



## ACCESS TO LAND AND RELATED ISSUES

The Group has approached, by personal letter and by telephone, every known landowner where contact details have been available. You will have a complete list of the known landowners and their telephone contact details -- that list will indicate which have and which have not given permission to go on their land to survey boundaries, where they have given permission whether there is a need to call them first, and any other relevant information.

The large-scale maps will show which land belongs to whom, coded by number to match the landowner number [up to around 50]. By reference to the list you can therefore see whose land can be entered and whose cannot. Even where access has been refused it may well be possible to survey some of the boundaries by the use of binoculars or a telescope from accessible land or a public right of way, but please don't take photographs in those cases. A boundary doesn't have to be accessed from both sides to be surveyed.

We are in the process of obtaining public liability insurance to cover damage to property arising from negligence by our surveyors and to cover damage to our surveyors while on private property, but of course we'd rather not have to deal with any claims. The subject may come up from landowners, so they can be assured that there is cover.

In places the actual boundary of someone's land may not be obvious -- if approached and asked to leave simply explain the circumstances, apologise and leave. We do not of course have any rights of access except over public rights of way. All landowners who have given permission are being sent letters to confirm our understanding that they have indeed given permission.

If you get into conversation with a landowner you will be acting as an ambassador for the Group, so it would be useful to always carry a leaflet or two for information, and of course you should wear your id badge. In conversation potentially the most touchy subject is public access to land, so be very careful **not** to say that the Group is looking for new footpath routes, for example. As a Group we have no views on foxhunting or on hare coursing, should those subjects come up -- the survey is not concerned with them. Landowners may also ask about what would happen if we discover something rare or endangered -- we will talk to them about it first and jointly agree what to do. We will not publish any information which could identify a piece of land or a landowner without express permission.

Cottenham Environment Audit Group is jointly initiated by  
Cottenham Village Design Group : Cottenham Footpath Group : Cottenham Wildlife Group



Local Heritage *initiative*

