




Staffordshire County Council – Rights of Way Charter

All timescales are indicative and dependant on available resources and other factors such as the weather, accessibility of the ground conditions and environmental issues.
Public rights of way in the Peak District National Park are inspected by the Peak District National Park Authority and these timescales cannot be guaranteed for this area of the county.

IMPORTANT, PLEASE NOTE: The Rights of Way Charter deadlines are affected by the Covid -19 coronavirus pandemic. Whilst we will endeavour to respond to the more serious Category 1 and 2 issues within our normal time scales, this may not be possible at this time. Issues categorised as ploughing and cropping or 3 and 4 will be addressed only if resources allow. We are not currently being supported by volunteers due to the pandemic and our own staff may be needed to support Staffordshire’s more vulnerable residents at this time.

		A Routes	B Routes	C Routes
What does the route look like?				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure is in good, safe condition • Path surfaces are generally in good condition • Absence of significant encroachment by vegetation • Absence of any other obstructions • Path signed where it leaves metalled road and clearly waymarked where required along its route 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure in a reasonable, safe condition • Path surfaces are in reasonably good condition for most of the year although seasonal problems (e.g. vegetation and flooding) may occur • Absence of other obstructions, although ploughing and cultivation may occasionally be a problem • Paths signed where they leave metalled road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some infrastructure may be difficult to use • Some barriers or other obstructions may be present • Path runs along its natural surface and can be muddy and/or vegetation may be dense in places • Signing and waymarking is present in most cases but occasionally it may be missing or limited
Description of the route		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationally and regionally, promoted route e.g. Staffordshire Way • Crosses a SCC country park • Runs within 50m of a school, shop, community resource • Likely to be urban routes • Likely anticipated use is high 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally promoted route • Runs within 50m of a publically accessible green space • Likely to be a multi-user route (e.g. bridleway) • Runs within 10m of an application to upgrade a route • Likely anticipated use is medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other routes not classed A or B
Dealing with Enquiries (Enquiries vary in complexity and response times may be influenced by the volume of work)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We aim to acknowledge receipt of letters within 10 working days and emails within 7 working days. It will include one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ A full response to the enquiry. ➢ An indication of when the enquiry will be resolved if it requires further investigation. ➢ For reported maintenance issues, an indication when or if the work will be carried out. ➢ For Public Path Order requests, you will be advised of the charging schedule, the process involved and the likely timescale. ➢ For Definitive Map Modification Orders, you will be signposted to the Council’s Legal Services who deal with these Orders. ➢ For non-rights of way matters, you will be advised of the most appropriate body to contact. • Public safety reports that pose an imminent danger, likely to result in (or already has) a significant accident or injury will be inspected within 2 working days (see below). • Once the issue has been resolved, the enquirer will be notified. 		
Inspection Regime*		100% of paths inspected annually	50% of paths inspected annually	25% of paths inspected annually
Number	Commonly Reported Issues	A Routes	B Routes	C Routes

P&C	Any issue where the path has been ploughed up or planted over with a cereal crop	Providing the enquirer has provided the requested information we aim to make contact with the landowner within 14 days.		
1	<p>Any issue which poses an imminent danger, likely to result in (or already has) a significant accident or injury.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dangerous animal • Shooting on or over path • Poorly supported tree or branch at risk of immediate failure • Bridge in immediate risk of failure • Missing manhole cover 	A1 – We aim to carry out an inspection within 2 working days with resolution or priority lowered within 5 working days.	B1 - We aim to carry out an inspection within 2 working days with resolution or priority lowered within 5 working days.	C1 - We aim to carry out an inspection within 2 working days with resolution or priority lowered within 5 working days.
2	<p>Any reported problem where the accessibility of the right of way is severely affected, and/or an issue where most users would find the right of way extremely difficult or unusable and where there is no easy alternative route nearby. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant trip hazards • Severely deteriorated path surface • Severely deteriorated / damaged stile or gate • Severely deteriorated / damaged / missing bridge • Low level intimidation and nuisance from the landowner • Obstructions (e.g. a fence or anything that blocks access) 	A2 - We aim to carry out an inspection within 5 working days with resolution or priority lowered within 20 working days.	B2 - We aim to carry out an inspection within 20 working days with resolution or priority lowered within 16 weeks.	C2 - We aim to carry out an inspection within 30 working days with resolution or priority lowered within 20 weeks.
3	<p>A reported problem where the right of way is still available to most users albeit with some difficulty or inconvenience and/or where there is an easy alternative route nearby. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damaged stile or gate • Poor surface condition • Vegetation overgrowth/ undergrowth • Fallen tree / tree with structural issues requiring non urgent action • Barbed wire on structures e.g. gates and stiles • Encroachment to limit users' access 	A3 - We aim to carry out an inspection within 20 working days with resolution or priority lowered within 12 weeks.	B3 - No specific target. Problems will be addressed as and when resources allow or carried out by volunteers.	C3 - No specific target. Problems will be addressed as and when resources allow or carried out by volunteers.
4	<p>A reported problem which does not prevent a right of way being used nor has any significant impact on its accessibility. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misleading signs and notices • Missing, damaged or faded signposts and waymarkers • Poor fencing adjacent to a path • Encroachment where users' access is not limited • Mud • Minor deviation from legal line • Minor vegetation growth 	A4 - No specific target. Problems will be addressed as and when resources allow or carried out by volunteers.	B4 - No specific target. Problems will be addressed as and when resources allow or carried out by volunteers.	C4 - No specific target. Problems will be addressed as and when resources allow or carried out by volunteers.

* These timescales are dependent on recruiting and training sufficient volunteers to carry out the inspections