

Coronavirus (COVID-19). Access to public rights of way and green space areas – May 2021

The relaxation of some restrictions on movement announced by the government are relevant to public rights of way and the wider countryside and green spaces network.

The outdoors is a great place for exercise and recreation which has numerous benefits for health and well-being. However, people must still adhere to government rules for the safety of all.

Please also be aware that some people live in very close proximity to paths and green spaces - including residential moorings on canal and river towpaths and farmers. Please consider their concerns, treat each other with respect and be aware that some of these people may continue to self-restrict because of illness or other vulnerabilities.

Please check the current rules at [\(COVID-19\) Coronavirus restrictions: what you can and cannot do - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do)

Good practice

- Increase spacing when running and cycling. When moving at a faster pace give advance warning when approaching from the rear and stay alert by not using headphones or ear buds.
- Carry, use and take home your tissues and other health products. Take care using or touching gates and other access furniture and hard surfaces. Do not spit or clear nose without tissues.
- Where your usual exercise routes use canal towpaths, busy areas or narrow paths try to use other routes.

Oxfordshire County Council
Public Rights of Way Strategy & Operations
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/countrysideaccess