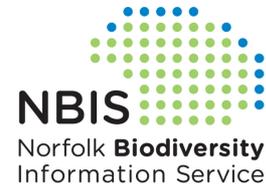




Green Lane Project Introduction & Guidance



What is a green lane?

In principle, a green lane is an unmetalled track, wide enough for a horse and cart (or these days a farm vehicle) to pass along and bounded on both sides, usually by hedges. Normally they are marked on an Ordnance Survey map by two (parallel) lines and are uncoloured. Many are named on the 1:25000 scale Ordnance Survey maps. Most have a very long history. They may be part of a parish boundary and there may be ancient trees within the hedges.

Green lanes are not necessarily public rights of way, but many are byways, restricted byways or bridleways. Some have become much narrower through disuse, but where the hedges have spread inwards as scrub, however, it is often possible to see the original width by the presence of banks at the base of the original hedge lines. These may now just be footpaths or there may occasionally be a footpath along the edge of an overgrown double-hedge. These are still of interest in the survey. Some may have had one or both hedges grubbed up for some or all of their length. If there is evidence from maps, local knowledge or on the ground (e.g. banks or ditches still present) then these too are still of interest.

The main purpose of this initial survey is to try and gather an inventory of green lanes in Norfolk and particularly those that may have wildlife and/or historical interest.

Guidance on filling in the form

Designation if known: This may be shown on a sign at the entrance to the lane or may be determined from an Ordnance Survey map. (Don't worry if you can't fill this in)

Grid reference: An 8-figure reference at each end of the lane is ideal. A hand-held GPS is best, but grid references can be read from a map or on-line.

Examples include:

<http://wtp2.appspot.com/wheresthepath.htm>,
<http://gridreferencefinder.com> or
www.bnhs.co.uk/focuson/grabagridref/html/index.htm

Approx. width: A simple estimate of the width (e.g. by pacing out) is all that's needed. If the width varies (as happens with many lanes), then a note of the width at the widest and narrowest points would be helpful.

Sunken by: Some lanes may be deeper than the adjacent fields. If so, please note the approximate depth in metres.

Boundaries: Please note all types of boundary and give some brief indication of how much they occur: e.g. 'hedge: (overgrown, both sides for most of the length), ditch: (on south-east side for a short distance)'. For hedges, a rough indication of species composition would help.

Adjacent land use: Please include all that the lane passes by, e.g. arable, pasture, deciduous, mixed or plantation woodland, heathland, housing etc.

Notable features: Please enter anything you think is of note. We are particularly interested in ecological features (e.g. banks that may be good habitat for invertebrates) and historical features (e.g. ancient trees, parish boundary stones). Further information about veteran trees would be very welcome.

Wildlife: Obviously people will have different areas of interest and expertise, please just note down everything that you can. You may wish to make several visits at different time of year. For species of particular interest it would be helpful if an individual grid reference is recorded, especially if it is a long lane (similarly for notable features).

Negative characteristics: Please note anything that you feel is detrimental to the character or wildlife interest of the lane.