

A guide to PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Responsibilities for Rights of Way

<p>DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL Public Rights of Way Team</p>	<p>LANDOWNER OR OCCUPIER</p>	<p>LANDOWNER OR OCCUPIER</p>
<p>Preparing and keeping up-to-date, a Definitive Map and Statement of the Rights of Way in the area.</p> <p>Providing a signpost wherever a Right of Way leaves a metalled road, or near to it.</p> <p>Maintaining bridges over natural watercourses.</p> <p>Securing the removal of obstructions.</p> <p>Ensuring that there are no intimidating notices that deter the public from using paths shown on the definitive map.</p> <p>Asserting and protecting the public's right to enjoy Rights of Way.</p> <p>Maintaining and controlling natural vegetation on the surface of footpaths and bridleways.</p> <p>Waymarking, where appropriate and with the landowners consent, Rights of Way – the route of the path should be made reasonably obvious.</p> <p>Ensuring that the path on the land is the same as the path shown on the definitive map.</p>	<p>Cutting back vegetation encroaching from the side or above to maintain the minimum dimensions.</p> <p>Providing and maintaining in good order, stiles and gates on Rights of Way.</p> <p>Keeping Rights of Way free from obstructions such as barbed wire, locked gates or machinery.</p> <p>Providing bridges where new drainage ditches are made or existing ones widened (bridges must be to the highway authority specification.)</p> <p>Ensuring that field-edge Rights of Way are not ploughed or disturbed.</p> <p>Ensuring that cross-field footpaths and bridleways are reinstated within two weeks of first being ploughed or disturbed for that crop, or within 24 hours of any subsequent disturbance. (Rights of Way Act 1990)</p> <p>Ensuring that any paths over cultivated land remains apparent on the ground at all times and is not impeded by growing crops (other than grass). (Rights of Way Act 1990)</p> <p>Ensuring that bulls are not kept in a field crossed by a path unless they are less than 11 months old or are of a beef breed and accompanied by cows or heifers.</p>	<p>That a Right of Way is not diverted or moved until a diversion order has been applied for from the Highway Authority and granted.</p> <p>That no new boundary is installed across a Right of Way unless it is for agricultural purposes and the Highway Authority has authorised a gate.</p> <p>PARISH COUNCIL</p> <p>May undertake the maintenance of any public footpath or bridleway in the parish. Maintenance means, in effect, the cutting back of surface vegetation and repair of surfaces.</p> <p>If a Right of Way is obstructed, the Parish Council can require the highway authority to assert and protect the public's right to use the way concerned and to keep it free from obstruction.</p> <p>Be consulted on proposals to modify, reclassify, close and divert Rights of Way.</p> <p>Carry out waymarking once the landowners permission has been gained.</p> <p>Insist that the Highway Authority sign any footpaths, bridleways, roads used as public paths and byways open to all traffic where they leave a metalled road.</p> <p>Create new footpaths and bridleways, by agreement with the landowner.</p> <p>Have a kissing gate installed in place of a stile, at the parish council's expense, once the landowners consent has been given.</p>
<p>PROBLEMS AND OBSTRUCTIONS</p> <p>Any problems that you have should be directed to the Public Rights of Way Team, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 1XJ</p> <p>Telephone 01305 224463</p>	<p>Continued</p>	