

## Your questions answered

### ? What is Environmental Stewardship?

A The Environmental Stewardship replaces what was Countryside Stewardship. Farmers can obtain payments for doing environmental protection and improvements on their land. Natural England administers the scheme.

### ? What is cross compliance?

A 'Cross compliance' means that failure to keep up with good agricultural and environmental conditions might affect your stewardship payments. This leaflet is here to help with responsibilities towards rights of way.

### ? Can I keep a bull in a field with a right of way?

A If it is less than ten months old – yes. If it is a recognised dairy breed – no - even if it is with cows or heifers. Contact us for advice on what to write on any sign you would like to put up, or consult your insurance company.

### ? Can I plough a cross-field path?

A You can plough cross-field footpaths and bridleways where they can't be reasonably avoided. But cross-field byways should not be ploughed.

### ? Can I plough a field-edge path?

A No. You should make sure you leave the right width at the edge. Sometimes cutting back the hedge helps make the best use of space.

### ? Crops have started to grow on the path crossing my land, what should I do?

A You should keep the minimum width clear from any crops and make sure the route is clearly marked. This will also help stop people wandering away from the route and on to other land.



## For further information contact:

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You can get a copy of this document in different formats such as large print, braille, audio, or in a different language by calling 01229 894401.



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# Public rights of way and farming: a landowner's guide to good practice



## Cross compliance

This leaflet is here to help you understand some of the questions you may have about rights of way. If you are part of the Environmental Stewardship scheme, it is particularly important that the rights of way across your land are in good condition. "Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions" (GAEC) are part of being eligible for payments. Number 8 deals with rights of way - you should:

- maintain any stiles and gates on rights of way
- keep the route free from obstructions
- look after the line and surface of a right of way after ploughing or cropping

## Gates and stiles

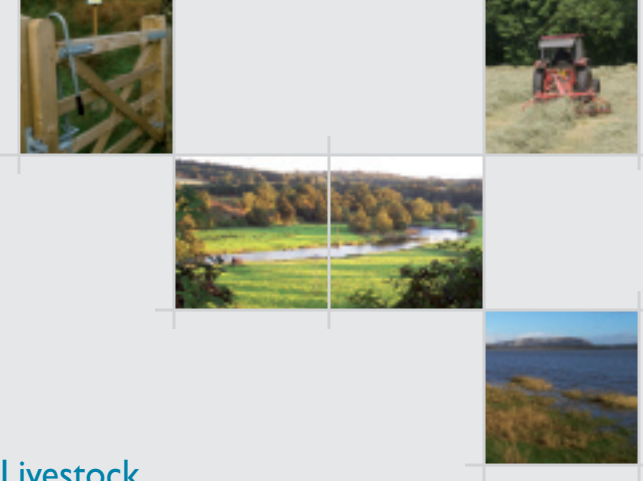
Gates and stiles are actually the landowner's responsibility to look after. We can help with the cost of repairs. We have a separate leaflet about this topic.

## Bulls

The only bulls you can keep in a field crossed by a right of way are:

- bulls less than ten months old
- bulls not of a recognised dairy breed, even with cows and heifers

Dairy breeds are Ayrshire, Friesian, Holstein, Dairy Shorthorn, Guernsey, Jersey and Kerry. The Health and Safety Executive recommend putting up a sign at the entrance points to the field. You should remove or cover the sign when there is no bull in the field. The sign shouldn't suggest that the bull is aggressive, threatening or dangerous.



## Livestock

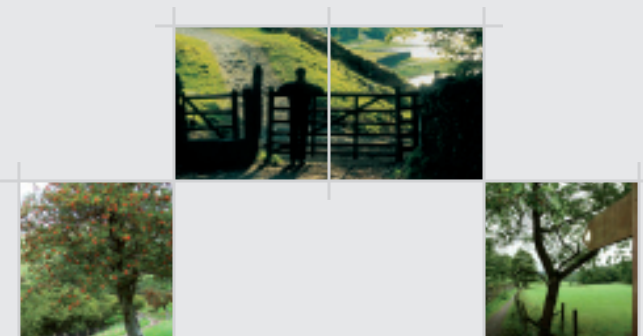
Landowners who keep livestock in fields crossed by public rights of way can be liable to civil and/or criminal proceedings\* if members of the public are injured by their livestock.

## Minimum widths for rights of way

Unless a specific width is recorded in the Definitive Statement, the minimum widths are:

	Footpath	Bridleway	Byway
Cross-field route	1m	2m	3m
Field-edge route	1.5m	3m	3m

*Some routes have specific widths recorded on the Definitive Statement*



## Crops and ploughing: did you know ...?

To comply with the Highways Act (1980) and Rights of Way Act (1990) you should:

### Before ploughing

- Make sure your tractor driver knows where the routes are on your land and how to deal with them.
- Remember not to plough field-edge routes – and to avoid ploughing cross-field paths if you can reasonably do so.

### After ploughing

- Within 14 days of ploughing the route should again have a firm, level surface and be clear on the ground.
- It is good practice to re-establish the route using wheel markings. This also saves time returning to the field later.

### After further cultivation

- If further cultivation is necessary in the same growing-season, the route's surface and direction should be reinstated within 24 hours.

### Once the crop is growing

- As the crop grows the route should stay clear on the ground.
- You should remove the crop from the route before it reaches 6 inches / 15cm high.
- During the rest of the season you should make sure the route stays clear, including crops falling down from the sides.

### \*Landowners should be aware of:

- Occupier's Liability Act 1954 and 1984
- Animal Act 1971
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Health and safety at Work Act 1974