

## **Procedures in relation to stiles and gates out of repair Section 146 Highways Act 1980**

Any stiles, gate or other similar structure across a footpath or bridleway shall be maintained in a safe condition and to the standard of repair required to prevent unreasonable interference with the rights of the person using the footpath or bridleway.

Where a stile, gate or other similar structure which is in disrepair comes to the notice of the authority the following procedure will be adopted.

The enforcement officer will endeavour to ascertain ownership of the land and make contact with the owner. If the owner is traced he will be informed that responsibility for repair rests with him and will be asked to make the necessary repairs. Materials to carry out the repair will be supplied to the owner or occupier by the authority in lieu of its obligation to contribute to 25% of the costs.

If it appears to the authority that the duty imposed on the landowner is not being complied with, the authority may after giving the owner or occupier not less than 14 days notice of their intention take all necessary steps for repairing and making good the repair and charge all reasonable costs to the owner or occupier.

### **Section 147 Highways Act**

Where a landowner makes application to erect a stile or gate over a public footpath or bridleway the enforcement officer will ascertain that the structure is required for the purposes of stock control and if he is satisfied that is the case will authorise the structure to be erected at the landowner's expense. Future maintenance of the stile or gate will be as above.