

Rights Of Way Survey

Route name/no. (e.g. Swallowcliffe 11): _____	Date of survey: _____
Prominent Surface: Grass <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel <input type="checkbox"/> Earth <input type="checkbox"/> Rock <input type="checkbox"/> Tarmac <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Rain in previous week? Y/N _____
Status: Footpath <input type="checkbox"/> Bridleway <input type="checkbox"/> Byway <input type="checkbox"/> RUPP <input type="checkbox"/> U/c Road <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicular rights <input type="checkbox"/>	Status from: Def. map <input type="checkbox"/> O/S map <input type="checkbox"/>
Map Ref (along then up - e.g. ST97252682)	Start: _____ End: _____ Length: _____

Condition: (See Notes)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Overall										
Best										
Worst										

Damaged by:	Weather	Horses	Farm veh.	Cattle etc.	Walkers	Motorbike	4x4	Pushbike
degree (0=none, 9=severe)								

	Grid Ref.	Good	Ok	Poor	Comments
Signage					
Waymarking					
Gates and Stiles					

Evidence of Fly Tipping? Y/N _____	Important through route? Y/N _____	Evidence of repairs? Y/N _____
Deliberately blocked? Y/N _____		

Photo Of Best Surface	Photo Of Worst Surface

Condition notes:

- 0 = path completely disappeared or overgrown and impassable due to vegetation
- 1 = passable with great difficulty
- 2 = passable with some difficulty
- 3 = easily passable but with a few obstructions
- 4 = easily passable, well defined track with no damage to surface at all (typically grass surface)
- 5 = good well defined track with minimal signs of wear
- 6 = good easily passable track with some evidence of wear and tear in places but substantially good
- 7 = broken surface passable with some difficulty after rain
- 8 = muddy or severely worn or rocky surface
- 9 = very muddy, almost impassable

Other Notes:

Try not to carry out survey after prolonged or heavy rain as this gives misleading results
 Things you'll need - 1:25,000 OS map, roamer (buy from www.thebasicroamer.co.uk), GPS (useful but not essential), list of rights of way with numbers (obtainable from rights of way dept at local council), parish boundary details, small camera., pen, clipboard

How to undertake a survey of the rights of way in your parish

1. Get a list of the Rights of way from your local council - ask to see the definitive map
2. Pick a suitable time to walk the routes. Do not carry out the survey if there has been any substantial rainfall (more than 0.05 inches) within the previous week as this gives misleading results.
3. Try to carry out the survey with someone else to give a second opinion, preferably someone who is not biased. (e.g. if you are a keen horserider try to take a walker, if you drive a 4x4 try to take a horserider, perhaps your local parish council will provide a volunteer)
4. Make sure you have a 1:25,000 map for the area you are surveying along with a roamer and camera
5. Take a clipboard with a sheet for each Right of Way being surveyed
6. Walk each Right of Way taking photographs of any sections which look exceptionally good or bad
7. Enter the name/number of the Right of Way - this can be obtained from the local council and should include the Parish name e.g. Swallowcliffe 11 - note that a single route can be made up of more than one Right of Way - the name/number will always change at the parish boundary
8. Enter the date
9. Describe the prominent surface - it is acceptable to tick more than one box (e.g. half the length is Tarmac and the rest is Gravel)
10. Note whether there has been any significant rain (more than 0.05 inches or 1mm) in the previous 7 days.
11. Note the recorded status of the RoW - you must tick only one box except where you believe vehicular rights exist in which case this should also be ticked. Please note that vehicular rights can exist even if the RoW is recorded on the definitive map with lesser rights, e.g. bridleway - in such cases you may wish to consider making an application to have the RoW correctly recorded on the definitive map.
12. Note whether the recorded status is taken from the definitive map (which it should be) or the Ordnance Survey map (which is not always accurate).
13. Note the map reference for the start and end of the RoW being surveyed - if you have a GPS you may wish to take the grid reference from this otherwise you should use a roamer with your 1:25,000 map. A roamer is a small plastic device (also included on the sides of some compasses) which helps determine the exact grid reference. They can be purchased for a few pounds from www.thebasicroamer.co.uk or a good camping shop - make sure you get one which is suitable for 1:25,000 maps
14. After walking the RoW complete the section on condition - note the overall or average condition on the first line followed by a score for the best and worst sections of the RoW on the next two lines.
15. Note what appears to have been the cause of any damage to the surface. Leave blank any boxes which do not apply (i.e. no damage by pushbikes). You should enter a number in the corresponding boxes where damage has occurred, it is acceptable to enter the same number in two boxes where the damage has been caused equally e.g.

Damaged by:	Weather	Horses	Farm veh.	Cattle etc.	Walkers	Motorbike	4x4	Pushbike
degree (0=none 9=severe)	8	5	5	3	1			1

would indicate that most of the damage appears to have been caused by the weather, typically frost or rain and the number 8 indicates that this damage is substantial, whilst equal amounts of damage appear to have been caused by horses and farm vehicles - the figure 5 indicates that this damage is significant and clearly visible but not the overriding problem with the RoW. There is also some evidence of cattle (but not significant) and an occasional bicycle tyre mark and boot print. There is no evidence of any use by motorcycles or 4x4 vehicles other than farm vehicles.

Farm vehicles should include any vehicle used by farmers, evidence that farm vehicles are responsible for damage can include 4x4 tracks which follow the RoW until a gate into a field. Try to be objective about the level of damage (this is where a second opinion is invaluable).

16. Consider the quality of signage - (is the RoW signposted)? - does the sign indicate the recorded type correctly? (is a bridleway signposted as a footpath?) - are the signs falling down?
17. Consider the quality of waymarking - waymarks are the small signs along a route which indicate the direction of the route.
18. Consider the condition of any gates or stiles - would the RoW be suitable for the elderly or disabled?
19. Record whether there was any fly tipping, evidence of repairs or deliberate blocking.
20. Indicate whether the RoW is an important through route or link between other main routes.
21. Complete the summary sheet to give an idea of the overall state of RoW in your parish.