

## Access to Public Rights of Way and Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Please note that the restrictions announced by the government now apply to Public Rights of Way along with the countryside access network.

As expected many individuals will want to seek solace in nature, especially when the sun is shining, the outdoors is a great place for exercise which has numerous benefits for your health and well-being, especially during this difficult time where we all face social isolation and anxiety. However, we must stress that everyone adheres to government rules, guidelines and advice for the safety of yourself and others.

We request that you adhere to the below rules:

1. Please only use your local Public Rights of Way network for lawful access which is to exercise once a day and for routes to food shops or when essential travel to and from work is required.
2. Please ensure that you keep the 2 metres (6 feet) distance between your household group and other individuals you come across.
3. Please do not arrange to meet other families or form groups larger than two when out exercising, walking or riding.
4. Please ensure that you take tissues or any other health products that you use home with you.
5. Where paths use canal towpaths and river banks please respect residents who have limited space and may be in self-isolation due to illness and other vulnerabilities. Please do consider using other routes.
6. Although at present there is no evidence of human-animal transference of Coronavirus (Covid-19), it is essential that you limit contact with other families' animals as well as farm livestock as part of social distancing.

## Inspections and works along Public Rights of Way

Due to present restrictions on movement, we are giving a priority only to matters on the public rights of way network which present a safety hazard for the public. In some cases, work will be done which is deemed to be reducing the risk of a potential hazard.

Site inspections by staff will only take place where necessary to ascertain the priority of the request. It would assist if all requests from the public were accompanied by as much information as possible.

Contractors will be used only for work we consider to fall in these categories, and only after receipt of a satisfactory COVID19 risk assessment and method statement.

Thank you, please do continue to enjoy the Public Rights of Way for exercise and essential travel while responsibly following the government guidelines.

**Wokingham Borough Council / Public Rights of Way**  
<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/>

