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in partnership with



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Ms Jackie Grice
Council Office,
Grange Hall
Vicarage Lane
Nottinghamshire
NG12 2FB

Your ref:

My ref: PC C&C Spring2019

Date: 15th March 2019

Dear Ms Grice,

Public Paths on arable land

We are again working with farmers and landowners throughout the County to ensure paths are kept free from obstruction by crops. As usual, we are writing to all farmers with arable land crossed by public rights of way to remind them of their responsibilities with regard to cross field paths. Many farmers are aware of their obligations and comply with the legislation, however there are a number that do not, and we would like your help, as Parish or Town Council, to encourage compliance at an early stage.

For your information, if we find or have a report of a:

- **cross field path** obstructed by crops, we will contact the farmer and ask that the path be cleared in a set period.
- **field edge path** that is not the correct width, we contact the farmer and ask them to remove the crop now, and for the path to be ploughed out in the autumn, reinstated and levelled to its full width.

If they do not carry out the work, we may serve notice on them, carry out the work ourselves and recover the costs.

Over the page are guidance notes on widths and photos of good practice we have found in the County. We are recommending that if the farmer is growing oil seed rape, maize or similar tall stemmed crops, that they reinstate to the maximum widths of 1.8 metres for footpaths and 3 metres for bridleways before the crop reaches 4-6 inches, or wider, so as to prevent lodging later that then obstructs the path again.

Please feel free to contact me with any general rights of way queries you have, or contact directly your local rights of way officer.

Many thanks

Yours sincerely

Jane Baines
Senior Rights of Way Officer
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CC NCC County Councillors

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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL GUIDANCE NOTE FOR FARMERS

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY - CROPS ON PATHS

CROSS-FIELD PATHS - crops *should be removed when over 4-6 inches tall*

- Remember that the line and width must be clearly visible *even when a crop is emerging*.
- Clear crops to at least the minimum width by an appropriate means, such as cutting.
- Paths through crops that lodge, such as oil seed rape, beans or maize, are recommended to be cleared to the **maximum** width to allow for adequate clearance as the crops lean over or lodge.
- Minimum widths to be reinstated; Footpaths - 1 metre; Bridleways - 2 metres.
- Maximum widths: Footpaths - 1.8 metres; Bridleways - 3 metres.



An example of a cut/mown path



An example of a sprayed path

FIELD EDGE (HEADLAND) PATHS - **must not have crops on them and should not be ploughed**

- Minimum widths to be left uncultivated:
Footpaths - 1.5 m; Bridleways - 3 m.
(unless another width is legally recorded)
- Surface should be level



Two examples of field edge paths