

Common land explained



Common land is land, usually in private ownership, that has rights of common over it. The terms 'commoners rights' refer to the rights held in common by certain people to use the land or area for grazing, cutting turf etc. These rights are usually restricted to the occupiers of certain properties, or to those living within a specified area not to the general public.

Town or village greens are defined separately to common land. Village greens are usually areas of land within defined settlements or geographical areas, which local inhabitants can go onto for the exercise of lawful sports and pastimes. Typically, these might include organised or ad-hoc games, picnics, fetes and other similar activities.

Whilst land forming town or village greens may be privately owned, many greens are owned and maintained by local parish or community councils. Some greens may also have rights of common (ie grazing of livestock) over them.

ECC as the local Commons Registration Authority is responsible for maintaining the Registers of Common Land and Village Greens in the county.

The register includes a description of the land, who registered it and when, a description of the rights of common (eg the right to graze 100 sheep), over which area of the common they are exercisable, the name (if known) of the person (the 'commoner') who holds those rights, and whether the rights arise by virtue of a separate land ownership by the commoner (ie they 'attach' to their land).

The registers are available for public inspection free of charge. You can make an appointment to view the registers by contacting ECC. For Further information about common land click [here](#) or contact **Lloyd Simpson** on **01245 506716**.

News

Online training for you

Would you like to establish a community or parish website of your own? Do you need help getting to grips with an existing website? The [essexinfo.net](#) team can provide you with free web training that suits your needs.

The Council is constantly looking for methods to improve the way that customers access information about the services and facilities on offer in the borough. Community and parish websites are an important means of delivering news and information and of gaining feedback and suggestions from residents and visitors.

If you would like to arrange a free training session contact Elaine Woods on **01245 435270** or email elaine.woods@essex.gov.uk

Extra waste collections

Colchester Council provides an additional waste collection service for small loads from domestic properties. You can use it to dispose of bulky items that are not normally collected with household waste.

The attended freighter service is available between June and October in locations throughout the borough. It cannot be used for items that can be recycled through kerbside collections or for large loads. Green garden waste can be collected as long as it is separated to enable composting.

Click [here](#) to find out where this service is available.

Make the most of your food

Wasted food is wasted money and has a big impact on climate change.

Essex County Council is running a series of free, Love Food Hate Waste courses, aimed at reducing what you throw away and saving you up to 50 a month.

Love Food Hate Waste courses are open to everyone, are completely free and are being held across the county.

In Colchester the course will take place on 5 July, 10am to 1pm at Wilson Marriage. To book a place call **01206 798488**.