

What Are Public Rights of Way?

A quick breakdown:

- Public Footpaths For walking, wheeling, or using pushchairs (terrain permitting).
- Public Bridleways For walkers, horse riders, and cyclists.
- Restricted Byways For walkers and non-motorised vehicles.
- Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) Accessible paths, possibly rough, that allow motor vehicles.

Find routes on Ordnance Survey maps, local council websites, or apps like OS Maps and AllTrails.

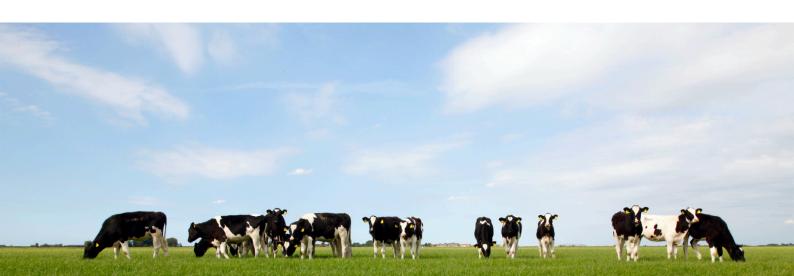
Walking through livestock and habitats

Always:

- Keep dogs on short leads, especially near sheep or cattle.
- Never feed, chase, or approach farm animals.
- Walk calmly; if animals crowd the path, give them space or take a wide detour.
- If cattle act aggressively, stay calm, avoid sudden movements, and calmly move away. If you have a dog, putting it on a lead or letting it find distance can help.

Respecting Wildlife & Habitats

- Stick to the path, especially in meadows, wetlands, or woodlands.
- Avoid noisy behavior or disturbances during nesting/breeding seasons.
- Observe wildlife from a distance with binoculars or cameras no touching, feeding, or interacting.



Leave no trace

Please:

- Take all litter home, including biodegradable materials.
- Bag and bin dog waste properly never leave it behind.
- Close gates securely; don't pick flowers or remove stones/branches.
- Respect signs like "No Entry" or "Do Not Feed the Animals."



Walk or roll responsibly

- Stay on marked paths to protect crops and habitats.
- Be polite to landowners, walkers, and locals greeting everyone helps!
- Don't block access with bikes or buggies.
- Check route suitability ahead of time not all paths are step-free or smooth.



Useful resources

Gloucestershire Public Rights of Way - Gloucestershire County Council

<u>Countryside Code</u> - Natural England (official guide to enjoying and protecting the countryside)

Public Rights of Way and Access Land - GOV.UK

The Ramblers - Walking Advice and Countryside Etiquette

Ordnance Survey - Find Footpaths and Rights of Way Maps

OS Maps App - Explore and Plan Walking Routes

