

Finding Your Way

a guide to using public paths in Nottinghamshire



What are rights of way?

Rights of way are public paths. They criss-cross the UK, from town centres to remote countryside, giving people the opportunity to get out for a walk, bike or horse ride. Rights of way can be wide tracks or narrow trails, often crossing private land. On a right of way you have a 'right of passage' which means you have a lawful right to pass, but you should always keep to the marked route.

Rights of way are divided into four types, and you can use different paths for different activities. They are signposted from the roadside, with markers along the route.

The different types of path and how to spot them:

Activity Look out for

Ż Footpaths - marked with yellow



为为病

Bridleways - marked with blue









Byways - marked with red



When you're out you might also see waymarks for a particular circular walk or long distance route eg Trent Valley Way





On a right of way you can:

- Take a pram, pushchair or wheelchair, although sometimes this will be difficult because the surface is uneven or muddy.
- Take a dog on a lead or under close control.
- Take a short route around an illegal obstruction or move it to get past. Illegal obstructions block the path and can include fences, rubble and crops.

Surfaces

Paths come in all shapes and sizes, and may be uneven or muddy in bad weather. Always wear the right footwear and clothing for the conditions.



Fences, gates and stiles

On countryside rights of way you will find gates and stiles, which are used for livestock control. Gates and stiles must be in good condition, gates must be easy to open and they should not be locked. If you can't pass a stile or get through a gate on a right of way because it's broken, locked or blocked please let us know.

Ploughing and cropping

Many rights of way go across or around fields that contain crops or have been ploughed. Field edge paths must not be ploughed or have crops on, and 'crossfield' paths should be restored after ploughing and not blocked by crops. Sometimes this isn't always done, so if you find a path that's ploughed or covered in crops please let us know. You still have a right to use the path.

If you find any problems with a Nottinghamshire right of way please contact us, details can be found on the back page.

Open Access

Open access land

Areas of Open Access are special places where you can wander away from the path, explore, have picnics or play games. This special land is for walkers only – but you can cycle or ride across it if you're following a bridleway. For more information on open access in Nottinghamshire, including where to find it, see www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/openaccessland

Walking the dog

You can walk your dog on rights of way and open access land, but make sure it's under close control or on a lead. There are some times when you should always put your dog on a lead:

- Crossing fields which contain livestock farmers have the right to shoot a dog that they think is attacking or chasing their animals.
- Crossing open access land between 1st March & 31st July the law says to
 put your dog on a lead on open access land during spring because of ground
 nesting birds (other local restrictions may also exist).

Many footpaths have stiles along the route. If your dog struggles with stiles, stick to bridleways and byways or take a look at the Access for all section towards the back of this leaflet for walks without stiles. Please remember to clean up after your dog.



Using maps

You should always take a map with you when you're walking, cycling or riding in the countryside. Large scale maps can help you follow a route and not get lost, and by joining up several paths you can make a circuit so you don't have to walk the same path there and back.

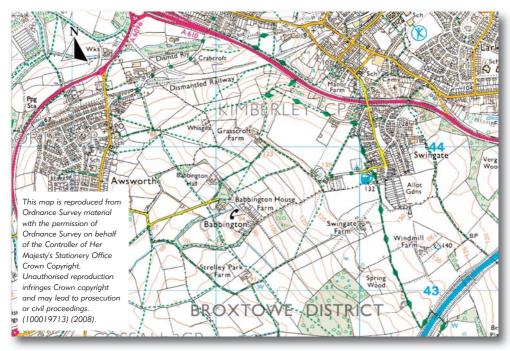
The most widely used maps are Ordnance Survey. Their *Explorer* maps show rights of way as well as small details like fields which can be useful for navigating.

This is how rights of way look on Explorer maps:

Many different maps are available from bookshops, and most libraries keep a good selection. You can buy Ordnance Survey maps in shops and on their website www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk. *Explorer* maps



260, 270, 271 and 279 cover most of Nottinghamshire. Below is an example of what an Ordnance Survey *Explorer* map looks like. It shows the area south of Kimberley and all of the paths are marked in green. Overleaf we've marked a short walk for you to try.



Following a route

Below is an example of what an Ordnance Survey *Explorer* map looks like. It shows the area south of Kimberley and all of the paths are marked in green. We have joined up some of the paths and highlighted them in red to make a walk around the area for you to try out.

The route is $2 \frac{1}{2}$ miles long and should take about 1 hour to complete. There are two stiles and a moderate hill.

Starting point:

White Lion Pub, Corner of Knowle Lane, Swingate, Kimberley

This route is only available to walkers as it uses **footpaths**, if you are cycling or horse-riding you cannot follow the walk. You may use bridleways, byways and quiet roads to create circular routes instead.

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. (100019713) (2008).



Directions for your walk

- From the starting point on the corner of Knowle Lane by the White Lion pub walk along Swingate and take the first right into Babbington Lane, passing the Queen Adelaide pub on your left. Follow the road with the large water tower on your right and continue along the road which becomes a downhill, rough track bending around to the right. Continue along the track and after a short while you arrive at a junction near Grasscroft Farm.
- Our route is the left-hand downhill stone road, signed 'Bridle road to Cossall'. Continue downhill, with Babbington Hall on your right, until you reach the tarmaced road at the bottom. Continue in the same direction along the tarmaced road, passing some farm buildings on your left. Follow this road, Westby Lane, until you reach a junction of bridleways.
- Take the first left, following a rough track. After 100 meters keep left on the track ignoring the footpath straight ahead. Keep on this hedged bridleway, gently uphill, until you meet a junction at Strelley Park Farm.
- Go straight ahead following the public footpath on the farm track. Follow this track, ignoring the first stiles on either side of the track. After about 300 meters, you reach a stile on your left. Go over this stile and take the path uphill, diagonally left across the field to another stile in the hedgerow. Continue on the path, over the brow of the hill, towards the houses in the left-hand top corner of the field.
- 5 Follow the 'sunken' footpath to your left running along the bottom of the private gardens. Exit onto the track and turn right uphill and you're now back on Babbington Lane. Follow this road back to Swingate and the start at the White Lion pub.

Keep an eye out for both yellow and blue waymarks on this route.



We have produced a series of circular routes for walkers, cyclists and horseriders. You can find out about these, as well as other walking, cycling and riding publications in Nottinghamshire on our website www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/countryside or by calling 08449 80 80 80.

Access for all – everybody welcome!

Break free packs contain routes specifically designed for people who have mobility problems or experience difficulty getting into the countryside. These routes are also great for buggies or dogs who cannot climb stiles. Please telephone 08449 80 80 80 or visit www.greenwoodforest.org.uk for more information and to download your free copy. Check out your local Tourist Information Centre or library for local guides too.

Contact the Countryside Access team

Want to check out where the rights of way are in your area? Use our online map to plan routes or report faults on the network http://maps.nottinghamshire.gov.uk You can ring the County Council for more information about walks, cycle and horse rides in Nottinghamshire or to report a problem on a right of way, or go online.



Contacting us

email countrysideaccess@nottscc.gov.uk

phone **08449 80 80 80**

post Communities Department, Countryside Access,

Trent Bridge House, West Bridgford,

Nottingham, NG2 6BJ

internet www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/countryside

published **December 2008**

This leaflet can be made available in other formats. Please call 0115 9774483 for more information.

Always follow the countryside code

Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
Leave gates and property as you find them
Protect plants and animals – take your litter home
Keep dogs under close control
Consider other people

Comms/EP/12.08/00779/D&P3454