

Problems with Footpaths

For Public Rights of Way (PROW) problems please use the link below - this ensures that every problem is logged on the Dorset Council database. You will receive a MNT (maintenance number) which you can use to track progress re your report. For example, how the ranger responded - comments/ action taken etc

<https://mapping.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/rightsofway/reportproblem>

Footpath Officers

FLO (Footpath Liaison Officer) and ROLO/ROWLO (Rights of Way Liaison Officer) are the same role - parishioners who liaise between their parish council, Dorset Council and local landowners over PROW (public rights of way) issues - maintenance and/or improvement projects.

If there is **damage to the surface of a PROW** - report on the link above. General wear/tear maintenance is the responsibility of Dorset Council. Note that the surface only needs to be fit for purpose, i.e. the traffic its status dictates. For example, footpaths must be fit for walking, bridleways for equestrians, etc

If there is illegal damage again report on the link above.

If crops are blocking a PROW (the landowner either shouldn't plant on or should cut a clear path along the footpath) – try a friendly conversation/reminder from the parish ROWLO/Parish Council. If unsuccessful, report on link above explaining efforts to date.

Missing/Broken Waymarkers - parish council can request a supply - parish council/ ROWLO can waymark routes. But this is an art, with advice to adhere to to ensure that the correct line is waymarked, appropriate infrastructure to fix waymarkers to, not to unnecessarily impact on land management practice, etc.

Missing/broken finger posts where a PROW leaves a metalled road. Report on link above for Dorset Council to attend to.

Missing/broken infrastructure e.g. stiles, gates etc. are the responsibility of the landowner - so again try a friendly conversation with the local landowner. If unsuccessful, report on the link above. Where possible Dorset Council will work with the landowner to help rectify the problem.

Natural Vegetation obstructing a PROW - surface vegetation is the responsibility of Dorset Council. Report the problem on the link above and the area ranger(s) will arrange for clearance. Overhanging vegetation - e.g. overgrown hedges/trees are the responsibility of the landowner - again try a friendly conversation with the landowner and, if necessary, report on the link above.

The recent Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) Consultation also requested who the current ROWLOs for each parish are - so we could update our records. This means I (in my DC role) and my colleagues can contact ROWLOs re various PROW matters. Once the Draft ROWIP is out for consultation later this year we may also be re-launching the ROWLO scheme ... but that is dependent on further discussion/resources etc