

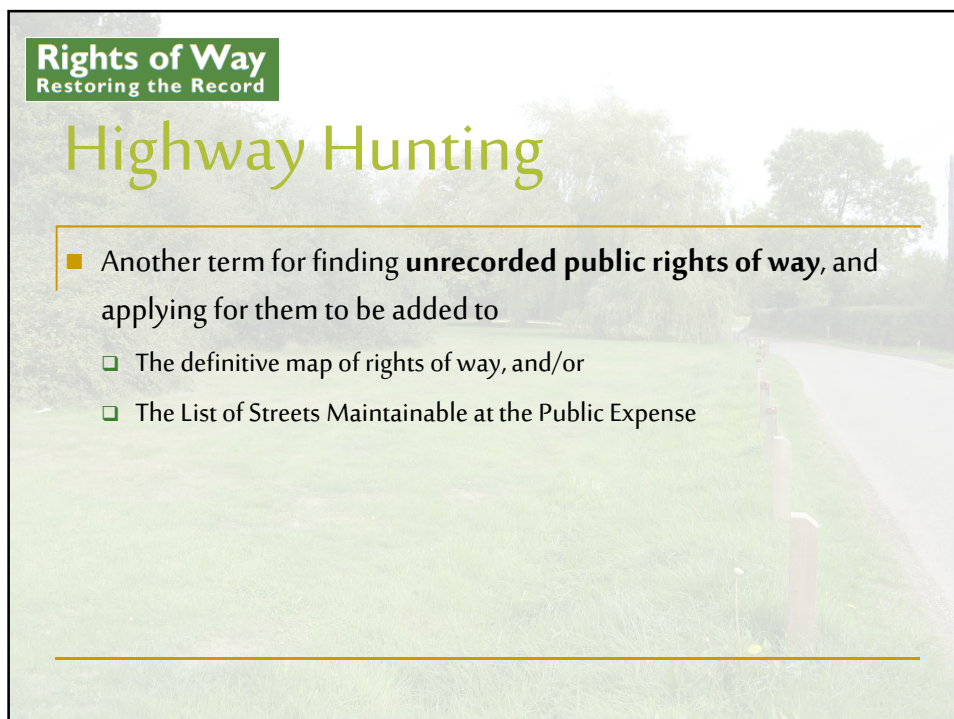
Rights of Way
Restoring the Record

Session 6

“Highway Hunting”

Phil Wadey

1



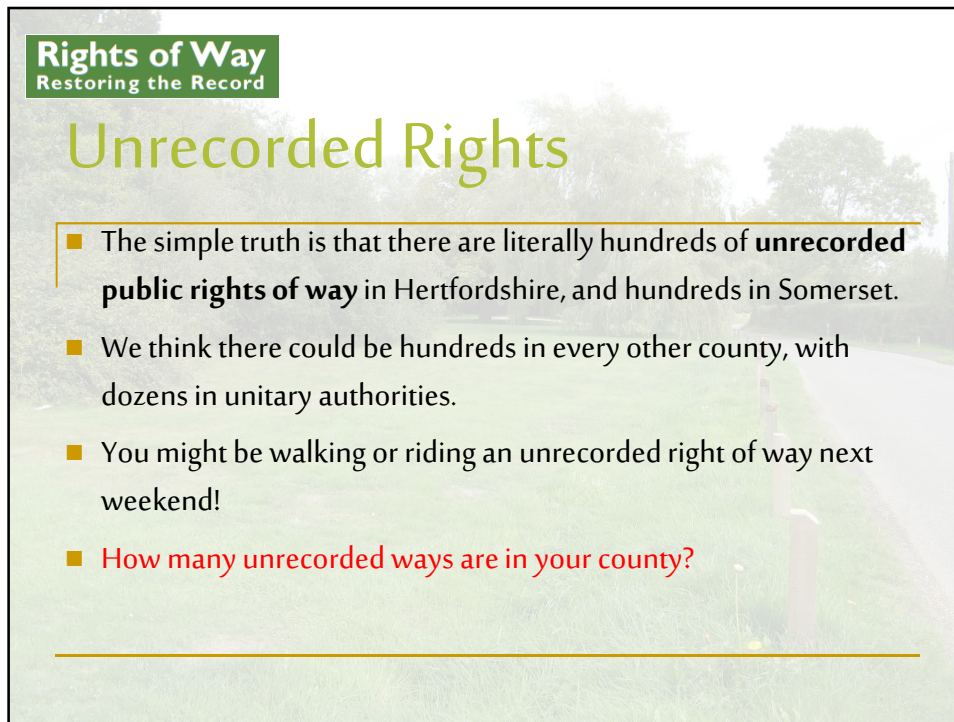
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Highway Hunting

- Another term for finding **unrecorded public rights of way**, and applying for them to be added to
 - The definitive map of rights of way, and/or
 - The List of Streets Maintainable at the Public Expense



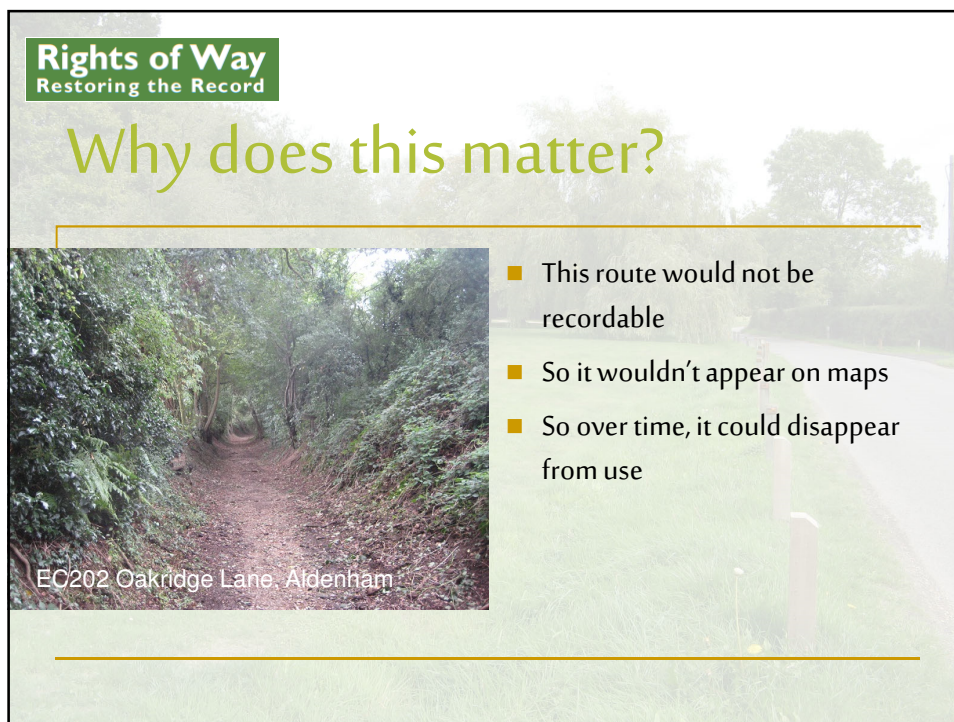




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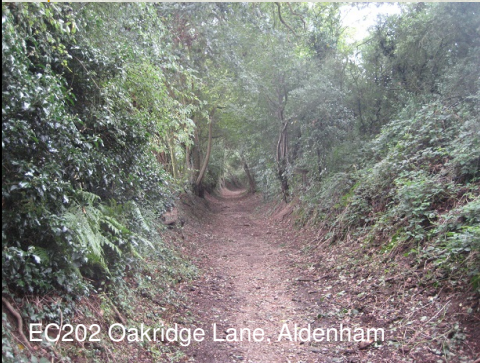
Unrecorded Rights

- The simple truth is that there are literally hundreds of **unrecorded public rights of way** in Hertfordshire, and hundreds in Somerset.
- We think there could be hundreds in every other county, with dozens in unitary authorities.
- You might be walking or riding an unrecorded right of way next weekend!
- How many unrecorded ways are in your county?



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Why does this matter?




EC202 Oakridge Lane, Aldenham

- This route would not be recordable
- So it wouldn't appear on maps
- So over time, it could disappear from use

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Why does this matter?




- This route would have ceased to exist in law
- Landowner could use land for other purposes
- What is the alternative route?
- (It's the A5)

EC349 Hyde Lane, St Stephen

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Why does this matter?




- This route would become a footpath.
- Motor vehicle use would be illegal
- Access to BW next to the red car no longer a right on horseback
- Effective loss of the BW

EC328 Hogg Lane, Aldenham

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Why does this matter?



EC793 Coltsfoot Lane, Anstey

- Public rights would cease to exist
- It would leave two cul-de-sac paths with no way of linking them
- Effective loss of a BW

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What are we doing?

- It's quite frightening that paths so clearly in use like these can vanish overnight, just because they're not on an official map
- But it's not all doom and gloom
- Welcome to the world of **Highway Hunting!**

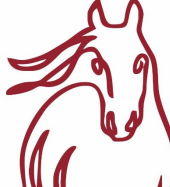
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The Sport England Project

- From June 2012 – June 2013, Sport England (via the British Equestrian Federation) funded a BHS project to look at how to speed up path recording.
- Hertfordshire and Somerset were the two pilot counties
- We were charged with submitting 50 DMMO applications each, and do some training

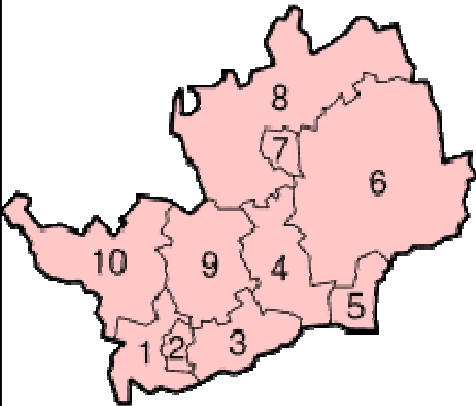


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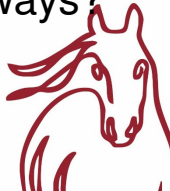
Hertfordshire



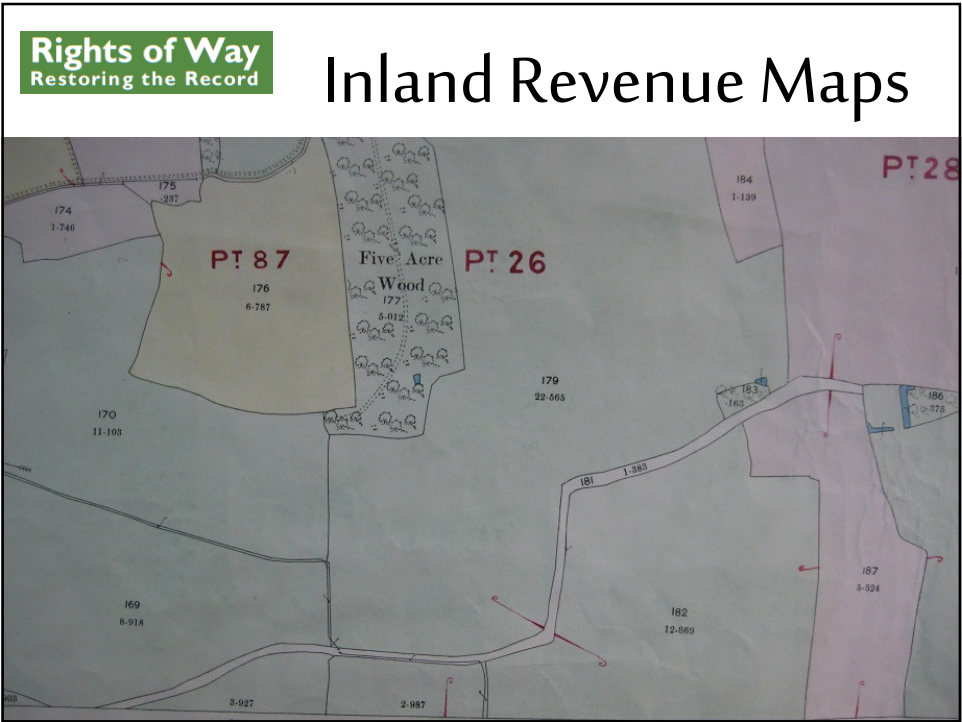
- 634 square miles
- 10 districts
- 135 parishes
- How many unrecorded ways?



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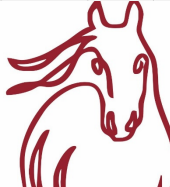
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Lists!


			
Hertfordshire IX 8			Out of county
	IR 126/4/79	IR1/	No unrecorded white roads found.
Hertfordshire IX 10	IR 126/4/80	IR1/	Part of Anstey 10 FP is shown as a white road. All the route is named as "Roger's Lane". The first part of Anstey 11 FP is shown as a white road. need to see Herts IX 14 to see if it continues as such. No other unrecorded white roads found.
	IR 126/4/81	IR1/	EC791 Brent Pelham and Meesden 10 BW is shown as a white road and named "Wood Lane". EC792 Brent Pelham and Meesden 1 BW is shown as a white road. EC793 Brent Pelham and Meesden ORPA is shown as a white road.
	IR 126/4/82	IR1/	No unrecorded white roads found.

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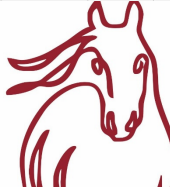
But this is just an indexing method – we still have to check other sources



EC	Hertfordshire Definitive Map Work	OS Map	OS Area Book	Dury & Andrews	Bryant	Tithe	Inclosure	Railway	Object Name Bk	OS Boundary	IR 1910	MAF	HCC
No	HCC	Brief Description											
641	EH410	Thundridge and Ware Rural UOCR1 Poles Lane											
641		H 29-4	Thundridge 116	Dr Rd		Not Ckd	Not Ckd	N/A	OS35/3317		IR126/4/222	MAF73/18/29	Not S
641		H 29-8	Ware 232	Dr Rd		Not Ckd	Not Ckd	N/A	OS35/3317		IR126/4/226		Not S
641	DAC130	H 25-2	Ting 246			Not Ckd	Not Ckd	N/A	Not named	N/A	IR126/8/31	73/18/25	Not S
641	DAC131	Ting Rural UOCR 2 Puttenham / joins Bucks route											
641		H24-8&25-1	Puttenham 68			Not Ckd	Not Ckd	N/A	Not named		IR126/8/29&32	73/18/24&25	Not S
644		H 25-1	Puttenham 18		L or B						IR 126/8/30	73/18/25	Not S
646		H 36-10	LB - No LU		L or B						IR126/4/270	73/18/36	Not S
647		Potters Bar/Enfield boundary path											
648		Northaw 13 FP to Holly Hill and extension to The Ridgeway											
649		M 2-9	Enfield 78									73/27/2	Mid
650		Northaw Parallel to Coopers Lane Road											
650		Clothall 19 FP to RB + RB, Haneys Hill Farm											
651		H 13-3/7	Cottered 297		L or B	Not Ckd	Not Ckd	N/A	OS35/3264	N/A	IR126/4/121 part 1	73/18/13	Ph is
652		Cottered 12 BW to RB Spring Lane											
652		Weston 36 BW to RB Lolleywood Lane											
653		Weston Dane End Farm route 5U18											
654	3R	Rickmansworth 32 FP upgrade or add width											
655	EH	Walkern 42 FP upgrade and extend											

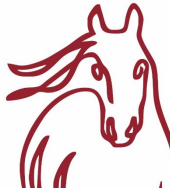


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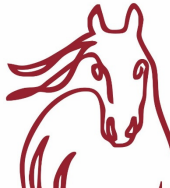
Hertfordshire Results



- Inland Revenue records photographed for approximately 97% of the county (50% during the project)
- Checked against definitive map
- 151 routes for investigation (now over 200)
- 51 applications made (restricted byway)
- Total cost: £3,706 (£73 per application)



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Somerset

- 1,610 square miles
- 7 districts
- 417 parishes
- How many unrecorded ways?

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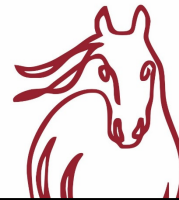
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Somerset approach: route led

1. Create long list of paths based on inputs from Affiliated Bridleways Groups
2. For identified paths, do 'initial research' for those parishes/map sets
3. If positive, then collect supporting evidence from Somerset Heritage Centre
4. View route on the ground
5. Make applications



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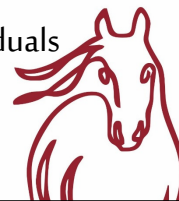
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The long list

- All of these were suggested by people with local knowledge (we only looked at part of Somerset)
- 87 possible routes initially, and at least another 12 came to our attention
- 49 parishes
- 4 affiliated bridleway associations plus a few individuals




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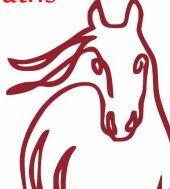


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Somerset Results

- 56 DMMO applications submitted
 - 20 were for upgrades and 36 were for additions
- Total length 36 miles (57.6 km)
- About 22.5 miles (36km) currently ridden
 - Longer than the Channel Tunnel
- Riders will feel the effect of closure of 22.5 miles of paths currently in use


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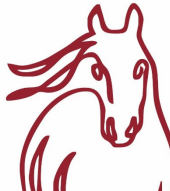


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Somerset Method Notes

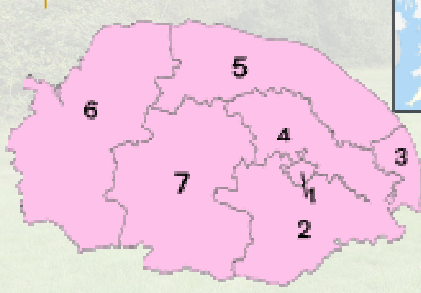
- A lot of riders do not know the status of the routes they currently ride, nor do they realise that they could loose them in 2026.
- Local knowledge is very valuable, local people often know where the unrecorded routes are.
- Many DMMO applications are for routes already in use
 - Land use is unaffected
 - Path saved from extinguishment on 1 January 2026
 - Clarity brought in by examination of the evidence.

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Norfolk



- 2,074 square miles
- 7 districts
- 541 parishes + 3 former unparished boroughs
- How many unrecorded ways?


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Norfolk

- Ian Witham, LC
- Working across the county
- IR maps (Kew)
- OS object names
- OS boundary books
- Local Maps
- Tithe
- Enclosure
- Railway

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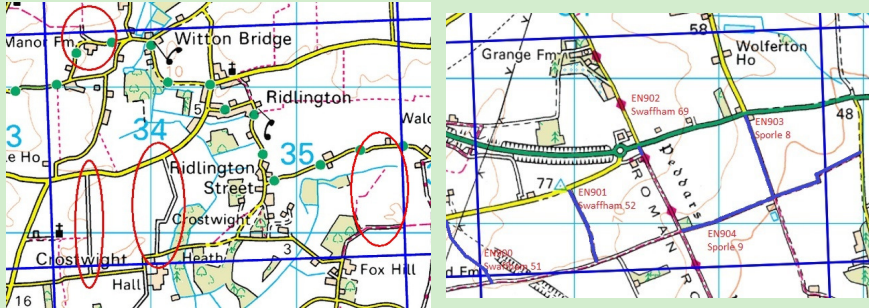
Norfolk – initial results

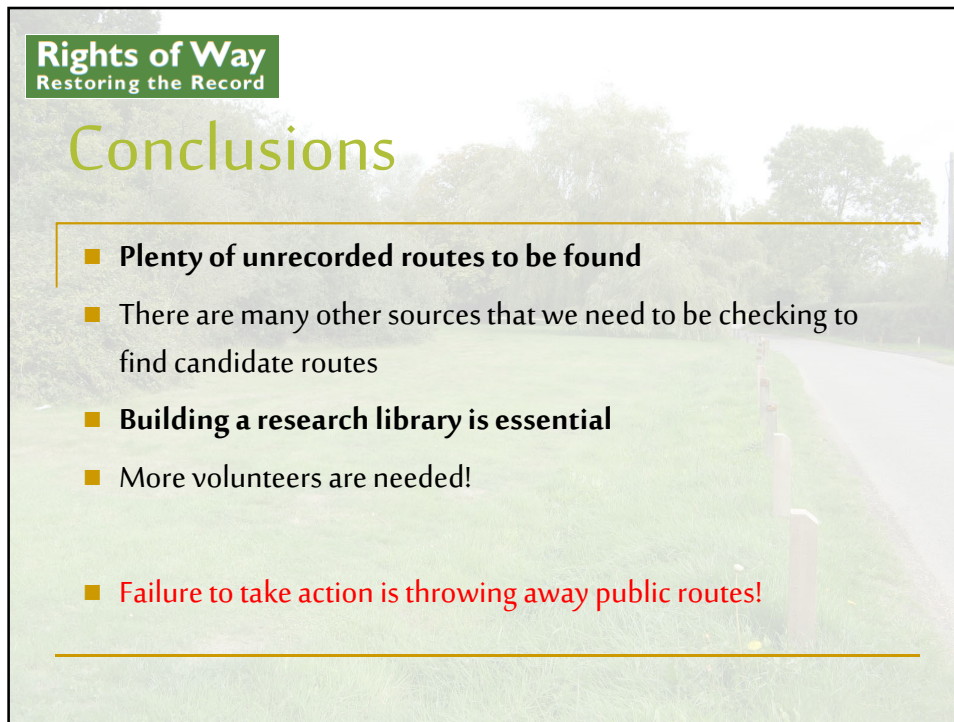


- 20 suspect paths
- From just 8 squares
- How many unrecorded ways for the county?

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Norfolk – initial results

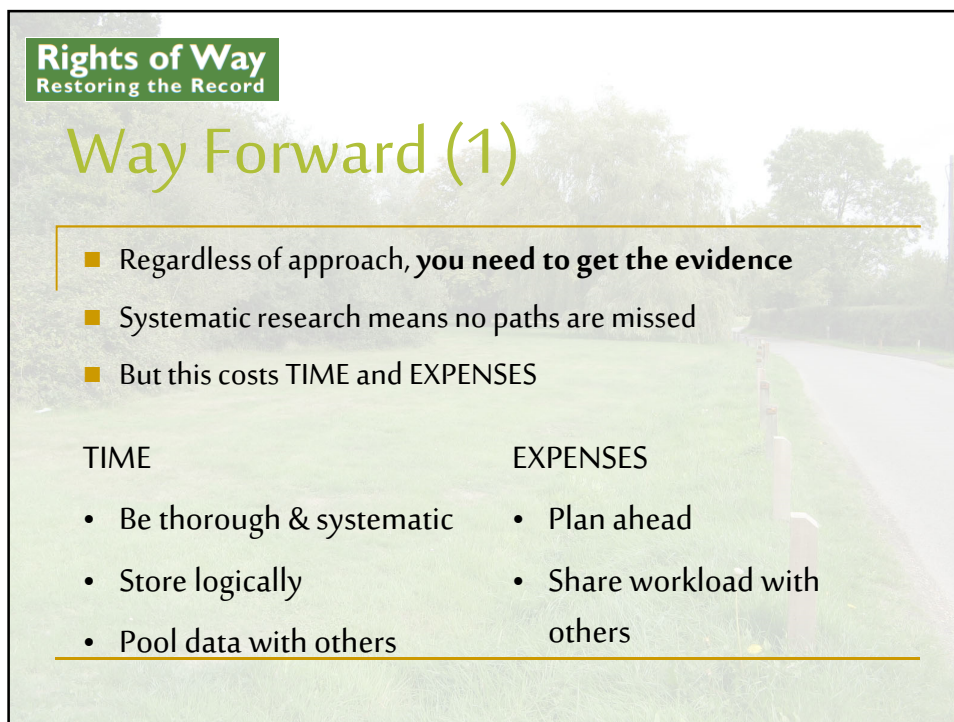




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Conclusions

- **Plenty of unrecorded routes to be found**
- There are many other sources that we need to be checking to find candidate routes
- **Building a research library is essential**
- More volunteers are needed!
- **Failure to take action is throwing away public routes!**

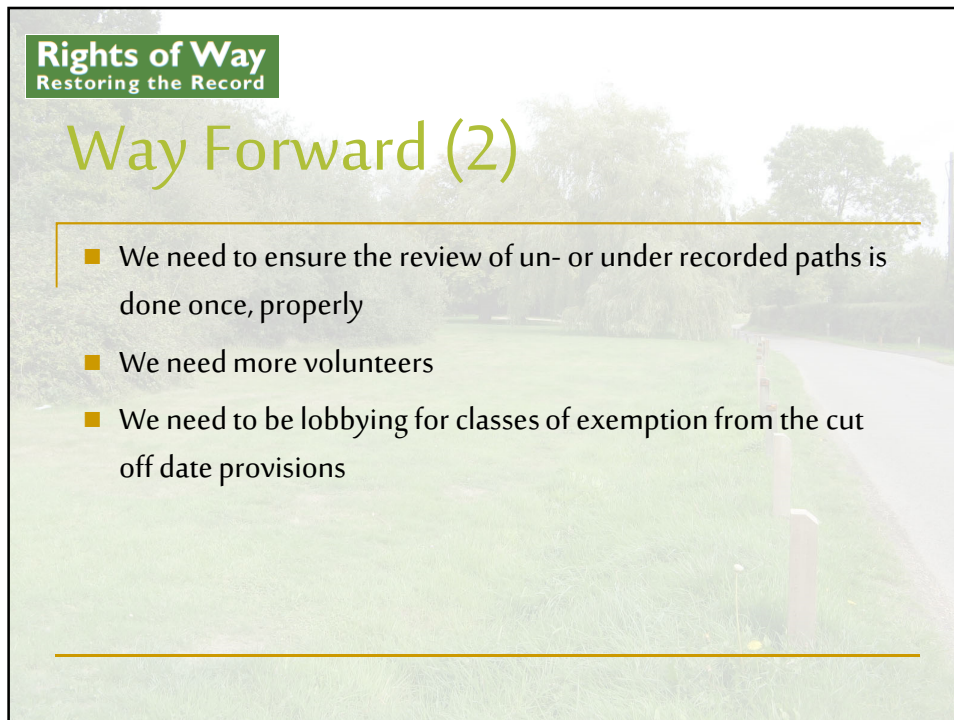


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Way Forward (1)

- **Regardless of approach, you need to get the evidence**
- Systematic research means no paths are missed
- But this costs TIME and EXPENSES

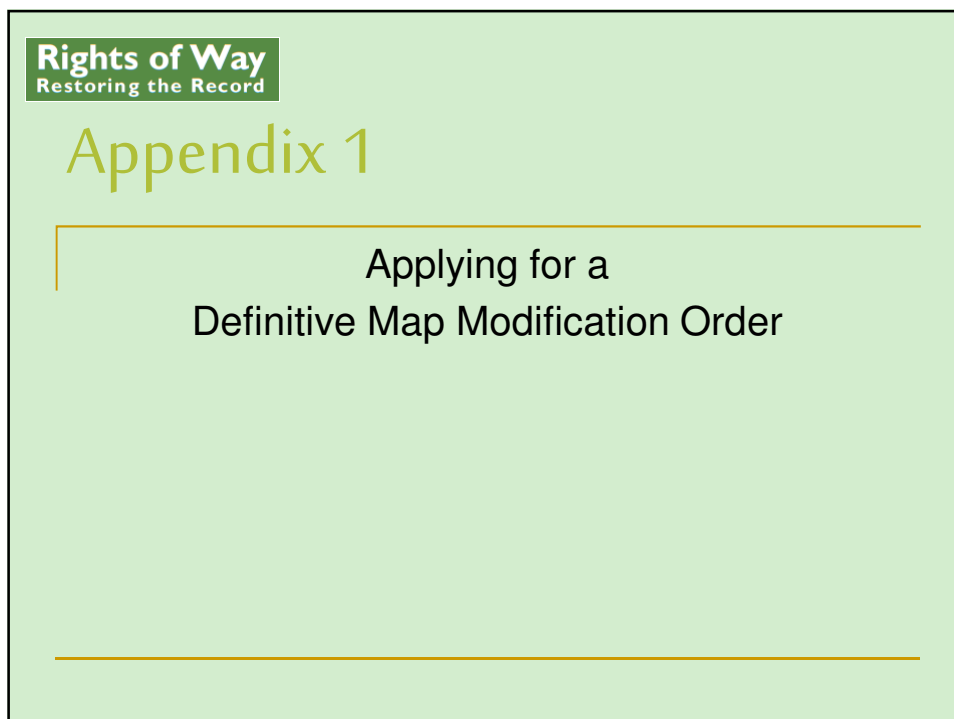
TIME	EXPENSES
• Be thorough & systematic	• Plan ahead
• Store logically	• Share workload with others
• Pool data with others	



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Way Forward (2)

- We need to ensure the review of un- or under recorded paths is done once, properly
- We need more volunteers
- We need to be lobbying for classes of exemption from the cut off date provisions





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Appendix 1


Applying for a Definitive Map Modification Order

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DMMO Applications


 ec532 130313




**WCA81 Sch14
Para 1
Compliant**


Average cost to get to here is £70 + 1.5 days if research library has been established


Path saved from cut off here

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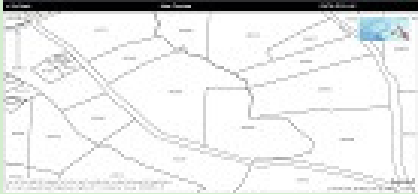
DMMO Applications







 ec532 130313


**WCA81 Sch14
Para 1
Compliant**

Average cost to get to here is £70 + 1.5 days if research library has been established




 ec532 130313






**WCA81 Sch14
Para 2
Compliant**

Extra cost averages £40 + half to 2 days depending on ownership pattern

Path saved from cut off here

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DMMO Applications



WCA81 Sch14
Para 1
Compliant

Average cost to get to here is £70 + 1.5 days if research library has been established

Path saved from cut off here

Deregulation Bill + Stakeholders Working Group proposals cause council to take over here – but at what cost?

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Any Questions?

