



Fences, hedges and other barriers



Electric fences, whether currently live or not, are not permitted on public rights of way except on footpaths and only then if the fence is provided with an insulated handle.

You must not erect or leave any structure or object across the right of way that obstructs the public. This includes not allowing any hedge or other vegetation to grow over any gap, gate or stile on the public right of way.

Signs and Waymarks

To ensure the public knows where they are allowed to walk the County Council will provide waymarks along the route at key points. This helps to avoid trespass by people losing their way. Proper use of a public right of way along its definitive line is not a trespass.

Where you can get help and advice?

Many parish councils in Devon work with the County Council to maintain the rights of way network. Please contact the County Council if you would like to know if your parish is involved.

You can apply to divert the line of a public right of way. However, a charge will generally be made for this service and the process may be subject to public inquiry with uncertain outcome.

For general advice and information please contact the

Public Rights of Way Service

Devon County Council
Lucombe House, County Hall,
Topsham Road, Exeter,
EX2 4QW

Telephone: 01392 382084

E-mail: pro@devon.gov.uk

www.devon.gov.uk/pro

We can help

There are wardens who deal with the day-to-day management of the rights of way network – contact the appropriate Local Service Office to reach your warden. Please see contact details, including National Park Rangers where appropriate, inside.



DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

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DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL



This advisory leaflet provides basic information about public rights of way for landowners

Public rights of way across your land may be footpaths, bridleways and byways. These give the public certain rights and responsibilities.

On **Footpaths** the public has a right to walk. They are allowed to have dogs with them not necessarily on a lead, but under close control. This also applies to bridleways and byways.

On **Bridleways** the public has a right to walk, ride or lead a horse or ride a bicycle.

On **Byways** the public has the right to walk, ride or lead a horse, ride a bicycle or motorbike, drive a horse and carriage or motorised vehicle. Any vehicle using the route must have tax, insurance and MOT.

Identifying Public Rights of Way

Widely available Ordnance Survey maps ('Explorer' and 'Landranger' series) show footpaths, bridleways and byways. The latest and most accurate information can be seen at the Devon County Council public rights of way service.

Ploughing and Cropping

You must not plough any public right of way on the headland of a field - a minimum of 1.5 metres must be left for footpaths, 3 metres for bridleways and 5 metres for other routes. If you cannot avoid ploughing a cross-field route you must ensure that a minimum width of 1 metre for footpaths and 2 metres for bridleways is made available to the public within 14 days of the first disturbance and within 24 hours of any further disturbance. Cross-field byways and old roads must not be ploughed at any time. You must not grow crops, other than grass for hay and silage, on any public right of way.

Overgrowth

You are responsible for ensuring hedges or trees or other vegetation on your land do not cause an obstruction to the user on foot, horse, bicycle or in a carriage or vehicle as appropriate.



Livestock and other animals

You must not keep a dairy bull over ten months old in a field crossed by a public right of way. A beef bull over ten months old must be accompanied by cows or heifers.



You must not allow dogs to impede the free use of the right of way e.g. by threatening or aggressive behaviour. There are serious penalties for allowing a dog to injure or intimidate users of a right of way.

Gates and Stiles

You are responsible for gates and stiles on public rights of way. You must maintain them in a safe condition, ensuring that they can be used without difficulty.

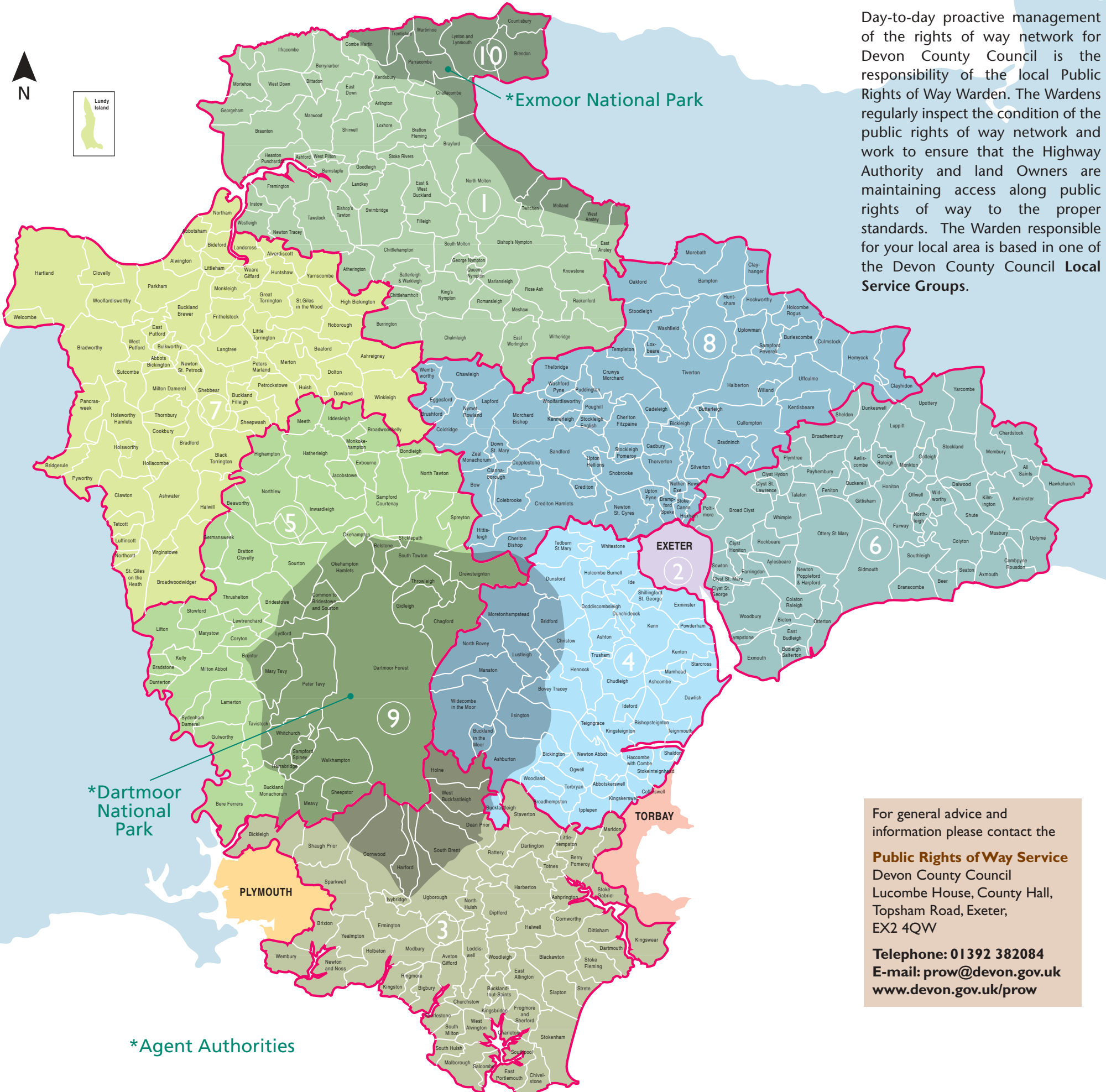
The County Council can contribute towards maintaining gates and stiles – please contact us to find out how.

You must not put a gate or stile at a new location without permission from Devon County Council.

Planning

Please note that planning permission, and permitted development rights, DO NOT allow you to build over or illegally divert a right of way. Please speak to your local planning authority for further help and advice.

Public Rights of Way: Who to contact



Day-to-day proactive management of the rights of way network for Devon County Council is the responsibility of the local Public Rights of Way Warden. The Wardens regularly inspect the condition of the public rights of way network and work to ensure that the Highway Authority and land Owners are maintaining access along public rights of way to the proper standards. The Warden responsible for your local area is based in one of the Devon County Council Local Service Groups.

- 1 BARNSTAPLE** Barnstaple Local Service Group, Devon County Council, Civic Centre, Barnstaple EX31 1ED
Tel: (01271) 388582 **email:** barlsg@devon.gov.uk
Fax: (01271) 388490
- 2 EXETER** Exeter Local Service Group, Devon County Council, No3 Park 5 Business Centre, Harrier Way, Sowton Industrial Estate, Exeter EX2 7ND
Tel: (01392) 682100 **email:** exelsg@devon.gov.uk
Fax: (01392) 682110
- 3 IVYBRIDGE** Ivybridge Local Service Group, Devon County Council, Cornwood Road, Ivybridge PL21 9GX
Tel: (01752) 898200 **email:** ivylsg@devon.gov.uk
Fax: (01752) 898201
- 4 NEWTON ABBOT** Newton Abbot Local Service Group, Devon County Council, Devon House, Brunel Road, Newton Abbot TQ12 4PB
Tel: (01626) 353652 **email:** nalsg@devon.gov.uk
Fax: (01626) 361252
- 5 OKEHAMPTON** Okehampton Local Service Group, Devon County Council, Brayhams, Okehampton EX20 1BN
Tel: (01837) 52773 **email:** okelsg@devon.gov.uk
Fax: (01837) 54102
- 6 EASTERN** Eastern Local Service Group, Devon County Council, No.3 Park 5 Business Centre, Harrier Way, Sowton Industrial Estate, Exeter EX2 7ND
Tel: (01392) 682100 **email:** eastlsg@devon.gov.uk
Fax: (01392) 682110
- 7 TORRINGTON** Torrington Local Service Group, Devon County Council Depot, Gas Lane, Torrington EX38 7BB
Tel: (01805) 622136 **email:** torrllsg@devon.gov.uk
Fax: (01805) 623366
- 8 TIVERTON** Tiverton Local Service Group, Devon County Council, Broad Lane, Westexe South, Tiverton EX16 5HE
Tel: (01884) 252557 **email:** tivlsg@devon.gov.uk
Fax: (01884) 254938
- 9 DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY** Parke, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 9JQ
Tel: (01626) 832093 **email:** hq@dartmoor-mpa.gov.uk
Fax: (01626) 834684
- 10 EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY** Exmoor House, Dulverton, Somerset TA22 9HL
Tel: (01398) 323665 **email:** info@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk
Fax: (01398) 323150

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*Agent Authorities