

Walking Safely



Our Dingle Valley Walks and public rights of way provide extensive access to the Marrington Estate and surrounding countryside. The footpaths are clearly marked with new wayfinding signs and stiles to help you walk safely and without worrying that you have strayed off route into conservation areas and too close to livestock.



Countryside Code

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs. Take maps and guidebooks.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control.
- Consider other people.

How to walk safely through a field of livestock

Whatever the animal, follow our top tips and you'll be unlikely to run into any issues.

- Have a look around when you reach the edge of the field. Are there any cows with calves, horses, or sheep? Cows with calves are the most common cause of problems for walkers as they actively protect their young.

- Do not enter a field that contains a bull. There will be plenty of signage around the field and gateways to prevent this.
- Keep a good distance from the animals. If they are on a path, then you're allowed to go off the path to walk around them. If you are on open access land, then you can walk across the field to give the animals space.
- Walk quickly and quietly. Animals may approach you, especially groups of cows, which can be quite intimidating. If you panic, or run they may also start running.
- Do not approach any animals and certainly do not feed them or touch them. Animals on a farm will have strict diets, especially horses, and feeding them can be very harmful.
- Leave any gates as you find them. Close any gates that you open, and if they are already open, then leave them that way

Walking with a dog near livestock

It is an offence to not keep your dog under control when in a field with animals. This is especially an issue with sheep, as dogs may chase, worry or even attack them. The law gives farmers the right to shoot a dog that is causing issues with their animals.

Always keep your dog on a lead when around animals. If cattle are running towards you, or you feel in any way in danger, then let your dog off the lead. Your dog will be able to get to safety and removing the dog from the situation will calm the cattle.

