

Parish Footpaths Annual Report April 2021

Thanks to some regular users of the Broadwas footpaths we are being up dated on stile and path conditions.

Dog walkers are having problems using the stiles as landowners have used wire on the lower struts to manage their stock. The County will supply free metal gates to landowners to replace old stiles on legal footpaths.

Landowners and some tenants have been circulated with a memo concerning stile replacement and how to access the County about these free metal personal gates.

Their response has been positive so far but the following comments have been made about walkers' detrimental behaviour:

1. Fences being cut with wire cutters - this is actually criminal damage and if caught will be treated as such.
2. Dogs chasing sheep and in one instance killing a ewe - if the owner is asked to control the dog and fails to do so we are within our rights to shoot the dog.
3. Leaving gates as they find them - two herds of cattle in two fields, one herd being young small cattle, the other being much larger adult cattle and obviously separated for a reason, the gate was then left open and they all become mixed up. I would suggest that whoever did that wouldn't have wanted the task of separating them with the total amount of cattle being in excess of 80!!
4. Our fields being used as a whole with people throwing sticks for their dogs out into the field.
5. People not picking up after their dog and when they do they hang the offending item on hedges and trees.
6. People not remaining on the public right of way because of the mud - wear correct footwear.

Public footpaths are exactly what they are, they are a right of way, not a right to stay and certainly not a right of ownership. They are there to be enjoyed by everyone whilst respecting the countryside as a whole together with other people's property.

County maps with footpath labelling are available for the public to use and report problems at:

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk /environmental services/countryside and leisure/public rights of way/public rights of way interactive map](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/environmental-services/countryside-and-leisure/public-rights-of-way/public-rights-of-way-interactive-map)

The parish website was updated with this information and several parishioners have been given this link personally and found it very useful!

Heather Dale