



Shaping the future of our countryside access

Step 1: Give us your views

Do you...

- Ride a horse or bike?
- Enjoying walking outside and watching wildlife?
- Go for a run or walk your dog?
- Walk with your children?
- Drive a motor vehicle in the countryside?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you probably use our rights of way and countryside sites.

To help us plan how they will be managed in the future, please take part in our survey to tell us why you do or don't use them.

Factsheet 1, December 2014



Shaping the future of our countryside access

Step 1: Finding out why people do or don't use our rights of way and countryside sites.

Summary

We manage 2,000 miles of rights of way and ten countryside sites that you can use across East Sussex. If you like to cycle, get outside or walk your dog, then it is very likely that you use these sites and paths.

We are looking at how our rights of way and countryside sites will be managed in the future. Our first step is to understand why people do or don't use them. This is an important part of our planning and will be done in two ways:

1. By asking residents and visitors to East Sussex to complete a survey telling us why they do or don't use rights of way and countryside sites.
2. By asking special interest groups, partners and landowners to complete a survey for their feedback. We are also holding meetings in February for these groups.

Your views are important. They will help us shape our long term plans for how our rights of way and countryside sites will be managed in the future. Once we have written the plan, we will ask you what you think. The final plan will be agreed by East Sussex County Councillors.

Key dates

Date	Actions
December 2014 to February 2015	Public survey and meetings with special interest groups
Summer 2015	Public consultation on our long term plan
December 2015	Final plan announced
April 2016	Plan put in place

How to take part

There are two ways to take part, depending on your involvement:

1. Residents and visitors to East Sussex can complete our online survey by visiting eastsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay. This will help us learn why you do or don't use our rights of way and countryside sites. You can also pick up a copy from your local library or tourist information centre, or we can post you one.
2. If you are a partner, landowner, or represent a special interest group, please complete the stakeholder survey by visiting eastsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay. If you would like to attend a meeting in February to discuss your views, please let us know.

If you would like a copy of the survey, or you are a stakeholder that hasn't heard from us, let us know by calling our Contact Centre on 0345 60 80 193 or email scs@eastsussex.gov.uk. You can view the latest information on our website at eastsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay

Frequently asked questions

What are rights of way?

A ‘right of way’ is a path that you follow (rather than an open space). Most rights of way are in the countryside, but they can also be found in towns. There are often bridges, gates and stiles on rights of way in the countryside. Rights of way in towns can be called alleyways or twittens and they are different to pavements, which run next to roads. If you are viewing this online you can check if your path is a right of way on [our map](#) or visit eastsussex.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/countryside/rightsofway/rightsofwaymap/map.aspx

There are four different types of rights of way and they are usually marked by different symbols:



1. Footpath

Where you can walk



2. Bridleway

Where you can walk and ride a horse or bicycle



3. Byway

Where you can walk, ride a horse or bicycle and drive a motor vehicle



4. Restricted byway

Where you can walk, ride a horse or bicycle and drive a carriage

We are responsible for rights of way under the Highways Act 1980. We manage rights of way to make sure they remain safe for people to use. We monitor them, work with landowners to keep them open and replace stiles, gates and bridges.

If you would like more information on your local area and rights of way you can visit eastsussex.gov.uk/rightsofway

What are countryside sites?

Countryside sites are open spaces that are managed for public use and wildlife conservation. You can do different things at different sites such as walk, stop for a picnic, ride your bike, or go fishing.

We are involved in managing ten sites across East Sussex. The red dots on the map below show where these are across the county. If you are viewing this online, you can click on the list below to find out more. You can also visit eastsussex.gov.uk/countryside/sites

- Chailey Common Local Nature Reserve
- Ditchling Common Country Park
- Ouse Estuary Nature Reserve
- Shinewater Park
- Riverside Park
- Seven Sisters Country Park
- Forest Way Country Park
- Cuckoo Trail
- Camber Sand Dunes/Johnson Field
- Weir Wood Local Nature Reserve



Why are you asking for my views?

We want to develop a long term plan for how rights of way and countryside sites will be managed. Our first step is to understand the long term need for our rights of way and countryside sites. To help us develop this, we would like you to tell us why you do or don't use them. We are also looking at a wide range of other information. We will use what you tell us and what we learn to write the plan.

How can I give you my views?

You can tell us why you do or don't use rights of way and countryside sites by completing our survey. If you are an East Sussex resident or visitor, you can complete it online at eastsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay, or pick up a copy from your local library or tourist information centre, or we can post you one.

If you are a partner, landowner, or represent a special interest group, please complete the stakeholder survey by visiting eastsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay. If you would like to attend a meeting in February to discuss your views please let us know.

If you would like a paper copy of the survey please contact our Contact Centre on 0345 60 80 193 or email scs@eastsussex.gov.uk. You can view the latest information on our website at eastsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay

How will my views make an impact?

Your views will help us develop a good understanding of the long term need for our rights of way and countryside sites in East Sussex. We will use this and other information to shape our long term plan. Next summer we will share this plan with you for your comments. The final version will be agreed by East Sussex County Councillors in December 2015.

Why are you developing a long term plan?

We are improving how we operate by looking at how we commission services and work with partner agencies. A long term plan helps us to make arrangements for the future which are based on a good understanding of the needs of residents and visitors, and the most effective use of all available resources. By developing a commissioning strategy (our long term plan), we will put your needs at the heart of this.

What kind of changes are you proposing?

We are not proposing any changes at the moment. Our first step is to understand why people need rights of way and countryside sites. This will help us decide on the best way for them to be managed in the future. Next year we will consult on our long term plan.

Where can I get more information?

The best place to look is our website which we will keep updated. You can access it by visiting eastsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay

If you would like more information on rights of way and countryside sites, please visit eastsussex.gov.uk/rightsofway and eastsussex.gov.uk/countrysidesites

You can also call our Contact Centre on **0345 60 80 193** or email scs@eastsussex.gov.uk

If you would like to write to us, our address is:

RoW and Site Strategy, West B, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent Lewes, BN7 1UE.

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