

Be Nice, Say Hi: waymarking guidance



Thanks for volunteering to promote Cycling UK and the British Horse Society's campaign to encourage all trail users to Be Nice, Say Hi.

When putting up any markers or signs it is crucial that you adhere to the following guidance, based on the Natural England Waymarking Rights of Way guidelines (<https://tinyurl.com/natural-england-waymarking>).

Working with the Highway Authority

It is essential to contact the highway authority at an early stage, and to follow its advice and instructions.

The highway authority is the county, unitary or metropolitan authority or London borough for the area. A highway authority is responsible for the rights of way in its area, including erecting and maintaining signposts.

The highway authority will be able to help in a number of ways. It can:

- help to check the definitive map (the legal record of rights of way in the area) to confirm the correct line of each path
- know about any recent changes, such as paths that have been diverted
- know about any disputed paths in the area and give advice on these or other difficulties
- assist or give advice in any negotiations with landowners or farmers

Working with landowners, occupiers and the parish council

It is important to contact all of the landowners and occupiers of the land crossed by the paths in the scheme. The law requires that they be consulted, and their consent is needed (preferably in writing) before waymarks can be placed on anything that is the owner's or occupier's property, such as a fence post or part of a stile.

If the parish council is not already involved, it should be contacted. It may have a member who is particularly interested in rights of way and who is able to assist in approaching the landowners and occupiers or finding out who they are.

Where to place the markers

Please use sparingly to avoid cluttering the countryside.

The markers will be most effective when placed:

- on promoted routes that are used by a lot of people
- at particular problem areas, such as where cyclists are likely to be going faster downhill – work with local horse-riding groups to identify areas of concern