

BCA Estate Public Access Position Statement

For the attention of: All Staff, Students and Visitors
Produced by: Director of Estates and Facilities
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Vision, Purpose & Values

Our Vision

Our students will be recognised locally & nationally for their positive impact on the communities and industries in which they choose to work.

Our Purpose

To inspire our students to gain the skills, knowledge and behaviours they need to be resilient and thrive in an ever-changing world.

Our Values

Excellence: A culture of creativity, high expectations, ambition and aspiration

Respect: Showing fairness, courtesy and mutual respect to each other and our environment

Integrity: Honesty, openness and trust at the heart of College life

Diversity: Celebrating diversity and inclusivity as a key to our success

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1. Summary of Land and Access Routes

Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA) is a 184ha estate comprising 31ha of built environment and 153ha of rural land use. The college land has been managed as part of a country estate for hundreds of years with the landscape seen today established during the 17th and 18th centuries.

There is a network of public footpaths and permitted footpaths across the estate linking Ashley Hill, Burchetts Green, Hurley and Bisham. The BCA equestrian 'park and ride' forms a link to the 'Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit' for horse riders. Local residents are permitted to use additional specific routes across the Estate whilst adhering to college rules. The college encourages and promotes responsible recreation and access to the countryside.

2. Safeguarding Responsibilities

WFCG has a statutory and moral duty to ensure that it safeguards and promotes the welfare of all College users but in particular the children and vulnerable adults, who receive education and training through the College Group. Public access to the college is managed in accordance with our safeguarding responsibilities to ensure the safety of all users of the college Estate.

3. Public Rights of Way

- Public footpaths are legal rights of way, on which the college must allow free access to pedestrians.
- Welcome signs are positioned where public footpaths enter college land. A map of the access route shows the public footpaths and states that the member of the public is accessing college land. Dogs must be kept on leads.
- One of our public footpaths has been legally moved away from college buildings, where it previously shared a major student access route in the central campus.

4. Permitted Footpaths

- Permitted footpaths are legal rights of way which the college has voluntarily entered into. The college may close these footpaths at its own free will.
- Permitted footpaths have been created to promote recreation in the countryside and link up existing public footpaths, including the Hurley –

Maidenhead Millenium Way. These routes are not in close proximity to the central college campus.

5. 'Friends of BCA' Footpaths

- Additional footpath routes have been provided for local residents to use. These routes are not in close proximity to the central college campus, but shared use with college students does occur.
- A 'Friends of BCA' sign-in procedure is required for all users of these routes. Residents must sign in at the college main reception, a photo lanyard is provided, residents must provide their name / address and must read and adhere to college Safeguarding procedures. Lanyards must be worn at all times when using the 'Friends of BCA' footpaths.

6. General Controls

- College staff are issued with information regarding the access routes available to the public across the college estate.
- Staff are required to challenge any person not displaying a lanyard or visitor badge when not on college land (which is not a public and permitted rights of way)
- Students are advised to report any suspicious activity to staff.
- 'No public access' signs are mounted in various locations where pedestrians may easily stray from the public and permitted rights of way.
- Gates have been installed in various locations to control and restrict pedestrians and vehicle access to the college Estate.