

Worcestershire County Rights of Way Improvement Plan Parish Survey

Overview

Worcestershire County Council is responsible for around 4607km of public rights of way. These paths are both in the countryside and urban areas. They are important for enjoying and exploring, for travelling to work or school and for health and wellbeing. They are part of what makes Worcestershire a special place to live, work and enjoy.

A public right of way is a path that anyone, by law, has the right to use. There are four types:

- Footpaths for walking, mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs
- Bridleways for walking, horse riding, cycling, mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs
- Restricted byways for walking, horse riding, cycling, mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs and horse-drawn carriages
- Byways for all modes including motorised vehicles

This survey is to support the Improvement Plan only. If you want to report an issue on a public right of way please click on this link: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/report-road-or-path-issue/report-problem-public-right-way>

Please let us have your views by completing our survey. Please note that you are responding to this survey on behalf of your Parish Council. If you would like to access the resident survey you can do so here: [Resident Survey](#). If you wish to submit further information please email this to sbayne@worcestershire.gov.uk

Please **only submit one official response** for your council. **The closing date is midnight Sunday 26th October 2025.**

Confidentiality

By completing this voluntary survey you agree to your responses being collated, processed and analysed by Worcestershire County Council. The information you provide will be used only for the purpose of reviewing and informing the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

All information provided will be treated as private and confidential and held in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR). Further information on the Council's GDPR and privacy policies can be found here: [Worcestershire County Council | Full Privacy Notice](#)

Please enter the name of the town or parish council you are replying on behalf of:

Name of council

In what capacity are you representing the parish or town council?

Please tick all that apply

- Parish or town clerk
- Parish or town councillor
- Chair
- Parish Path Warden
- Other (please specify below)

*

Does your parish have a public rights of way warden?

Yes

No

Don't know

⇓ Please provide more details of the work they carry out:

Do you have volunteers who help with maintenance and improvements of the public rights of way in your area?

Yes

No

Don't know

⇓ Please provide more details of the work they carry out:

Does the Parish Council do maintenance work, such as strimming, on Public Rights of Way via the Lengthsman scheme?

Yes

No

Don't know

⇓ Please provide more details of the work they carry out:

⇓ Is the Lengthsman scheme something the Parish Council would potentially be interested in?

Yes

No

Don't know

Are issues with Public Rights of Way discussed in Parish Council meetings or raised with Parish Councillors?

Regularly

Occasionally

Never

Have you noticed a change in the use of the network in the last 5 years?

Increase in use

About the same

Decrease in use

Other change in use (please specify below)

Please provide further details about the change in use of the network

Your Views

Do any of the following issues negatively affect the experience of users of public rights of way in your parish?

Please tick all that apply

- Public rights of way are overgrown
- Unclear signage
- Condition of surface or poor drainage
- Condition of gates/stiles
- Condition of bridges
- Crops blocking the public rights of way
- Aggressive dogs
- Dog Fouling
- The paths are not accessible enough e.g. by pushchair/ wheelchair/ mobility scooter etc.
- Issues with livestock
- Misuse of public rights of way e.g. public footpath used by cycles or motorbikes
- Threatening behaviour by landowners
- Threatening behaviour by other path users
- Litter and cleanliness
- Anti-social behaviour/ Safety issues
- Other (please specify below)

*

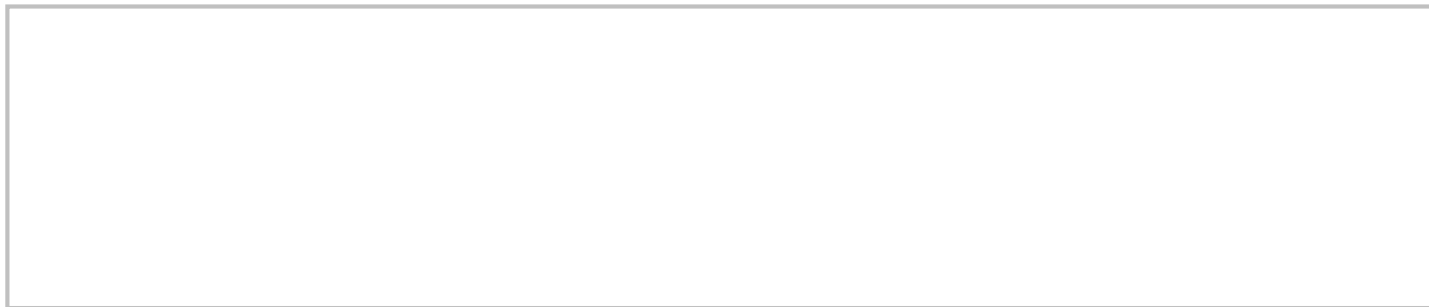
What are your top **five** priorities for improving public rights of way in the parish?
Drag the 5 most important priorities for you to the right hand side, most important first.

Improved waymarking and signage	
Clear overgrown paths	
Reinstating routes blocked by crops	
Opening up paths that have been deliberately blocked	
Ensuring that bridges and other structures etc are maintained in a safe condition	
Ensuring landowners maintain their gates and stiles	
Removing stiles or replacing them with gates to make paths more accessible	
Improving path surfaces and drainage	
Ensuring public rights of way are not negatively impacted by development	
Ensuring that the definitive map is accurate	
Facilitating changes to the definitive map to improve the network for users and landowners	
Promotion and improvement of routes within the county such as the Worcestershire Way and similar circular walks	
Providing information and advice to the public	
Other (please specify below)	

Other

Please tell us the reasons for your answers or other comments you wish to make on public rights of way in your parish.

Is there any support you feel could be offered to landowners to help to deal with misuse of the network or to positively encourage them to carry out their legal duties such as maintaining gates and stiles?



Reporting a Rights of Way problem

Have you reported a public rights of way issue to Worcestershire County Council in the past 12 months?

Yes

No

Not sure

↓ How did you report the problem?

Select all that apply

- Through Worcestershire County Council's online public rights of way report it page using the rights of way map
- By contacting the Public Rights of Way Team directly, either by email or telephone
- By contacting Worcestershire County Council's Customer Services, either by email or telephone
- By raising it with your Parish Path Warden
- Other (please specify below)

How easy or difficult do you find it to report a Rights of Way problem?

Please indicate how easy you found the reporting method(s) you have used.

	Very difficult	Difficult	Neutral	Easy	Very easy	Not used
Reporting online using rights of way map	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contacting Rights of Way Team	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contacting WCC Customer Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Raising with your Parish Path Warden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you found any methods difficult, please explain further:

Your Thoughts

What improvements, if any, do you think need to be made to the public rights of way network in your parish to accommodate future needs (for example increased population, increased/decreased use of public rights of way, major infrastructure projects)?

What, if any, positive or negative impacts have there been from new developments affecting public rights of way, in your experience?

We aim to provide a public rights of way network that serves the needs of Worcestershire residents. What do you think should be priorities for the Rights of Way Improvement Plan?

What are your positive experiences of the public rights of way network in Worcestershire?

Do you have any other comments which will help us to draft the Rights of Way Improvement Plan?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.
Please click **Submit** to record your responses.