

The *Restoring the Record* training days are designed to **enthuse, enable and empower** rights of way researchers to make definitive map modification order applications. They start with a precis of the legal background to our current position, which Acts have made which changes, and what legislation is relevant to the current work. The authority of the Definitive Map and Statement is explained.

The task and importance of identifying routes for which applications ought to be submitted, the need for an easily accessible library containing electronic copies of historical documents, and a thorough discussion of how to write and present a valid definitive map modification order application are addressed.

Many examples are given of routes which may appear to be safe from the 2026 cut-off date but are not, and also of routes which, when seen in the countryside, clearly seem to be under-recorded. The different approaches to generating the list of routes to be investigated, systematically, route led, or by document, are discussed. This helps attendees identify routes that need to be researched.

Important historical documents are discussed in line with the information contained in *Rights of Way: Restoring the Record*, along with their likely locations and evidential value.

Some historical records are best researched as a project and an example is demonstrated for a linear record (a railway record). Some other historical records such as Highway board minutes, quarter sessions records and inclosure awards also benefit from being researched on a project basis.

A Surveying Authority's requirement to maintain a Register of Applications is explained and examples are worked through.

Where the wi-fi connections are sufficient and time allows, attendees are taken through various internet sources with old maps, land registry information, and national archive offices' on-line office catalogues. Links to these are on the memory sticks handed out at the start of the day which also contain all the presentation slides and examples, project work sheets, and a template for writing a modification order application.

By the end of the day contacts will have been made with others doing the same work in local areas and research groups can be formed and knowledge shared. Everyone will have made a start on writing a Statement of Case and so be well placed to perform research and make applications before the 2026 deadline.

The trainers, Sarah Bucks and Phil Wadey, are grateful to the host organisations for running the training days.