

Fieldwork Guidance Notes

A green lane is usually defined as an unsurfaced track bounded on both sides, usually with hedges. Many of them have names, and are of considerable age. They are sometimes found on parish boundaries, can be sunken and may have old trees along their length. Green lanes are not always rights of way, although many of them are also footpaths, byways and bridleways. Footpaths are often unbounded, leading across fields, or might have a boundary, like a fence or hedge, on one or both sides. They may also have old trees along their course, particularly if they run along a field boundary.

Path Location

In order for us to be able to identify which path you have surveyed please make a note of the grid reference at the start and end of a path OR clearly mark the path on a map.

Grid references can be obtained from a map, from online mapping websites or from a hand held GPS unit. Please use Ordnance Survey grid references e.g. TM6255 4523.

Physical Character

Make a note of the boundaries, estimate the level of erosion (if any) and the approximate width of the path in metres. There is no need to take a tape measure with you – a simple estimate is fine.

This section of the form includes space for you to make sketches and other notes – if you can, sketch a cross section, showing the location of banks, ditches and hedges in relation to the path. If the character of the path changes dramatically along its length, then try and note how it changes.

Historical Ecology

We are interested to know more about the historical ecology of lanes and paths, but we do not need *detailed* information.

Please record any pollarded trees, or standard tree (not pollards) with a girth of over 4 metres. Estimate the girth (circumference) of the tree at around chest height. Make a note of the species, size and an approximate grid reference. If there are a great many old trees, then you may wish to fill out a separate tree recording form.

If there are interesting plants, such as primroses and bluebells, along its length then please make a note – we do not need precise locational information about such plants.

Local History

Do you know of any local names for the path or lane? Or have any stories or memories about how it was used in the past? Make a note of these here, or email us in more detail.