



Your right to use, your responsibility to share: A guide to using Public Rights of Way on Merseyside.

www.transportmerseyside.org

What are Public Rights of Way?

Public Rights of Way offer everyone a chance to travel without using busy roads. This network of routes can help make a positive contribution to the quality of your life, improve your health and well being through exercise and recreation and help you travel in a more sustainable way through walking and cycling for short journeys to local shops, school and work.

On Merseyside there are over 458 kilometres of Public Rights of Way, these include:

Footpaths

You may use these on foot. You may also take a pram or a pushchair, wheelchair or invalid carriage if it is practical to do so. You may usually take a dog, though it should be kept under close control.

Bridleways

The same rights as public footpaths, plus a right to ride a horse or bicycle.

Byways & Restricted Byways

These are open to all traffic, including vehicles, but do not expect a smooth tarmac surface.

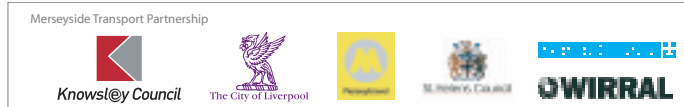
Finding your way.

You can find out where Public Rights of Way are by looking at:

- The highway authority's definitive map and statement. This is the most reliable guide to where public rights of way exist, and their status. This can be viewed by prior appointment with the Rights of Way Officer for the area.

♻️ Printed on 100% recycled paper using vegetable based dyes

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN
MERSEYSIDE



- Ordnance Survey (O.S.) explorer maps. These show most public rights of way at a scale of 1:25,000 or 1:50,000.
- Promotional maps and guides. Several of the local highway authorities publish free guides for walks and rides in the county.
- Local Authority Websites provide further information and contact details.

Waymarks and fingerposts.

At either end of a Public Right of Way, where the path leaves the road, you will find a fingerpost, showing you the direction of the path.

Along the route there may be waymarkers to assist you where a path changes direction or crosses other paths. We recommend you use a map or follow a promoted route to find your way around.

Advice for users.

The Public Rights of Way network is there for everyone to use. The following advice will help you get the best enjoyment possible and help protect the Rights of Way network both now and in the future.

1. Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs. Get the best, up to date information available about where you intend to go. Follow advice and local signs and be prepared for the unexpected.
2. Leave gates and property as you find them. Remember that the land on either side of a Public Right of Way is private property. It is important to respect this and remember that our actions can have a detrimental effect. Use gates and stiles wherever possible and avoid straying from paths. Close gates after use.
3. Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home. Paths and tracks exist in the natural environment and as a result these paths can be found in close proximity to livestock, crops, plants and animals. These are to be enjoyed but we have a responsibility to ensure that they are protected both for now and future generations. Make sure your actions don't harm animals, birds, plants or trees.

4. Keep dogs under close control. Its every owners duty to make sure their dog is not a danger or nuisance to farm animals, landowners, wildlife or other people.
5. Consider other people. Showing consideration and respect for other people will create a more pleasant environment for everyone to enjoy.

The role of the local Highway Authority.

Highway Authorities are responsible for the management and maintenance of the Public Rights of Way network. Dedicated Rights of Way Officers are employed across Merseyside, these officers:

- Maintain the legal record of Public Rights of Way.
- Maintain the network and resolve problems.
- Promote the network for everyone to use.

The role of landowners.

Landowners are responsible for:

- Maintaining stiles and gates.
- Not ploughing any field edge paths.
- Ensuring cross field paths are reinstated and marked appropriately on the ground within 14 days following ploughing and cropping.
- Cutting back overhanging vegetation that affects users of Public Rights of Way.
- Not allowing mature dairy bulls to graze in fields where Public Rights of Way exist, whilst making sure bulls of other breeds are kept with cows or heifers.
- Making arrangements with Highway Authorities for paths that will be affected by drainage or other engineering works to be temporarily closed or diverted.

- Providing suitable bridges where new ditches are dug or existing ones widened.

Landowners are allowed to shoot on their land, but not in such a way as to endanger the public.

Further Information

This leaflet has been developed as a result of the Merseyside Rights of Way Improvement Plan – a 10 year strategy for improving the Public Rights of Way network for all types of users.

For further information, please contact the relevant Public Rights of Way Officer for the area in question:

Merseyside District	Contact	Contact Tel.	Email Address
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Mr Bernard Maloney	0151 443 2289	Bernie.Maloney@knowsley.gov.uk
Liverpool City Council	Mr Mike Cassidy	0151 233 5230	Michael.Cassidy@liverpool.gov.uk
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council	Mrs Val Hough	0151 934 4206	Val.Hough@technical.sefton.gov.uk
St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council	Mr James Widdop	01744 456 652	Jameswiddop@stelens.gov.uk
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council	Mr Robin Tutchings	0151 606 2480	Robintutchings@wirral.gov.uk