

What you Need to Know

PLEASE REMEMBER: UNMARKED PATHS WILL CAUSE FRUSTRATION AND MAY LEAD TO UNINTENTIONAL TRESPASS AND CROP DAMAGE.

- Reinstatement after the first ploughing of the new crop cycle within 14 days.
- After subsequent cultivation reinstatement must be carried out within 24 hours.

Overhanging Crops

It is your responsibility to ensure that crops are not allowed to overhang the widths below or cause inconvenience to users or obscure the route of the path. For example, pay particular attention to rape and maize: a 3m (or wider) strip may need to be cleared so that if the crop falls inwards, the path will not become obstructed.



At Ploughing and Sowing Time

Crossfield Paths

If you can conveniently avoid ploughing or disturbing the surface of footpaths and bridleways, you must do so. If you cannot avoid ploughing a crossfield footpath or bridleway, they must be reinstated – this does not take long, if done immediately after ploughing and before leaving the field – after cultivation and drilling too. Field edge paths must not be ploughed.



How to Mark

Using tractor tramlines is the easiest method – and, if repeated when you are on the field, will last until the crop gets away.

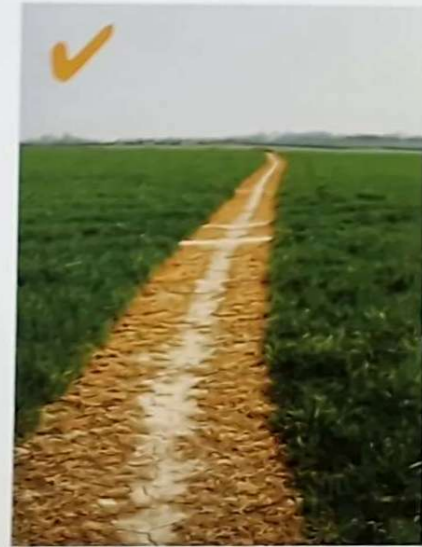
If this is not possible, then you can use canes or stakes at sufficient intervals, so that the path's route is obvious to users.

The path must be left reasonably level and easy to use. Please note that field edge paths must not be ploughed.

During the Growing Season

How to Maintain the Path

Remove the crop to keep the line of the path visible before it reaches six inches (150mm) high. Some crops will require removal during the season. Rape and beans etc, may need to be cleared to a wider width to allow for overhanging which could obstruct the minimum width.



Field-edge/Headland Paths

Field-edge/headland paths should be kept clear throughout the growing season.

Any side growth, overhanging hedges or trees which obstruct paths must be kept clear to allow unhindered passage along level ground to at least the required minimum width.

Please note that minimum widths must always be retained throughout the growing period.



TYPE	LOCATION	MIN WIDTH	CULTIVATION LIMITATIONS	ACTION
Public footpath	Cross-field	1 metre	Can be ploughed if it is not possible to avoid doing so AND crops must never obstruct the line by growing from the surface or reduce the width by encroaching from the side.	If ploughed, line and minimum width must be clearly reinstated within 14 days of first disturbance, and within 24 hours for all subsequent disturbances. Paint-tipped canes may help with this. The surface must be made walkable, i.e. compact and firm.
Public footpath	Field-edge	1.5 metres	Must never be ploughed.	N/A
Public bridleway	Cross-field	2 metres	Can be ploughed if it is not possible to avoid doing so AND crops must never obstruct the line by growing from the surface or reduce the width by encroaching from the side.	If ploughed, line and minimum width must be clearly reinstated within 14 days of first disturbance, 24 hours for all subsequent disturbances. Paint-tipped canes may help with this. The surface must be made walkable, i.e. compact and firm.
Public bridleway	Field-edge	3 metres	Must never be ploughed.	N/A



Countryside Service

PLOUGHING

CROPS & PATHS

A practical guide
for **landowners** and
tenants

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Hampshire
County Council