



## Common Land and Town/Village Greens

**Commons and Village Greens:** As the Registration Authority for the County, Nottinghamshire County Council holds and maintains the Common Land and Town/Village Greens Registers. There are currently 83 registered commons and 84 registered greens in Nottinghamshire. The registers hold information about the land and also contain maps showing the extent of the registered area. The registers can be inspected free of charge at County Hall by appointment.

**Common land:** In general terms Common Land is land which is owned by one person over which another person (sometimes known as a 'commoner' or 'right holder') is entitled to exercise a 'right'. Typically, rights of common involve the grazing of animals, taking wood, or cutting turf etc. In many cases these rights are no longer exercised however, this does not stop the land from being common land.

N.B. There are many of areas of land called 'commons' which do not have common land status - the name alone is not a reliable way to identify a registered common.

**Town or Village greens:** Village Greens are areas of land where local people have indulged in lawful sports and pastimes for many years. This might include organised or informal games, picnics, fetes, dog walking or other similar activities. A Village Green can be in private ownership but greens are often owned and maintained by town and parish councils. Unlike common land there is no general right of public access over town or village greens, which instead is reserved for use by local people.

The designation of 'Town' or 'Village' Green simply reflects the type of locality of the registered land.

In certain circumstances where land has been used for lawful sports and pastimes for a period of 20 years, an application can be made to formally register the land. Guidance on how to do this can be found on the GOV.UK website '*Town and village greens – how to register*'.

**Open Access Land:** The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) gave the general public the right to walk on registered common land. An online map showing Open Access Land (including temporary restrictions) can be viewed on the Natural England website: 'CRoW & Coastal Access Maps' [N.B. Access Land is also referred to in our Green Spaces page]

**Applications to correct the registers:** The Commons Act 2006 contains a number of provisions relevant to earlier commons and greens registrations. Although not all of the provisions of the 2006 Act currently apply in Nottinghamshire, it does mean that in certain circumstances the registers may be amended to deal with the following:

- (1) Applications can be made to correct a mistake found in the Common land and Town/Village Green Registers where the mistake is shown to be attributable to the Registration Authority (under Section 19(2)(a) of the Commons Act 2006). These applications are free of charge.
- (2) Where a mistake was shown to be made by a third party (e.g. a parish council), corrective applications can be made under paragraphs 6-9 of Schedule 2 of the 2006 Act to remove:
  - buildings wrongly registered as common land
  - other land wrongly registered as common land
  - buildings wrongly registered as a town or village green

- other land wrongly registered as a town or village green

Nottinghamshire County Council has set a fee of £1000 for applications made under paragraph 6-9. The application must be accompanied with evidence which shows that the property was wrongly registered. If objections are received to the application, additional fees may also be payable if the authority needs to seek external legal advice or if a hearing or public inquiry needs to be held. Applicants are advised to seek their own legal advice before applying and must use Form CA10 (Common land and greens: correcting a mistake in the register) which is available on the GOV.UK website.

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