

A GUIDE TO USING THE DEFINITIVE MAPS OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & THE COUNTY ROAD RECORDS

**Map Room,
Shire Hall, Gloucester**



**Records are available to
view free of charge
8.30am - 5pm
Monday - Friday**

The Definitive Maps of Public Rights of Way

The Definitive Maps of Public Rights of Way are kept under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 & Section 56 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Reading the Definitive Maps:

The Maps are based on Ordnance Survey sheets and are split into geographical areas according to the old Rural Districts. If you are unsure as to which map volume you require, there is a list in the Map Room that indicates which Parish belongs to which old Rural District area.

The original Definitive Maps are printed at a scale of 1:10,560; some of the more densely covered areas have larger scale insets.

There are 4 classes of public rights of way; each has its own identifying symbol:

Public Footpath - - - -
Bridleway - | - | -
Restricted Byway - V - V - V -
Byway Open to All Traffic - V - A - V -

As the Definitive Maps were subject to public consultation prior to being published, they are considered 'conclusive evidence as to what they contain'.

Amendments can be made to the Maps through a statutory process. As a Legal Order is required to amend the 'original' base maps, any amendments made to the rights of way network 'on the ground' are shown on an overlay in the map volumes. In general, red routes have been extinguished; blue routes are additions; grey routes are 'modification orders'. Each amendment on the overlay has a

page-unique identifier, which gives details of the proposal/ amendment.

Modification Orders:

The Council must maintain a Register of all applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders made under s.53 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (SI:2005, no.2461). It can be viewed at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/prow.

PROW Online:

An electronic representation of the PROW network can be viewed online at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/prow.

Please note that the electronic version has no legal status; Gloucestershire County Council cannot accept liability for any loss, damage or inconvenience caused by reliance on the map.

The Road Records

The County Road Records are kept under Section 36 of the Highways Act 1980.

Reading the Road Records:

The Maps are kept in 5 volumes of Ordnance Survey sheets, split into the following geographical areas: Stroud, Forest, Northern, North Cotswold, South Cotswold.

The Road Records are printed at a scale of 1:10,000, although some larger scale maps are available for the larger urban areas.

The highways are split into 6 classes, according to levels of maintenance; each has its own identifying colour (excluding the Cheltenham & Gloucester sets - see below):

Class 1 (Classified A-roads)	Red
Class 2 (Classified B-roads)	Blue
Class 3 (Classified C-roads)	Yellow
Class 4 (Unclassified)	Green
Class 5 (Unclassified)	Brown
Class 6 (Unclassified)	Black
(Class 6 highways are mostly maintained to pedestrian standards only)	

The Cheltenham & Gloucester records simply show whether a route is publicly maintainable (i.e. coloured), or not.

Newly 'adopted' roads and footways:

Newly constructed roads and paths will not be included on the maps until they have been 'adopted' by the County Council as highways maintainable at the public expense. A list is kept in the Map Room, which details highways that have been recently adopted, but are not yet shown on the Maps.

Information on highway extents:

Unlike the Definitive Maps of Public Rights of Way, the road records are not 'conclusive evidence as to what they contain' because they were not submitted for local consultation when they were compiled in the 1930's. In addition, the small scale of the maps means they cannot be used for determining the status of small areas or strips of land.

Enquiries about the exact extent of the highway may involve site inspection and the evaluation of early Ordnance Survey information and other documents held by the County Archivist. We are happy to carry out this research on your behalf if you send us a scale plan showing the area in question. However, please contact us in advance so that any charges and time-scales can be agreed (see our 'Contacts' section).

Roads covered by 'Agreements to Adopt':
A list of routes/new housing estates that are covered by 'Adoption Agreements' (e.g. Section 38 of the Highways Act 1980) is also available in the Map Room.

General

Opening Times:

The Map Room will be open during Main Reception opening hours (8.30am - 5pm).

Assistance with the Records:

If you are likely to require assistance with either the Definitive Maps or the Road Records, we would request that an appointment is made in advance by contacting the relevant section.

Copying of Map Sheets & Photographs:

Due to the size of the Map Volumes, we do not offer a service to photocopy the map sheets. However, you are welcome to take a photograph of the relevant extract for your own private use. Please note that the Ordnance Survey maps are licensed to the County Council and are subject to copyright for 50 years from the end of the year of publication.

Highway Information:

Please be aware that we do make charges for the provision of some highway information. If a charge applies, we will contact you prior to carrying out the work. Please see our website pages for details.

Contacts

Highways

Gloucestershire County Council
Shire Hall, Gloucester

Glos. GL1 2TH

Highways Contact Centre: 08000 514 514



Public Rights of Way:

Tel. 01452 328172

gcchighways@amey.co.uk

www.goucestershire.gov.uk/prow



Highway Records:

Tel. 01452 328977/328980

highwayrecords@goucestershire.gov.uk

www.goucestershire.gov.uk/highwayrecords

If you would like a copy of the text in this leaflet in large print, audio tape or in another language, please let us know.