that they can be unpredictable and maintain awareness of any possible imminent risks/hazards in the environment around you, including the weather.

6. Data Protection

Please refer to the Society's Data Protection Privacy Notice

(http://www.lymmphotosoc.org.uk/Data_Protection.html) and see also section 7.6

Whilst photographing in public places and exhibiting photographs are permitted under UK data protection legislation², please be sensitive to directly expressed objections from individuals to be photographed, including in a public place. Be mindful of situations where a person may have an expectation of privacy even in a public place. It is often sensible to avoid taking photographs of identifiable people on private property from a public place.

7. Ethics

7.1 Be mindful of the fact that any photograph/image is secondary to respect for the subject matter.

7.2 Please note that it is unacceptable to the Society for anyone to discriminate on the grounds of age, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, creed, religion or political affiliation.

7.3 Please behave ethically at all times e.g. do not take intrusive photographs (such as of private moments such as funerals without permission) or mis-attribute or mis-caption your images to be misleading (for example by claiming that a photograph taken in a zoo was taken in the wild).

7.4 Photographs of individuals should illustrate the dignity of persons and have been taken and presented with regards to their privacy, reputation and personal integrity. In some situations, members may have to apply some judgement as to getting the balance right between, for example, the dignity of an individual and elements of humour.



7.5 Permission to photograph : even though there is no legal requirement to obtain a subject's permission or use a model release form where the person is the subject of the image, members are encouraged to consider asking for consent to take a person's photograph where they are the main subject, especially for what could be considered a portrait shot.

In some circumstances (such as in street or events photography) a judgement call about asking for permission prior to taking a shot may be required when doing so may destroy the moment the photographer is capturing, where a particular moment, which has caught their attention, could be lost or where it is not necessarily about the person who has been photographed, but the scene involving that person. You may also not wish to obtain prior-permission if this would impact capturing a person acting naturally. If permission hasn't been sought prior to a photograph being taken, this doesn't preclude asking permission afterwards, especially in instances of street portraits - always apply sensible judgement.

If someone objects to their photograph being taken, it can be best not to take it. Whilst no one (not even the police) has the legal right to ask you to delete an image, sometimes it can be better and easier just to concede and delete an image if asked.

See also the guidance in the section "Children, young people and vulnerable adults"

7.6 Permission to publish : where a person is the main subject of an image, members are advised, whenever possible, to request their permission for the publication of such images on social media/the internet/other media or for use outside the context of amateur photographic activity.

The use of photographs (including of people) for the purpose of Society publicity and archive (including on the Society web-site) is covered under the Society's Privacy Notice. Members are requested however to continue the established custom and practice of making it known if they do not want an image of themselves, or that they have taken, used by the Society. It is also the Society's practice to, wherever possible, advise if a photograph to be taken is intended to be used for publicity/archive should they wish to remove themselves from the frame.

See also the guidance in the section "Children, young people and vulnerable adults"

7.7 When submitting an image for use at or by the Society (especially for use during meetings), please be mindful of our community-based audience and consider its sensibilities; only use images with which you feel our members will be comfortable. This is particularly true of photographic subjects showing nudity (semi or full), violence or its aftermath, accidents and injuries and other photographs that the audience may find disturbing or unacceptable. If you are unsure about the suitability of an image you are encouraged to show it to a member of the Society's Committee beforehand. The Committee reserves the right to ask for a photograph that is shown which could be considered unacceptable or in poor taste to be taken down.



8. Copyright

Do not claim sole ownership or creative endeavour when using or significantly incorporating another's work into your photographs without making the other's contribution clear; images of art works must make the context clear. Avoid plagiarism.

A member may not locally record any Society video call; any such recordings are made only officially by the Society's officers and with the express consent of any speaker (who retains copyright of their own material).

Note – as a default the Society adds members' project and competition photographs to its web gallery but the photographer retains the copyright and must advise the webmaster should there be a particular photograph that they would prefer not to be included in the web gallery (xref 7.6). Copyright notices in the Society's material (including the website) relate to the text, layout etc and does not extend to the Society claiming copyright of members' images.

9. Lawfulness

Please adhere to all laws and regulations applicable to the jurisdiction where you are photographing and comply with regulations, signs or notices presented by relevant authorities. Obtain any permits or permissions necessary. Do not do anything that will bring the reputation of the Society into question or disrepute, including making libellous or defamatory posts on social media associated directly or indirectly with the Society.

10. Integrity

Last but by no means least, we ask that all members.....

- consider how we behave when using and presenting photographic content;
- respect the feelings and beliefs of others;
- be kind, respectful, courteous, fair, open-minded and supportive to fellow members, guests and others with whom you interact (verbally, in writing or in any other way) and act sensitively
- consider how any verbal or written communication may be interpreted by the recipient
- do not bully or harass in any form, as this is not tolerated
- respect and support the empowerment of those who have volunteered to support the running of the Society for everyone's benefit
- help the Society to perform all of its activities in a pleasant, harmonious and relaxed environment in which everybody can be themselves and can aim to realise their photography goals.



Lymm Photographic Society – Guidelines for Best Practice

The above are essential for ensuring for the sound running of our Society and making it a fun, safe and respectful organisation to belong to.

Endnotes

¹ *The Royal Photographic Society's Nature Photographers' Code of Practice contains further useful information*

² *The taking, processing and storing of images are excluded from data protection by the personal and domestic exemption; the exhibiting (publishing) of images is covered by the rights of artistic purpose and freedom of expression – see PAGB document "Data Protection – Images of People"*

The Lymm Photographic Society (LPS) is affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) through the Lancashire & Cheshire Photographic Union (L&CPU). In its guidance for clubs, the PAGB suggests that club consider having a code of conduct. This guidance document represents LPS's Code of Conduct.

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