

Supply of Public Rights of Way for Oxfordshire – Digital Layer: 17 February 2026

Explanatory Information: The copy of the public rights of way digital layer is taken from the County Council's Working copy map of public rights of way. It is intended to show the legal route of rights of way, which may not always be the routes that are being used in practice. It shows the status of the paths, and an indication of the alignment.

The digital Public Rights of Way map data supplied **is not** the legal record and is just indicative of recorded public rights of way. Any information we send you electronically has limitations and may only ever be used as a guide. The only legal record of the County's rights of way is the Definitive Map and Statement ("DM&S"), relevant date 21/2/06 (in paper form) together with copies of subsequent confirmed legal orders. Details of where these can be seen are available at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/definitivemap.

The public rights of way dataset is not a direct copy of that used on the DM&S. This used a pre-PAI basemap dated 2002. Subsequently, the County Council has since undertaken a PAI programme on the rights of way data to reposition it in relation to the OS Mastermap (PAI) base map.

The digitised Public Rights of Way information is only up to date to **17 February 2026**. Subsequent changes to a particular area may be viewed on the County Council's online map at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/countrysidemap. This is regularly updated to show changes to the network (but please note the restrictions in 'conditions of use' below).

Public Rights of Way, Oxfordshire County Council, 2026. This information is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3>).

Definitions:

Public Rights of Way: They are minor highways, protected in law like all other public roads. There are four types:

- **Public Footpath:** for walkers only
- **Public Bridleway:** for walkers, horse riders, and cyclists only
- **Restricted Byway:** for walkers, horse riders, cyclists and horse drawn carriage drivers only (motorised vehicles are prohibited)
- **Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT):** these routes are open to motorised vehicles and all other kinds of user

Metadata:

- **RouteCode:** Unique code for each link based on Parish number/Path number/Link number
- **RouteNumber:** Path number
- **Status:** Value for each link to describe the status:
 - 1 – Public Footpath (FP)
 - 2 – Public Bridleway (BR)
 - 3 – Restricted Byway (RB)
 - 4 – Byway Open to all Traffic (BOAT)
- **StatusDescription:** Text for each link to describe the status
- **LegalType:** Value for each link to describe the Legal status:
- **LegalTypeDescription:** Text for each link to describe the legal status
- **Length_m:** Length of link in metres
- **ParishCode**

- **Easting:** Grid Reference for Centroid of route
- **Northing:** Grid Reference for Centroid of route
- **EastingStart:** Grid Reference for start of route
- **NorthingStart:** Grid Reference for start of route
- **EastingEnd:** Grid Reference for End of route
- **NorthingEnd:** Grid Reference for End of route

Formats: ArcGIS v10.8 (can export to other formats)

Widths: The width of a public right of way is not shown in the data, but the width may be recorded in the Definitive Statement.

Scale: The rights of way were digitised with a view to being seen at a scale of 1:10,000. Viewing the data at a larger scale than this will not increase its accuracy. Therefore it is always best to print at 1:10,000 scale.

Conditions of Use: It is your responsibility to understand the limitations set out in this document and use the data accordingly. Any misuse of the data by yourselves/your organisation is your responsibility. Your attention is drawn to the following points in particular:

Reliance should not be placed on the rights of way dataset for legal purposes. The digital Public Rights of Way map data supplied **is not** the legal record and is just indicative of recorded public rights of way as at **17 February 2026.**

The DM&S (i.e. in paper form) together with copies of subsequent confirmed legal orders will remain the only authoritative legal record.

Rights of way may exist which are not yet recorded. The fact that a path is not shown does not necessarily mean that it is not a public path.

The public rights of way digital layer does not contain Temporary Diversions

For planning purposes it is advised to use a buffer zone around the public rights of way.

The data is linear; the line is not indicative of the width of the right of way. Width information may be recorded in the Definitive Statement.

The optimum scale is 1:10,000.

Further Information: For more information regarding Public Rights of Way (including line interpretation/advice) please contact Definitive Map Team at:

Countryside Access Legal
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
New Road
Oxford OX1 1ND

Direct line: 01865 897135

Email: countrysideaccesslegal@oxfordshire.gov.uk