

Parish Path Warden report 4th January 2021

It has been noted that several of the stiles in the 2 parishes have deteriorated and need attention. There is a legal requirement for both walkers and dogs to have access over or through the stiles. Also, if a walker sustains an injury on a wonky stile or stile step, the landowner will be liable for any compensation required for this injury. It is, therefore, in the landowners' interests to change for a more suitable gate or keep the stiles in good order. County now prefers to offer kits of kissing gates for installation by the landowner to replace deteriorated stiles and gates.

It depends if the definitive statement on the OS map describes a gate at each location, (as long as the installations are not in new or unauthorised fences, these need to have a gate provided by the fence owner). County always work with 'goodwill' and offer the benefits of a suitable gate or kissing gate in metal or timber that self-close and last many decades in the ground, keeping stock secure and allowing decent access.

I have small signs 100mm x 100mm that read '**Please Keep Dogs on Leads. Thank you**', but there is no legal requirement to display these signs, except when dogs are mixing with livestock, such as sheep and cows. Trespass by humans or their dogs is ultimately a private matter.

Contact for information about replacement gates can be made to:

Jonathan White

Senior Public Rights of Way Officer

The Countryside Centre, Worcester Woods Country Park, Wildwood Drive, Worcester, WR52LG

01905 843436

JLWhite@worcestershire.gov.uk

I do not know the contact details of many landowners and tenants in the 2 parishes. If parishioners (especially walkers) do have this information I would be grateful if they could forward such information to me;

heathersusandale@gmail.com

Heather Dale

PPW Broadwas and Cotheridge

4th January 2021