

Cows - better safe than sorry

(with acknowledgement to 'The Guardian' 17th September 2024)



We've heard quite a few anecdotes about encounters with cows during the season and there is good reason to treat them caution -

The *Guardian* article listed the injuries sustained by one person who narrowly avoided being killed - pelvis broken both sides, 12 ribs fractured, two bones broken in neck and arms, damaged lungs, plus head and ankle injuries.

Cattle killed 22 people - farm workers and members of the public between 2019 & 2023 - the most common cause of death in the UK agricultural industry. HSE logged 257 'cattle incidents' between 2015 & 2021.

The Walker & Cow Safety website has logged 889 incidents since 2017 in England & Wales. University of Liverpool research in 2017 found that dogs were involved in 60% of all incidents reported and 94% of fatal incidents.

The presence of young calves is a known factor.

'The *Guardian*' provided a list of **Tips to stay safe:**

- Give cattle space - don't split a herd or walk between cows & calves.
- Stay well clear of calves.
- Walk. If you run the cows may then start running.
- Sudden noise such as a mobile phone ringing will alarm them.
- Keep dogs close, ideally on a lead and well away from cows.
- If the cows appear threatening let the dog off the lead.
- If cows run towards you don't try to confront them get yourself to safe place.
- Don't let cows get between you and the field exit.

Best of all - at Tellisford - stay the other side of the fence.

Roger

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