

The 2026 Challenge

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Less than
10 years to go

The 2026 Challenge

In 2026, unrecorded rights of way that existed before 1949 will be extinguished.

The Challenge is to apply for all the unrecorded or under-recorded rights to be added to the definitive map, before it is too late.

Exemption from Cut Off?

“After the deadline has been reached, any footpath or bridleway created before 1949 which is not recorded on a definitive map and for which no claim has been submitted will, with certain exceptions, be extinguished.”

Michael Meacher MP, Minister for the Environment
Debate on Countryside and Rights of Way Bill
Hansard 14 Jun 2000 : Column 951 [1]

Dispel the myths

- Not all ways are lost
 - many are in current use
 - We are not talking about new routes
 - rights already exist but are currently un-recorded
 - Many are hedged and ditched lanes
 - Many have no known owner
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The Challenge

Today we will:

- Outline the tasks ahead to beat 2026

 - Consider how LAFs can best
 - Influence
 - Encourage
 - Assist
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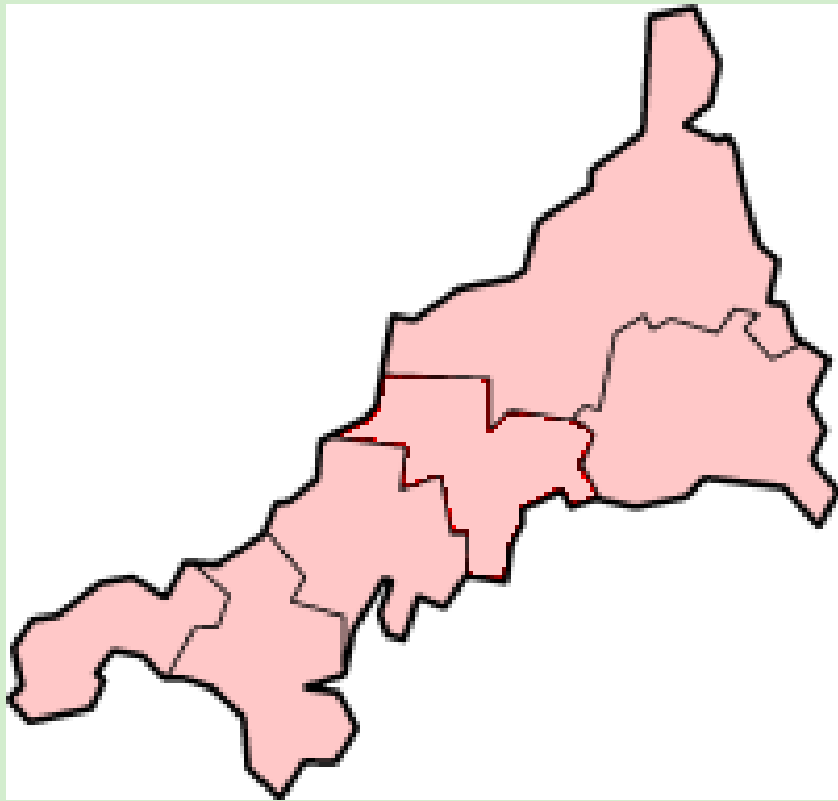
The Sport England Project

- 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 doing some training
- This talk draws on some of our findings

Unrecorded Rights

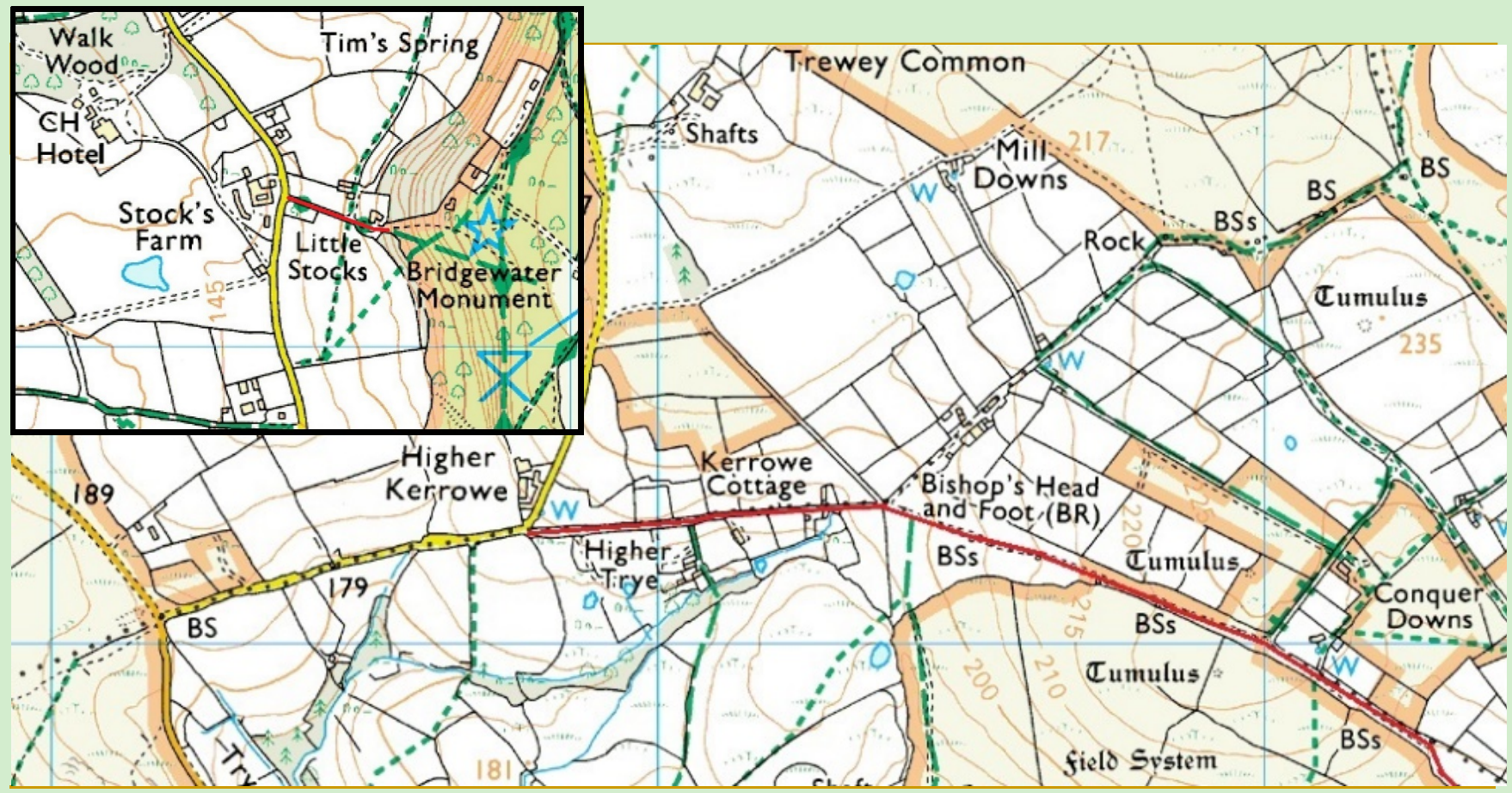
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- The simple truth is that there are literally hundreds of **unrecorded public rights of way** in most counties.
 - We think there could be hundreds in every county, with dozens in unitary authorities.
 - You might be walking or riding an unrecorded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



- 1,376 square miles
- 7 former districts
- 213 parishes
- Estimated 5000 unrecorded ways (=2/day for 10 years)
- Many are ORPAs and short joining links

Routes – Long and Short



Systematic Research: A-B-C

A. Build a List of Routes

B. Build the Research Library

C. Make DMMO Applications

Building your index

- Mark up your search map with any routes you will investigate
 - Number them
 - That's it!
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- Then use the reference number for filing and tracking at all times

Index Map - Example

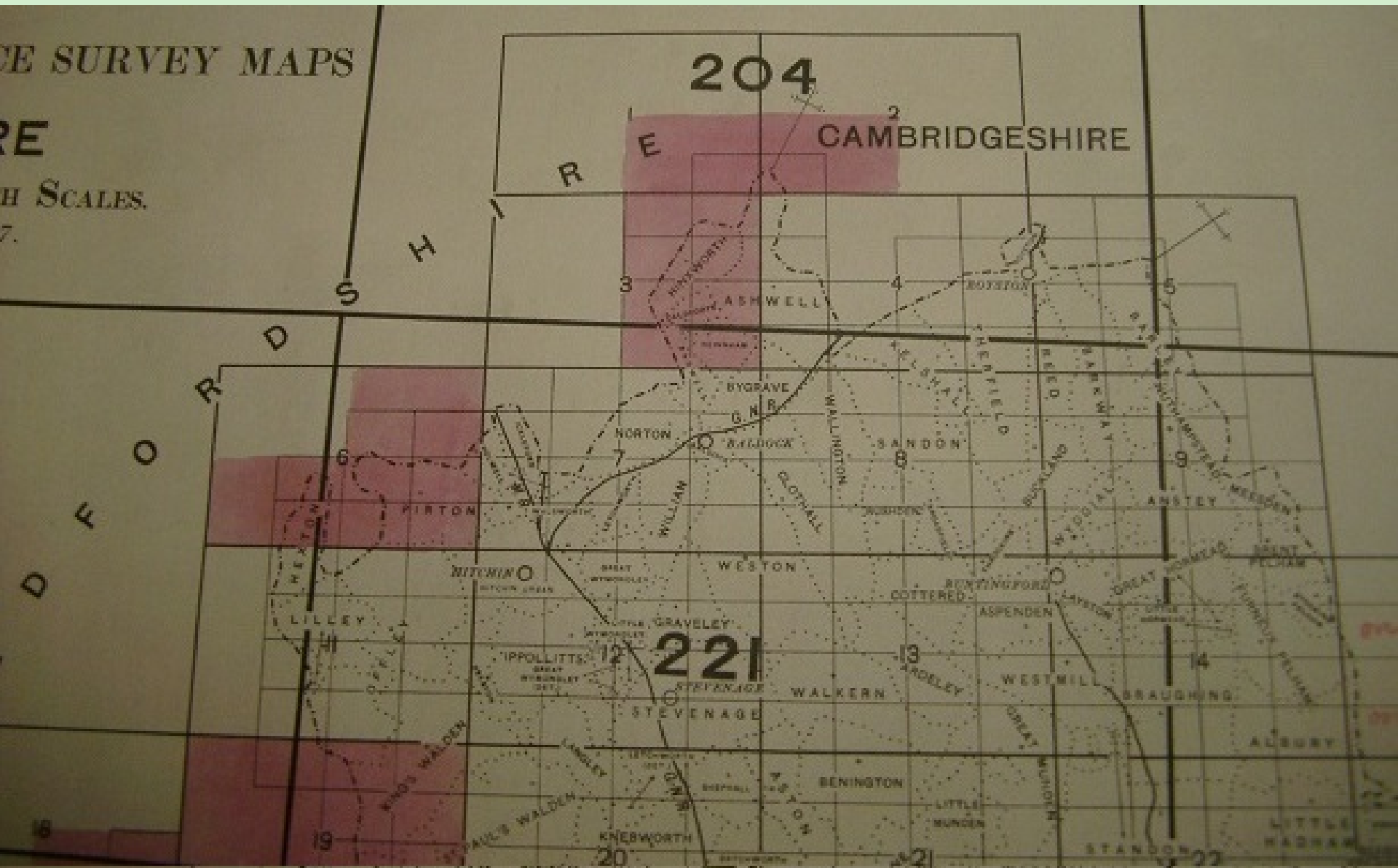


Rights of Way

Restoring the Record

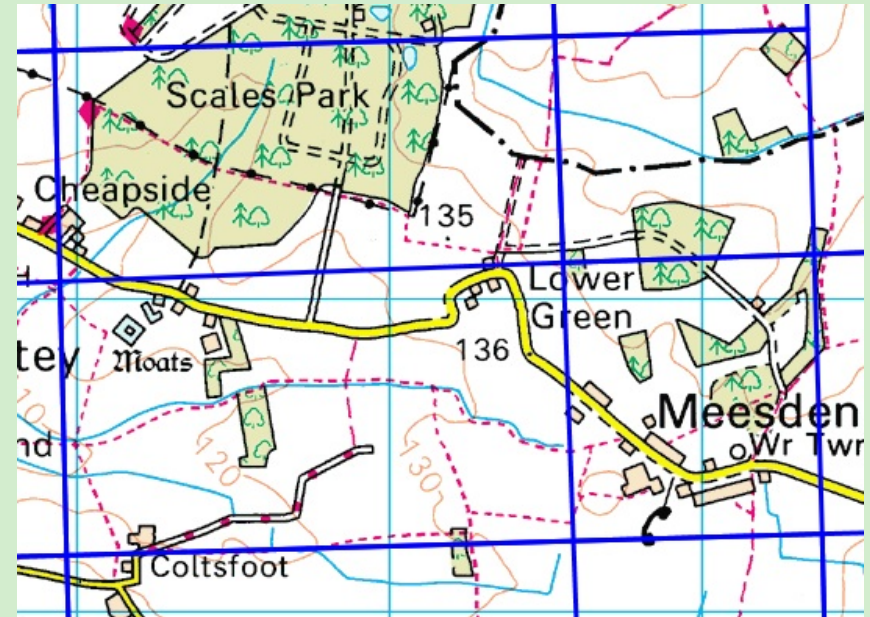
CE SURVEY MAPS

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7.



Systematic Methodology

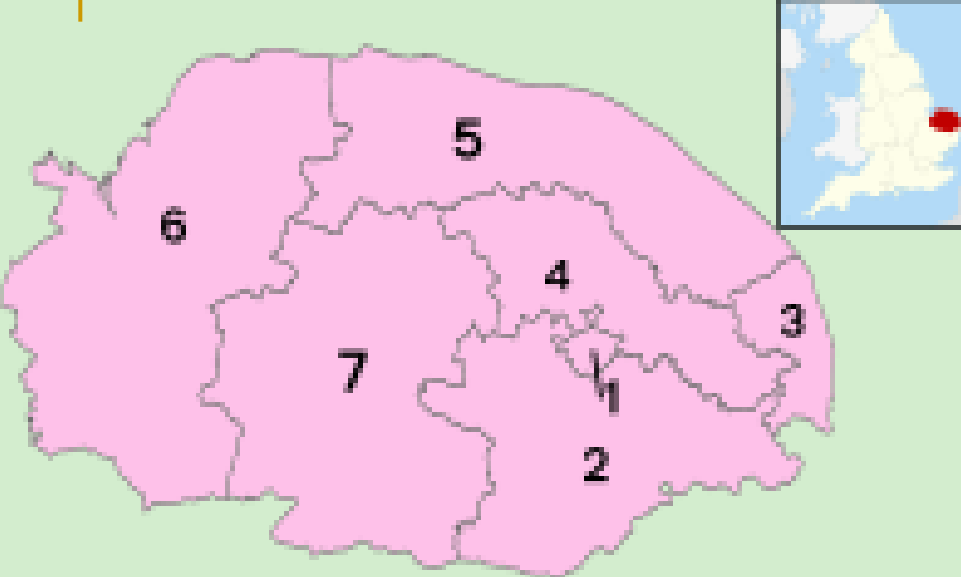
- 528 small grid squares
- One at a time
- Start with Inland Revenue Valuation Maps (c.1910)
- Then tithes (not grid)
- Then inclosures (not grid)



Pulling things together

EC Hertfordshire Definitive Map Work			OS Map	OS Area Book	Dury & Andrews	Bryant	Object Name Bk	OS Boundary	IR 1910	MAF
No	HCC	Brief Description								
679	NH	Ickleford 15 BW to RB	H7-9							MAF73/18/
680	EH397	Buntingford 24 BR to RB Alswick Hall	H14-1	Layston 200	Yes	Dr			IR 126/4/131	MAF73/18/
680		-do-	H14-5	Layston 200					IR 126/4/135	
681	EH	Buntingford 9 RB extend south to main road	H14-1	Gt Hormead 70	No	L or B			IR 126/4/131	MAF73/18/
682		Gt Hormead - add cul de sac RB	H14-3						IR 126/4/133	MAF73/18/
683	EH	Furieux Pelham ORPA Violets Lane	H14- 4	F. Pelham 124	Yes	L or B			IR 126/4/134	MAF73/18/
683		-do-	H14-8	F. Pelham 124					IR 126/4/138	MAF73/18/
684		Stocking Pelham ORPA to Rooks	H14-4	S. Pelham. 39					IR 126/4/134	MAF73/18/
685		Braughing 26 FP to RB	H14-6						IR 126/4/136	MAF73/18/
686	EH272	Furieux Pelham 17 FP upgrade and extend "East End" & 18 FP to RB	H14-8	F. Pelham. 215			N/A	N/A	IR 126/4/138	MAF73/18/
686		-do- (FP 18, Part)	H14-12	F. Pelham 217					IR 126/4/142	MAF73/18/
687	EH404	Braughing 14 BW to RB	H14-10	Braughing 162	6		N/A	N/A	IR 126/4/140	MAF73/18/
688		Braughing 3 BW (pt) to RB [RB 24 to BW 14]	H14-10	Braughing 158			N/A	N/A	IR 126/4/140	MAF73/18/
689	EH409	Braughing add RB from BW 12/14 to RB 31 & FP 6	H14-10	Braughing 162					IR 126/4/140	MAF73/18/
689		-do-	H14-11	Braughing 214					IR 126/4/141	
690		Braughing 30 BW (part) to RB	H14-11						IR 126/4/141	MAF73/18/
691		Furieux Pelham ORPA to join BOAT 13 King Ln	H14-12	F. Pelham 349					IR 126/4/142	MAF73/18/
692		Braughing 17 BW (part) to RB	H14-12	F. Pelham 349					IR 126/4/142	MAF73/18/
693		Albury 23 and Braughing 33 BW to RB and include ORPA	H14-15	Braughing 477	6				IR 126/4/145	MAF73/18/

Norfolk



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

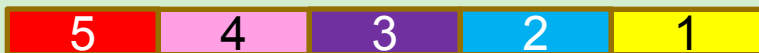
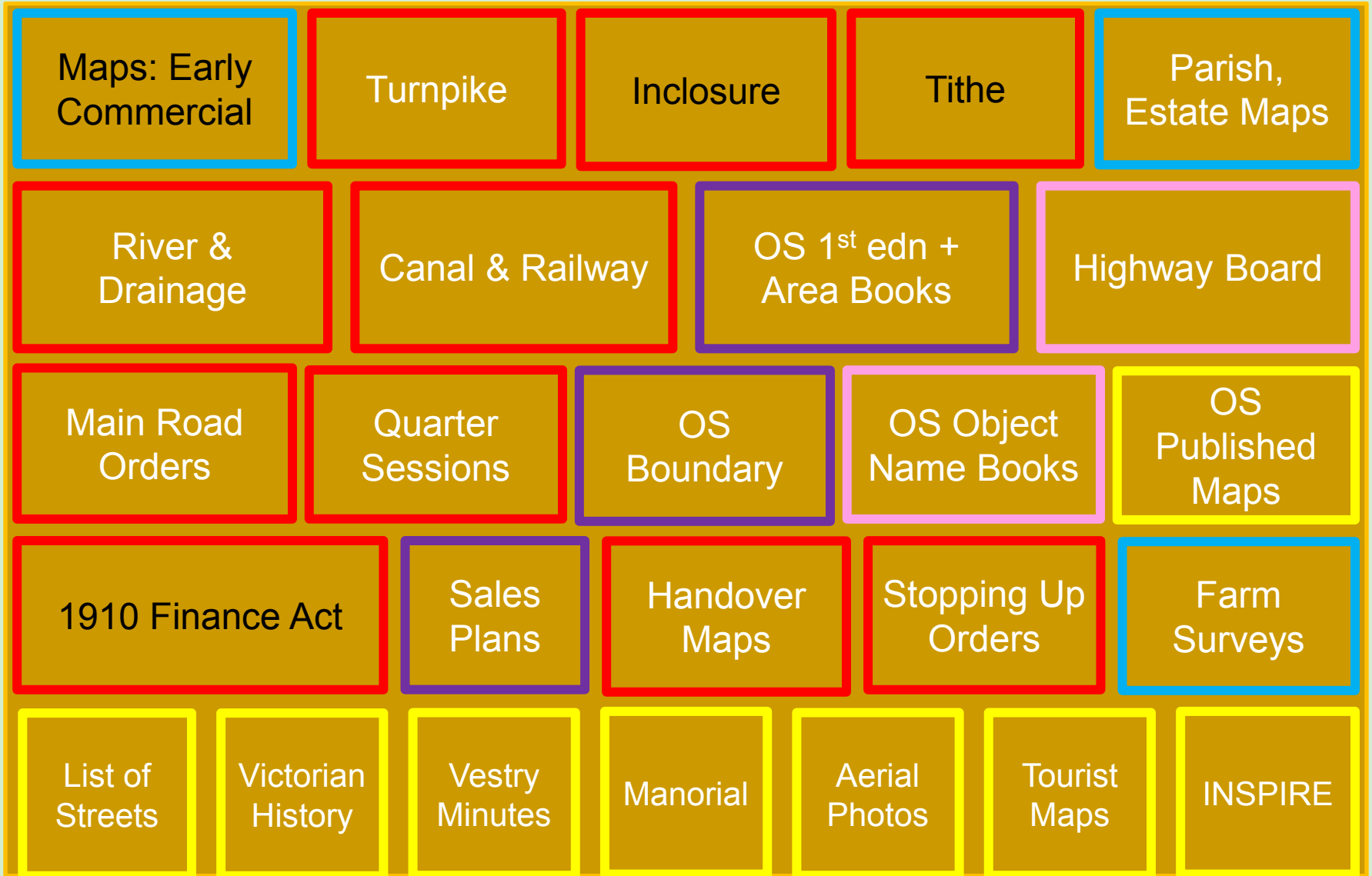
Norfolk – initial results



- 102 suspect paths
- From 49 squares
- How many unrecorded ways for the county?

Rights of Way

Restoring the Record



Checklist

Spreadsheet alternative

- Document checklist
- One per route

Name of Route: _____ Ref Number: _____

Parish(es): _____

OS Country grid: _____

Grid Reference of Route: _____

Notes: _____

OS	Document	Reference Number and brief notes of item shown	Seen	Used
3.3	Commercial 1			
3.3	Commercial 2			
3.3	Topogical			
3.5	Inclusions			
3.6	Titles			
3.7	Parish, Estate Maps			
3.8	River/Drainage			
3.9	Railway Plans			
	Railway Book of Reference			
3.10	OS Area Books			
3.11	Highway Board			
3.12	HCC Main Roads			
3.13	Quarry Stations			
3.14	OS Boundary Records			
3.15	OS Object Name Book			
3.16	Other OS			
3.17	Inland Revenue			
3.18	Sales Documents			
3.19	Handover Maps			
3.20	Stepping Up Orders			
3.21	MSF			
3.22	DC Information			
3.23	Other			
3.23	Other			

Date of Application: _____ Council Ref Number: _____

Our thoughts...

- **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**
- Something everyone can try
- And **more volunteers** are needed! Work with others!

Volunteer groups

Groups formed after training days

- Haywards Heath, Sussex (19)
 - ('Sussex Don't lose your way' project)
 - Cornwall (37) BHS with other user groups
 - Buckinghamshire (40) LAF and volunteers
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What could your LAF do?

Please spend 10 minutes in groups.

- Consider how your LAFs could best
 - Influence
 - Encourage, and
 - Assist

activities to record all highways at risk by 2026

Workshop Time

Summarise Findings

□ 1

□ 2

□ 3

ROWRTR Training Programme

- 5 Mar 2016, Norfolk
 - 19 Mar 2016, Llandudno
 - 9 Apr 2016, Manchester
 - 23 May 2016, Buckinghamshire (for LAF)
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- Contact hq@restoringtherecord.org.uk to arrange a session for your area
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Cut-Off to Focus the Mind

“The reason why there has been so little progress until now is that there has been no concentration of minds on this objective.”

Michael Meacher MP, Minister for the Environment
Debate on Countryside and Rights of Way Bill
Hansard 14 Jun 2000 : Column 950 [1]

[1] http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm199900/cmhansrd/vo000614/debtext/00614-06.htm#00614-06_spmin0