

in partnership with



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Title,
First
Second
Town
County
Postcode

Your ref:

My ref: C&C Spring2019

Date: 15th March 2019

Dear

Public Paths on arable land – Reminder to keep them clear

We are again working with the NFU, farmers and landowners throughout the County to ensure paths are kept free from obstruction by crops. As usual, we are writing to all farmers with arable land crossed by public rights of way. This is a reminder for you to remove any crops from paths over your land. If you are one of the many farmers who are fully aware of your obligations and comply with the legislation, thank you for your co-operation.

We will be carrying out an inspection of arable, cross field and headland paths in the County, starting in April. If we find a:

- **cross field path** obstructed by crops we will contact you and ask that the path be cleared in a set period.
- **field edge path** that is not the correct width we will ask you to remove the crop now, and for the path to be ploughed out in the autumn, reinstated and levelled to its full width.

If you do not carry out the work, we may serve notice on you, carry out the work ourselves and recover the costs. If this is required, our policy is to share this information with the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) as it relates to cross compliance, to ensure that land managers meet the requirement of Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition Standards (GAEC 7b). **Please be aware that although the above is our policy, the RPA require a higher standard and if any crop (other than grass) is present on the full width of a cross field right of way then a cross compliance penalty could be applied.**

Over the page are guidance notes, with widths to help you and some pictures of good practice we have found in the County. If you feel that the installation of additional waymark posts to mark the path(s) over your land would be of benefit to you and the public, please contact me to discuss.

If you are growing oil seed rape, maize or similar tall stemmed crops, we would ask that you reinstate to the maximum widths of 1.8 metres for footpaths and 3 metres for bridleways before the crop reaches 4-6 inches. You may wish to clear wider if OSR is sown, so as to prevent lodging later on that obstructs the path again.

Please feel free to contact me with any rights of way queries you have. Many thanks

Yours sincerely

Officer
Area Rights of Way Officer
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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL GUIDANCE NOTE FOR FARMERS

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY - CROPS ON PATHS

CROSS-FIELD PATHS - crops *should be removed when over 4-6 inches tall*

- Remember that the line and width must be clearly visible *even when a crop is emerging*.
- Clear crops to at least the minimum width by an appropriate means, such as cutting.
- Paths through crops that lodge, such as oil seed rape, beans or maize, are recommended to be cleared to the **maximum** width to allow for adequate clearance as the crops lean over
- Minimum widths to be reinstated; Footpaths - 1 metre; Bridleways - 2 metres.
- Maximum widths: Footpaths - 1.8 metres; Bridleways - 3 metres.
- If you have a cover crop, it will need to be cleared and then again when the main crop comes through



An example of a cut/mown path



An example of a sprayed path

FIELD EDGE (HEADLAND) PATHS - must not have crops on them and should not be ploughed

- Minimum widths to be left uncultivated:
Footpaths - 1.5 m; Bridleways - 3 m.
(unless another width is legally recorded)
- Surface should be level



Two examples of field edge paths