

# Rights of Way Responsibilities

## Responsibilities of the Borough Council

The Borough Council is responsible for:

- Signposting where rights of way leave a metalled road and way marking where appropriate.
- Maintaining the surface of rights of way and controlling the natural vegetation on the surface.
- Maintaining bridges over natural watercourses.
- Provide a minimum of 25% contribution towards any costs incurred by a landowner in maintaining approved stiles and bridle gates on public rights of way.
- Ensuring that the public paths are free from obstruction and reasonably convenient to use.
- Updating and continuously reviewing the public rights of way on the Definitive Map.

## Responsibilities of Landowners and Farmers

- Keeping rights of way clear of any obstructions.
- Cutting back vegetation encroaching from the sides so that it does not inconvenience the public or prevent the line of the right of way being apparent on the ground.
- Keeping paths clear of crops (other than hay and silage) to ensure that they do not inconvenience users and remain apparent on the ground.
- Ensuring that stiles and gates on rights of way are maintained in good order.
- Providing adequate bridges where, with the permission of the highway authority, new ditches are made or existing ones widened.
- Ensuring that field edge footpaths and bridleways and all byways are never cultivated.
- Ensuring that where the cultivation of a cross field footpath or bridleway cannot be conveniently avoided, that its surface is reinstated to at least the minimum width within 14 days of first being cultivated.
- Ensuring that bulls are not kept in a field crossed by a path unless they do not exceed 10 months of age or are both not of a recognised dairy breed and are accompanied by cows or heifers. Breeds of bull, which must not be kept in fields with a public right of way, are British Friesian, British Holstein, Ayrshire, Dairy Shorthorn, Guernsey, Jersey and Kerry.
- Ensuring that any warning notices are displayed **only** when a bull is present in a field.
- Never keeping an animal known to be aggressive in a field to which the public has any access.
- Ensuring that no misleading signs are placed near rights of way that might discourage access.