

Quiet Lanes



What are Quiet Lanes?

The Transport Act 2000 gave Local authorities the ability to designate country lanes as 'Quiet Lanes'.

Department for Transport (DfT) described the process for introducing Quiet Lanes (and Home Zones) in circular 02/2006.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/2082/contents/made>

Quiet Lanes are defined as minor rural roads or networks of minor rural roads appropriate for shared use by walkers, cyclists, horse riders and other vehicles.

The aim of Quiet Lanes is to maintain the character of minor rural roads by seeking to contain rising traffic growth that is widespread in rural areas. By encouraging the use of more active forms of travel such as walking, cycling and horse riding, the well being of local residents is improved and it will support the drive to a carbon neutral society.

There are three key elements to a Quiet Lanes scheme:

- community involvement to encourage a change in user behaviour;
- area-wide direction signing to discourage through traffic; and
- Quiet Lane entry and exit signs to remind drivers that they are entering or leaving a Quiet Lane, a place where they may expect people to be using the whole of the road space for a range of activities.

Quiet Lanes must be rural in character (though not necessarily in a rural area), carry less than 1,000 vehicles per day and the 85th percentile traffic speed should be less than 35mph. Narrow, single-track roads are the most suitable to be designated as Quiet Lanes. Community involvement is essential to help to define what lanes should be considered and to encourage a change in behaviour of road users.

Once potential Quiet Lanes schemes have been identified and developed with the community, formal consultation akin to that required to introduce a Traffic Regulation Order is necessary. Designation as a Quiet Lane does not bring about

any enforceable restrictions nor does designation prohibit use by any types of vehicle or regulate their speed. The idea is to encourage considerate use of the road so it can be shared by all users.

A nationally prescribed Quiet Lanes sign is placed at the entry into a Quiet Lane. At the exit, a similar sign is required with the Quiet Lanes emblem is crossed out.

Quiet Lanes are not mentioned in Herefordshire Council's Local Transport Plan but "active travel" and schemes to support it are.

- **Herefordshire Council Local Transport Plan 2016-2031 Policy Document:**

Policy LTP AT1 - Maintaining and extending our active travel infrastructure

We will maintain, improve and extend our active travel infrastructure so that it is convenient, accessible and attractive to use.

- **Herefordshire Council Local Transport Plan 2016-2031 Strategy Document:**

We plan to provide a wide range of active travel schemes across the South Wye area to give people safer, cheaper and healthier travel options. We will also be working closely with schools, businesses and housing developers to encourage more walking and cycling to reduce short distance car journeys.

South Wye Transport Package Schemes

- Schemes in South Wye residential areas to encourage walking and cycling.
- School, workplace and residential travel plans and Choose How You Move campaigns to raise awareness of travel options and encourage trial.

From South Gloucestershire website: <https://www.southglos.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/streets/road-and-traffic-management-information/quiet-lanes/>

Quiet lanes are a network of rural roads where minimal traffic calming measures are used to enable all road users to 'share with care'.

- Travel is easier for cyclists, walkers, horse riders and those in wheelchairs
- Drivers are encouraged to travel at slower speeds
- Everyone using the lanes must consider their behaviour towards other users and 'share with care'
- Local authorities, interest groups and local communities develop a partnership to establish a local consensus about local travel
- Research is carried out into how people travel
- Communities are encouraged to 'own' the lane

- People show respect for the local environment and its character and landscape is managed and conserved
- Links with other routes may be developed to create local networks for communities to use.

What quiet lanes are **not**

- Roads closed to motor vehicles, although some may be for access only or make restrictions on the type of vehicle able to use them
- Roads where non-motorised transport has priority. Nobody has priority.
- Just about speed limits
- Urban traffic calming measures
- Attempts to deny access to cars
- Anti-car
- Designed to restrict choice. Rather they widen it, so that people can use and enjoy a variety of means of travel
- An attempt to disrupt the economic life of the countryside or prevent delivery vans, farm machinery and emergency vehicles from going about their business.

Support for setting up Quiet Lanes

- Suffolk: <https://www.quietlanessuffolk.co.uk>

Currently Suffolk are actively introducing Quiet Lanes

- Campaign to Protect Rural England: https://www.cpre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/quiet_lanes_1.pdf
- DfT advisory leaflet (June 2004): <https://tsrgd.co.uk/pdf/tal/2004/tal-3-04.pdf>