

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY POLICY

Title: Prioritisation system for different categories of maintenance & enforcement issues on public rights of way

Adopted at: Public Rights of Way Committee

Adopted on: 1st March 2010

This policy sets out a prioritisation system for responding to different categories of complaints on the public rights of way network to enable officers to prioritise problem reports received.

<p>Priority 1</p>	<p>Public Safety Issues Examples: any issue with potential to cause injury; dangerous bridges, bulls & other dangerous animals, dangerous structures.</p> <p>This category of issue will be investigated/responded to in 24-72 hours from receipt of complaint.</p>
<p>Priority 2</p>	<p>Obstructions and statutory duties Examples: physical obstructions which prevent the public from using a path, serious disturbance to path surface, encroachment, intimidation, misleading signs, badly overgrown vegetation. Missing fingerposts.</p> <p>This category of issue will be investigated/responded to in 2-4 weeks from receipt of complaint.</p>
<p>Priority 3</p>	<p>Maintenance issues and minor compliance issues Examples: improving stiles/gates, drainage problems, surfacing improvements, waymarking.</p> <p>This category of issue will be investigated/responded to in 4-6 weeks from receipt of complaint.</p>
<p>Priority 4</p>	<p>Non-statutory requests/enquiries Examples: requests for additional signing, improvements not covered by higher priorities.</p> <p>This category of issue will be dealt with at the discretion of the relevant officer. In some cases, suggestions for improvements will be referred to the Countryside Access Development Officer for inclusion on list of Rights of Way Improvement Plan suggestions.</p>

N.B. The timescales given here are for an officer to look at the problem, not to issue the work to fix it or to temporarily close the path. Work timescales are dependent on urgency, contractor availability and resources.

For full details of the policy, see the [minutes of the Public Rights of Way Committee of 1st March 2010](#).