

## **A Summary of the Provisions of the Rights of Way Act 1990**

Landowners and Farmers are required to:

- Keep Rights of Way clear of obstructions and overhanging vegetation
- Maintain stiles and gates to County Council Specifications.
- Not place additional obstructions across PROW without Norfolk County Council (NCC) permission.
- Restore the surface of any Crossfield path which has been disturbed by ploughing to the minimum width so that it is reasonably convenient to use within 14 days (or 24 hours of subsequent disturbances). Seek approval from Norfolk County Council if the path will not be restored within 14 days, extension not to exceed 21 days.
- Not plough or disturb the surface of Crossfield paths where it can conveniently be avoided.
- Not plough a path which constitutes a headland.
- The minimum width of a Crossfield path is 1 metre and of a field edge path is 1.5 metres. Bridleways are twice this width requirement.
- Not allow any prohibited bull in a field through which a Public Right of Way passes. It is an offence to allow a bull over 10 months old on its own to be at large in a field crossed by a Public Right of Way. Bulls over 10 months old must be accompanied by cows and heifers. It is also an offence to keep a bull of a recognized dairy breed even if accompanied by cows / heifers. If any animal is known to be dangerous by the keeper of the animal causes injury to a member of the public using a Public Right of Way, an offence may be committed and the occupier could be sued by the injured party.
- Not erect misleading signs which are likely to deter the use of Public Right of Way.
- Not allow barbed or electrified wire through stiles or adjacent to Public Rights of Way which could injure people keeping to correct routes.
- Ensure Electrified fencing is insulated properly.
- Ensure crops other than grass are not grown on, or overhang a right of way at any time, so as to obstruct or otherwise inconvenience the public or prevent the line of the right of way from being apparent on the ground.
- Not remove or alter the direction of rights of way signs or waymarks.

If the landowner fails to comply with the intent of the Rights of Way Act he may be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1000). Proceedings can only be brought by the highways authority of the local council.