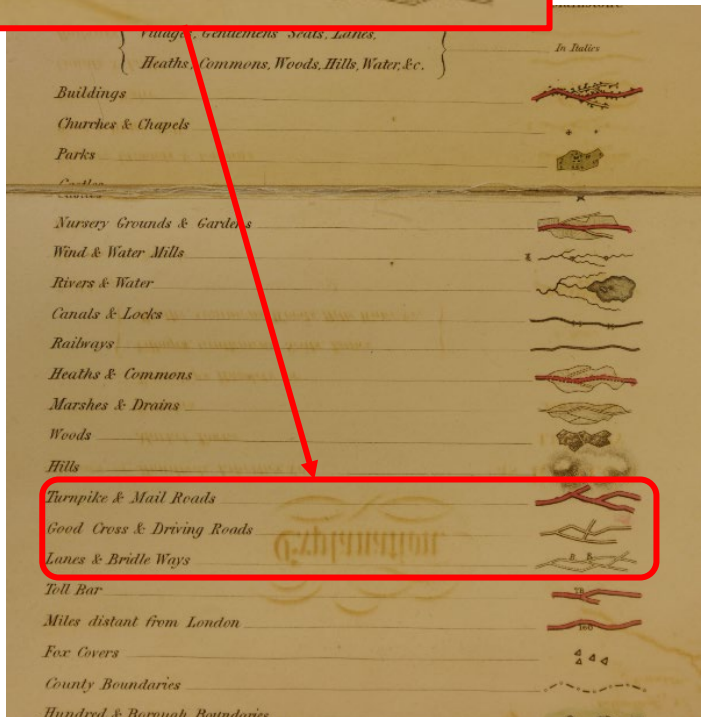


## ***“What is a Cross Road?” by Susan Taylor***

A cross road, commonly marked on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century maps, is defined by the *Oxford English Dictionary* as a byway or minor vehicular road, an interpretation that has received judicial approval. It should not be confused with a road junction (a crossroads). So, it is often the case that a cross road is a highway for horses, ridden or driven.



Every County Archive holds at least one county map from this period. The roads they show are usually listed in the key as Turnpike Roads, Cross Roads or Good Cross or Driving Roads. The example illustrated here is from Bryant’s Map of Herefordshire (1835). Footpaths are rarely shown at this scale of map. So there is a very good chance, if the route you want to add to the Definitive Map was recorded as a cross road, that it was promoted to and used by the travelling public with horses. Therefore, in the absence of a later legal order “stopping it up”, it is likely that rights for equestrians still exist today.



Cross Road evidence has helped add many routes to the Definitive Map for equestrian and cyclists’ use in perpetuity.

***What is a Cross Road?*** is a concise and readable guide to the history of this term and its significance in rights of way research. Originally published in 1997 by Susan Taylor of the South Pennines Packhorse Trails Trust, it has now been updated and includes details of relevant case law that Rights of Way researchers may wish to refer to within their Definitive Map Modification Order applications.

The updated edition of *“What is a Cross Road?”* can be downloaded from the following link:

[\*What is a cross road?\*](#)

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