







1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 Nottinghamshire has an extensive network of public rights of way (PROW), nearly 2700 km of footpaths, bridleways and byways. Wider countryside access is provided through Open Access, country parks and permissive routes. The opportunities for outdoor recreation and wider utility access are numerous; for example, through walking, horse riding and cycling. By the very nature of PROW, the majority of this access is in an attractive traffic free environment, providing a welcome relief from the road network.
- 1.1.2 The paths in this county are geographically spread and vary in type, status and surface. They are provided in both rural and urban settings and importantly they also link these two environments together. Different classes of PROW are available for different classes of user, with all routes available to pedestrians. The surface of a path can also indicate the type and level of use.
- 1.1.3 The PROW network offers excellent travel opportunities and complements the wider transport network. Many paths, urban and rural, provide communities with links to the transport network enabling access to essential services and facilities, public transport and recreation. They provide a viable and valuable alternative to the car for short journeys and are a particular asset in encouraging social inclusion.

1.2 Types of public right of way

Table 1 – PROW classifications and markings

Status	Used by	Waymark used
Public Footpath	Walkers (inc. push chairs, wheelchairs, mobility scooters)	
Public Bridleway	Walkers, horse riders and cyclists	
Restricted Byway *	Walkers, horse riders, cyclists and carriage drivers	
Byway Open to all Traffic	Walkers, horse riders, cyclists, carriage drivers and road legal motorised vehicles	

* A new classification of public right of way introduced by the CROW Act 2000, replacing Roads Used as Public Paths. No right of access for mechanically propelled vehicles.

