

Rights of Way & COVID19

Government social distancing and movement restrictions apply across the UK, including Cumbria. Anyone using the Cumbria's public paths must respect the following rules:

1. Local public rights of way should only be used for lawful access - your once a day exercise, for access to essential shopping or work.
2. Keep at least 2 metres (approx. 6 feet) space between your household group and other people you may meet on public paths. Give way and make space for others to pass safely.
3. Many paths are near to farmers and local people's homes, their work and their families. To keep them safe - please observe any new temporary signs for alternative routes.
4. Don't arrange to meet other families or form groups larger than two to share your daily exercise walk, run or bike ride.
5. Take your litter home including your tissues and other health products. And hand wash / sanitise after touching any shared surfaces such as - gates, handrails and stiles.
6. On canal towpaths, river banks or narrow lanes where there is limited space - respect the needs of local residents who may be self-isolating due to illness and vulnerabilities and have limited mobility. Consider using other routes that they cannot access.

There is no specific legislation to close public rights of way to prevent the transmission of Covid-19. The grounds for Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders, which are normally used to close or limit access, are very specific and do not include provision for the current situation.

Tools have been produced for landowners to provide on-site public guidance to path users and where appropriate promote an alternative path to help protect their families. These can be found here: [insert link](#)

Rights of Way are not closed. Members of the public who encounter a right of way that has been obstructed or landowners who are experiencing persistent issues that local temporary signage does not address - should report to the following organisations.

| If you're in the Lake District National Park contact: | If you're outside of the National Park in Cumbria. |
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| Tel: 01539 72455 | Tel: 0300 303 2992 |
| HQ@lakedistrict.gov.uk | Countryside.Access@cumbria.gov.uk |

If you have any issues with the above, you can escalate your concerns for **any area** by emailing: hq@lakedistrict.gov.uk. If your concern relates to breaches of social distancing guidance, you may wish to report it to <https://www.cumbria.police.uk/Report-It/Report-a-Crime/Non-Emergency-Crime-Online.aspx> or dial 101.

STAY HOME ► PROTECT THE NHS ► SAVE LIVES