

Ploughing & Crops on Public Rights of Way

Advice for Farmers & Landowners

Ensuring during any cultivation that public footpaths, bridleways and byways are kept open

- is good agricultural practice and a legal requirement
- it also helps people stay on paths rather than wandering and damaging crops.

Before ploughing - Check

- Make sure tractor drivers or contractors know where the public paths are - and how to deal with them.

After first ploughing - Reinststate

- Within 14 days after cultivation starts, paths must be restored to have a firm level surface, and be clearly visible on the ground.
- Marking paths using two or more passes of tractor wheels or rolling are both acceptable.



After further cultivation - Reinststate

- Within 24 hours, restore and remark any paths which have already been previously disturbed during that growing season.

Field edge paths - Avoid

- Ensure field-edge paths, and all byways and unsurfaced 'field roads' are not disturbed at any time.
- Keep hedges and overhanging trees cut back so the full width of the path is clear and available.



With growing crops - Clear paths

- At all times ensure the legal routes of paths are visible and passable, to the widths stated here:

Location of Paths	Footpaths	Bridleways	Byways & 'Field roads'
Cross-field	1m - 1.8m	2m - 3m	3m - 5m
Field-edge	1.5m - 1.8m	3m	3m - 5m

As specified in Schedule 12A of the Highways Act 1980. This applies to all crops except grass.

- These widths apply unless a specific width is recorded on the official Definitive Statement of Rights of Way.
- Clear extra width for tall crops, such as oilseed rape, that will fall-in from the sides and block paths.
- Clearing using cutting or spraying is acceptable.



For further information - Just ask

To check on the exact location of public footpaths or for more advice contact North Tyneside Council via graeme.clark@northtyneside.gov.uk or (0191) 643 6086.