

LEICESTERSHIRE SEARCH FOR EVIDENCE TO PROTECT UNREGISTERED PATHS

The historical search for “Lost Ways”

A major problem!

Unless paths are registered on the definitive map by Dec 31st 2015 we will no longer be able to claim them on historical evidence.

We need to find the evidence now!

- Many rights of way have already disappeared
- Changes have caused footpaths to fall into disuse
- Others have become overgrown and are no longer passable
- Unless steps are taken rights of way will be forgotten and lost for all time
- With major new developments these could become invaluable again.

There are physical clues to be found on the ground and then mention in old documents or on maps also supports any claim. We have people walking the fields looking for evidence, people at home studying ob line material and people visiting the fascinating County Records Office.

What to look for? Tips and Clues.

- When seeking evidence, talk to locals and note any relevant recollections
- Is the route enclosed; hedged or ditched on both sides?
- Is the route surface lower than land on either side?
- Is there evidence of stoned or bound surface?
- Does it have telegraph poles along part of its length?
- Does it go under a railway through a wide bridge?
- Does it have a name (helpful ones are “Old Road”, “Horseway Drove”, “Holdfast Lane” etc)?
- Does it join a highway at each end, or join a road to a common?

Dont imagine that unprotected paths are likely to be slight hints though. Many major ways have no legal status or protection against closure

If evidence is found we will log it for the future but if they are being used we can claim them under different legislation so the 2025 cut off does not apply

These are a taste of routes without any actual legal status!

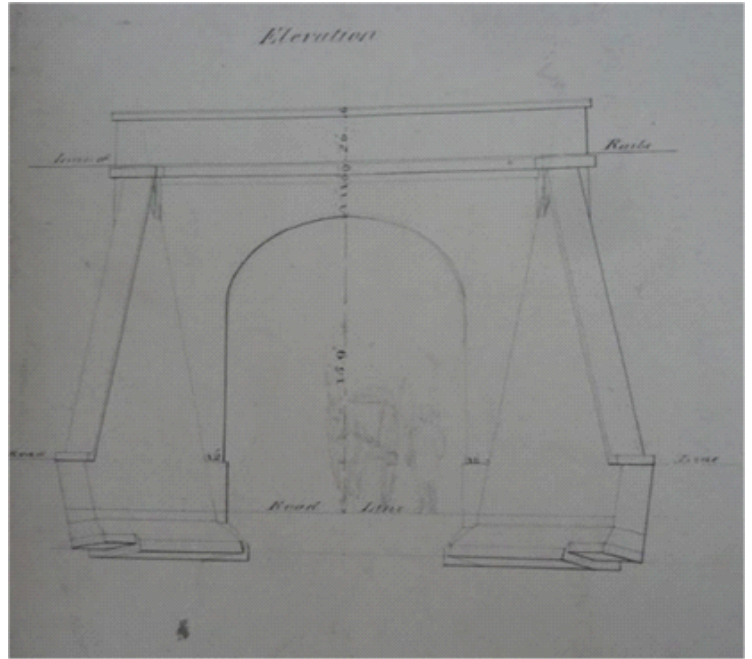


Even some with road signs on them are not recorded rights of way

Clues from the Archives

Old railway records.

The tender document from the time of the construction of the railway indicates
A route passing underneath probably a bridleway as size of aperture suggests use by horse and carts!



Valuation maps from the 1910 Finance Act



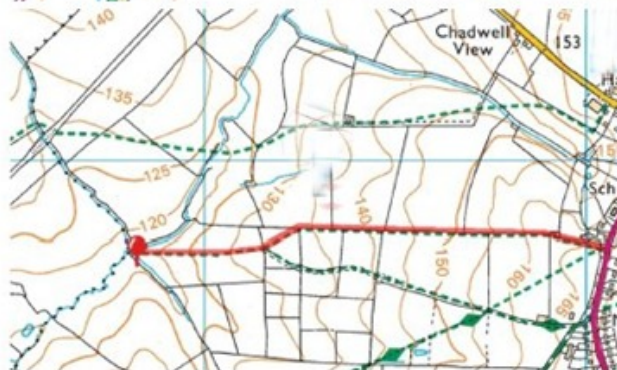
Showing roads excluded from property boundaries – it follows they must have been considered highways.



**If not being taxed,
it must have been
thought public!**

**Sometimes it
shows the land as
actually owned by
the Surveyor of
Highways.**

Local cases



**Path F5 (the middle one) from the Waltham-Melton
Road to stream/boundary - one parish recorded it and
the next did not.**

What is needed?

- A lot of people doing a little
- A dedicated few pulling it together and preparing an application
- More time than we have got

**If you think you can help
or want more information
ring Roy Denney on 0116 233 8604
email: roydenney at hotmail.com**



**YOUR
FOOTPATHS
NEED YOU!**

If we want future generations to enjoy our rights of way network, established over many centuries and the envy of the world, we need to act now to get them all recorded on the definitive map.