



## PROBLEMS CAUSED BY ILLEGAL AND IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF RIGHTS OF WAY

Some people misuse rights of way, which can cause environmental damage, disturb wildlife and annoy or cause problems for other people who use these routes responsibly. For example, motor vehicles misusing rights of way can cause surface damage, which can be difficult to maintain or repair. In addition, sometimes rights of way are linked to criminal activity or anti-social behaviour.

Kent County Council (KCC) and Kent Police take matters relating to illegal and irresponsible use of recreational vehicles in the countryside very seriously.

Traffic Regulation Orders have been introduced to prohibit the use of motor vehicles on a number of routes that suffer from misuse.

Anyone misusing public rights of way or private land will be reported to Kent Police who patrol these routes using off-road motorcycles and 4x4s. Offenders can be prosecuted and in many cases their vehicles are seized.

## REPORT A PROBLEM ON A RIGHT OF WAY

If there is a problem on a path please let us know by using our online reporting form.

[www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/public-rights-of-way](http://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/public-rights-of-way)

This includes:

- broken stiles
- overgrown vegetation or fallen trees
- damaged or dangerous path surfaces
- damaged or missing signposts

In an emergency (something which can cause an injury or accident) call us on 03000 41 71 71 (Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm).

## NUISANCE MOTOR VEHICLES

Got a question? Find your answer online by browsing our A to Z question finder at [www.kent.police.uk/askthepolice](http://www.kent.police.uk/askthepolice)

You can report a nuisance vehicle online at [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)

Please include the location, time of incident and a description of the vehicle(s) and driver(s) involved.

## CONTACTING KENT POLICE

For advice, to report a non-urgent crime or access other online services, visit [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)

For non-urgent issues call 101; if a crime is in progress or life is in danger call 999.

If you are deaf or speech-impaired text 'police', then your message, to 60066.

To give information anonymously call Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

For the latest news find us on Facebook or follow @kent\_police on Twitter.

ON THE  
RIGHT  
TRACK



Responsible use of public rights of way and unclassified roads in Kent



# ON THE RIGHT TRACK



## WHAT ARE RIGHTS OF WAY?

Rights of way, such as public footpaths, bridleways and byways that run through towns and countryside, are public highways that anyone can use at any time. You can walk on all of them, but some have extra rights which allow you to ride a horse, cycle or drive a vehicle along them.

## WHERE YOU CAN DRIVE/RIDE

You can drive on public roads and Byways Open to All Traffic (BOAT). BOATS are recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement. An up to date Ordnance Survey map provides an indication of such routes.

A map of the public rights of way network including details of any restrictions can be viewed online at [www.kent.gov.uk/prowmap](http://www.kent.gov.uk/prowmap).

You can view the map and statement at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone on Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm. To arrange a viewing, call 03000 41 11 01. Please book a week in advance.

For unclassified roads and routes in other areas of the UK, visit [www.trailwise.org.uk](http://www.trailwise.org.uk), which records the location of rights of way, along with information about each route.

## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MOTOR VEHICULAR USERS

Anyone using a motor vehicle on or off-road should ensure the vehicle is legal and roadworthy. Drivers/riders must hold a current driving licence and have insurance for their vehicle. Each vehicle must have a current tax disc and MOT (Ministry of Transport) test certificate.

### All drivers/riders should:

- Respect the countryside and anyone else using roads or rights of way.
- Follow the Countryside Code – [www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code)
- Keep to the defined route and restrict yourself to areas where a running surface has been provided.
- Give way to other road users to enable them to pass safely, and if appropriate, switch off your engine (for example when horses or livestock are passing).
- Travel at a safe and appropriate speed for the conditions and location. Voluntary maximum 25mph.
- Don't travel in large groups – a maximum of six motorcycles or four cars is recommended.
- Remember that not all routes with vehicular rights are appropriate for vehicle use at all times.

# REMEMBER THE 5WS!



**WEATHER** – Please do not use routes in poor weather or in wet conditions when vehicles are likely to cause surface damage.



**WEIGHT** – Please avoid use of routes that are likely to be damaged by the weight of your vehicle.



**WIDTH** – Please avoid use of routes that are too narrow for your motor vehicle.



**WINCHES** – Please do not use winches, they can damage trees and property.



**WANDER** – Please do not drive on verges or the edges of any surfaced area.

**It is a good idea to join a responsible motor vehicle club or organisation. They can advise which routes are legal to use and offer advice on responsible use. Some also provide training and organised events.**