



The countryside charity
Norfolk

CPRE Norfolk Position Statement **Access to the Countryside**

CPRE Norfolk works to protect and enhance the green spaces and countryside which footpaths enable us to access and enjoy. We campaign for the creation of a Green Belt for Norwich, with maximum public access to the important green spaces close to the city.

In Norfolk, we would like to see:

1. Good quality paths and routes which connect communities, greenspaces and local heritage
2. Good quality green spaces close to where people live to help tackle poor physical and mental health
3. More people taking exercise in the countryside and greenspace close to home to improve their health and wellbeing
4. Provision for people with physical needs and those with mental health impairment such as dementia
5. Well signed, maintained and interpreted countryside access routes to enable local people and visitors to enjoy nature, heritage and landscape in ways that respect the environment
6. Good understanding of the Norfolk Rights of Way Improvement Plan (the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan - NAIP), Norfolk's blueprint for action to improve access to the countryside (to 2029) www.norfolk.gov.uk/naip

To achieve this we would like to see:

1. Help for volunteers in communities who wish to take action to care for their local Public Rights of Way
2. Appropriate levels of funding invested by the local Highway Authority to maintain Public Rights of Way to a good standard, deal with obstructions blocking paths, maintain the legal record of Public Rights of Way (the Definitive Map) and invest in signage to enable people find their way.
3. More permissive access routes to join up paths and to address local access needs (appropriate levels of access provision), with help to set them up and help to fund them (e.g., through schemes that reward landowners who create 'public goods' (permissive access routes) - hopefully such as ELMS (Environmental Land Management Scheme).
4. Help for volunteers who wish to research and submit applications to register paths unrecorded on the Definitive Map of Rights of Way for Norfolk <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/public-rights-of-way/map-and-statement-of-public-rights-of-way-in-norfolk>, the legal record of Norfolk's public access. Appropriate funding to support the legal processes to add these lost ways to the Norfolk Definitive Map.
5. Removal of the 2026 deadline for registering paths based on historic evidence

6. Public education about safe and responsible access to the outdoors
7. A scheme which allows people to research and create parish-based interpretative boards / leaflets etc. with well-maintained, well signed routes on offer, to help their local community make the most of their local countryside.
8. Access to practical advice for local communities who wish to improve opportunities to access the countryside for those with particular user needs such as those with physical or mental impairment including dementia or other particular user groups (e.g., horse riders) where local provision is lacking.
9. Good public profile for the Norfolk Local Access Forum, the statutory forum that advises Norfolk County Council on improvements to countryside access
10. Good connectivity from new developments to existing Public Rights of Way through linking paths and routes.

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