

Unsealed Unclassified County Roads

Natural England's view: – 'Out in the Country' 27th November 2007. Ca09[1].pdf

As well as showing public rights of way from the definitive map, OS maps show other roads, tracks and paths. Not all of these are open to the public and therefore OS maps include a statement that 'the representation on this map of any other road, track or path is no evidence of the existence of a right of way'. It is usually safe to assume that you can drive, walk or ride along those roads and lanes which are shown in colour on the maps, unless there are indications to the contrary. But some minor lanes and tracks are shown uncoloured; these are sometimes known as 'white roads'.

Some 'white roads' have been given a symbol of green (Explorer maps) or red (Landranger maps) circles to denote that they are depicted as 'other routes with public access'. These are routes which are not recorded on the definitive map, but which are listed in the highway authority's records as being highways which it has a responsibility to maintain. **The public's rights over these routes are not defined in a legal record**, but they will be likely to include a right to walk or ride a horse or pedal cycle, and may also include the right to drive a vehicle.

If there is any doubt or dispute about using a route shown as an 'other route with public access' or as a 'white road' contact the highway authority. If you find that a right of way does exist on a white road ask your highway authority if it can be added to the definitive map, so that it will eventually appear on the OS map as a right of way.

DEFRA GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES – CIRCULAR (1/08)

Unclassified county roads on the list of streets

Name: Circular 1/09 Version: 2 Status: Released Page 22 of 66 Date :
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4.42 In relation to an application under the 1981 Act to add a route to a definitive map of rights of way, the inclusion of an unclassified road on the 1980 Act list of highways maintained at public expense **may provide evidence of vehicular rights**. However, this must be considered with all other relevant evidence in order to determine the nature and extent of those rights. It would be possible for a way described as an unclassified road on a list prepared under the 1980 Act, or elsewhere, to be added to a definitive map of public rights of way provided the route fulfils the criteria set out in Part III of the 1981 Act. However, authorities will need to examine the history of such routes and the rights that may exist over them on a case by case basis in order to determine their status.

PLANNING INSPECTORATE CONSISTENCY GUIDELINES – 2003 REVISED 2011

Unclassified County Roads (UCR)

2.46 **This classification has no legal standing** but it carries some inference that the public may use the highway with vehicles. Extant advice is that 'all other relevant evidence must be taken into account' (see letter from the head of Countryside Division dated 24 August 1998).