

REPORT FOR Shropshire BDS

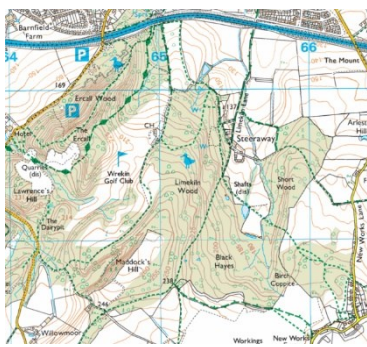
Claiming lost routes

We have until the end of 2025 to claim lost routes using historical evidence – old maps etc. A claim means submitting a DMMO (definitive map modification order) which I will do for people. It may then take the council years to make a decision but at least the application is on file.

After January 2026 we can only claim routes as public rights of way by submitting user evidence – and this needs to span 20 years use so a lot more difficult to prove.

How can you help?

Familiarise yourselves with OS maps. Understand what constitutes a public right of way (PROW). They appear either in pink or green dependent upon the scale of OS map that you are using.



Have a look at where you currently drive. Are they at least restrictive byways? If it appears on the map as a white lane then this route is in danger of being lost. New landowners are putting up gates and claiming that they are private roads. It doesn't matter who owns the road – if a right of way exists then it simply a case of making an application to have it recorded correctly on the definitive map.

Where can I find OS maps online?

Bing maps is an excellent site but make sure you choose the “ordnance survey” option for the map layer (probably in top righthand corner). Streetmap.co.uk is also good and the BHS have access to online maps through their Project 2026 / Dobbin site.

Is there an idiots guide somewhere?

Yes the Ramblers have a useful introduction leaflet that explains a lot but aimed at footpath users. Their campaign is called “Don't lose your way”.

The BHS have sites dedicated to tracking DMMOs ... search for Dobbin or Project 2026.

What do I do if I think I use somewhere that is not recorded as a public right of way?

Let me know – send me an email and a screen shot of the OS map. I will check the Shropshire Council DMMO register to see if an application has already been submitted. I will check whether there is sufficient historical evidence supporting it's use.

Email: sarobinson@Ymail.com ... yes Y mail not G mail.

Thank you