



Agricultural Charter

This Charter promotes a cooperative relationship between farmers, landowners, Nottinghamshire County Council and the Rights of Way users, recognising that successful access depends on respect, lawful use and practical communication.

It aims to:

- Promote lawful public access
- Support safe and efficient farming operations
- Encourage early resolution of issues
- Reduce unnecessary conflict
- Maintain positive relationships in a rural communities

This Charter is intended as a cooperative working framework for farmers, landowners and Nottinghamshire County Council. It should sit alongside statutory law and local policy guidance.

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Responsibilities of Nottinghamshire County Council

While this Charter promotes cooperation, the legal framework remains clear. Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) has a statutory duty to:

- Maintain the Definitive Map & Statement**
- Manage Rights of Way**
- Protect public rights**
- Take enforcement action where necessary**

Local authorities cannot remove or alter rights of way without due legal process.

The law provides the framework, cooperation provides the best outcomes.

Working Together

Good management of public rights of way requires farmers, landowners and Nottinghamshire County Council to work pro-actively together allowing:

- Farmers to benefit from clear advice and practical support.
- Landowners to benefit from reduced conflict and lawful route solutions.
- Local authorities to provide guidance and maintenance where responsible to promote practical solutions that support both access and farming.
- Early communication to prevent minor issues becoming disputes.

Strengthened rural relationships through shared responsibilities.

How Nottinghamshire County Council can support Farmers and Landowners

Nottinghamshire County Council aim to work in partnership with farmers and landowners to ensure that public rights of way remain safe, lawful, practical and compatible with modern farming operations.

Provide Clear Legal Advice

- Confirm the exact legal line, status and width of routes, recorded structures from the Definitive Map.
- Advise on lawful use of gates, stiles, fencing, hedging and barbed wire.
- Help resolve uncertainty before problems escalate.

Support Diversions and Safer Route Changes

- Work with farmers and landowners to explore practical lawful alternatives where farm safety, biosecurity, machinery or livestock management concerns are present, to include diversions and costs.

Contribute to Gates, Stiles, Accessibility & Surface Maintenance

- Contribute to repair or replacement where required by law.
- Support replacement of stiles with gates (where they meet the criteria) or gaps.

Help with Signage and Waymarking

- Improve official waymarking and junctions.
- Help reduce trespass and crop damage through better route clarity.

Help Manage Public Behaviour Problems

Where farmers face issues such as dog worrying and gates being left open, we can support through:

- Improved signage
- Public education
- Targeted enforcement
- Liaison with police where needed
- Practical route management



Responsibilities of *Farmers and Landowners*

Farmers and landowners play a vital role in ensuring the Rights of Way remain safe, usable and compatible with farming operations.

Keeping Rights of Way Open

- Keep routes open and unobstructed.

Livestock and Public Safety

- Review grazing arrangements if repeated issues arise.

Fencing, Gates, Barbed Wire & Electric Fencing

- Keep gates and stiles safe, accessible and in good repair.
- Ensure the safety of the public when using barbed or electric fencing.
- Use fencing that supports stock control without compromising access.
- Obtain Nottingham County Council's consent before installing new structures.

Crops & Cultivation

- Footpaths & bridleways to be reinstated within 14 days of first cultivation (minimum width of crossfield arable footpaths 1m and bridleways 2m)
- Routes to be clearly visible and reasonably convenient to use.



For further detail, Nottinghamshire County Council provides an expanding collection of informative leaflets on their website. You can access them using the link provided or by scanning the QR code.



<https://shorturl.at/NvQ7d>

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