

	Minimum Width	Maximum Width
Cross-field footpath	1.0 metres	1.8 metres
Field-edge footpath	1.5 metres	1.8 metres
Cross-field bridleway	2.0 metres	3.0 metres
Field-edge bridleway	3.0 metres	3.0 metres

The minimum width is the minimum that you must observe for crossfield footpaths and bridleways when restoring the surface and making paths apparent on the ground after they have been disturbed, and in keeping them clear of crops.

The maximum width is the width that the County Council may work to in any default action they may take.

Be aware that some paths may have a recorded width greater than the minimum widths allowed. If so it is the recorded width that must be reinstated, or in the case of a field edge path, left undisturbed. In the majority of cases, however, widths are not recorded. The above minimum and maximum widths then apply.

Other Unsurfaced Highways

The law does **not** allow for these to be disturbed without authorisation from the County Council. To do so is an offence. They must be maintained, uncultivated and free of crops to the following minimum widths: 3.0 metres across the field and 5.0 metres along a field edge.

If you are in any doubt over path widths, contact your local Rights of Way Officer for advice.

You Must:

If the path is disturbed by ploughing and/or cultivation, you must ensure that it is reinstated so that:

- The surface of the path is compacted and levelled to at least the minimum width.
- The path follows the correct definitive route and is clearly visible on the ground.

This reinstatement must be carried out within:

- 14 days of the initial disturbance of the path's surface.
- 24 hours of any second or subsequent disturbance.

Extensions to time limits (up to an additional 28 days) may be granted by the County Council in exceptional circumstances. However you must apply for an extension within the prescribed time limits.

How do I achieve this in the field?

- ✿ *Do not leave the reinstatement to the last minute! Always try and ensure that the path is clearly reinstated before your operative or contractor leaves the site. This will ensure you keep within the time limits and that reinstatement is not delayed, or not undertaken, due to wet weather, lack of suitable machinery, or being unable to get staff or contractors to return to the field because of other work commitments.*
- ✿ *If a field is to be left ploughed for more than 14 days you must level and consolidate the path's surface to the minimum width within 14 days of the initial disturbance. Be aware that simply marking out the line of the path by tractor wheeling may not be sufficient over ploughed land to create an acceptable path surface. It may also require harrowing and rolling to achieve the desired effect.*

- ✿ *Reinstatement over a consolidated, even seed bed may be achieved by tractor wheeling. Please be aware that the use of All Terrain Vehicles and tractors fitted with high pressure grassland type tyres may not achieve a lasting effect. To keep the line of the path visible as the crop emerges it may be necessary to repeat this operation on more than one occasion.*



- ✿ **Remember! It is your responsibility to ensure that the line of the path is clearly visible at all times of the year, except during the permitted periods allowed following cultivation.**

Marking the path using canes/posts

If experience tells you that, during wet weather, areas of your land are prone to ground conditions that are likely to prevent you from maintaining the line of the path by tractor wheeling, then make use of canes/posts from an early stage to prevent the line of the path becoming obscured by the young crop.

The County Council advises:

- ✿ *Post/canes must be set in pairs, to at least the required minimum width apart.*
- ✿ *Pairs of posts/canes should be set at regular intervals along the length of the path, at distances where they can be easily identified by users of the path, (max. of 25 metres). Sufficient pairs of canes/posts should be used over small areas to clearly identify the line of the path.*