

**John Badgery**  
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Dear Orcheston Resident,

Attached is some information which is passed to you either as a riparian owner or as the owner of property bordering a public right of way (or both).

In summary the information is a gentle reminder from the Parish Council of the responsibilities of:

- a. Riparian owners, who have a general duty to keep watercourses clear,  
and
- b. Owners of properties bordering public rights of ways, who have a general obligation to ensure that the right of way is passable to the correct width.

The responsibilities of riparian owners are available on the Environment Agency website shown overleaf.

The Wiltshire Council website details the responsibilities of owners of property bordering a public right of way.

We would be grateful if you would ensure that you are complying with the relevant regulations.

Regards

*John Badgery*

# Rights of Way maintenance

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/rightsofway/rightsofwaymaintenance.htm>

The duty to maintain the Public Rights of Way network is shared between Wiltshire Council as the Highway Authority and the landowners/occupiers of the land over which the path exists.

## **Wiltshire Council responsibilities:**

- making sure that Public Rights of Way are free from obstructions;
- clearance of vegetation growing from the surface of the path;
- signposting rights of way where they leave a road and waymarking the route where appropriate;
- maintaining bridges over natural watercourses; and
- to provide a minimum of 25% contribution towards any costs incurred by a landowner in maintaining stiles and gates on public rights of way.

## **Landowner/ Occupier responsibilities:**

- maintain stiles, gates and other boundary crossings;
- obtain consent from the highway authority before erecting new stiles or gates on public rights of way;
- cut back encroaching hedges or overhanging vegetation that is growing from their land;
- keep paths clear of obstructions, such as padlocked gates, electric fences etc;
- make sure that no misleading signs are placed near rights of way that might deter people from using the path;
- cross field footpaths and bridleways (but not byways) can be ploughed where it not cannot reasonably be avoided as long as there are reinstated within two weeks of ploughing;
- cross field paths must be keep clear of crops to a minimum width of:
  - footpath - 1 metre across field and 1.5 metres field edge;
  - bridleway - 2 metres across field and 3 metres field edge; or
  - other rights of way - 3 metres across field and 5 metres field edge.