

11 Quiet Lanes



1. Introduction

Local authorities are able to designate country lanes as 'Quiet Lanes' in rural areas, under the Transport Act 2000. Country Lanes are an integral part of our rural environment but the volume and speed of traffic, and the presence of heavy lorries can make them uninviting and intimidating.

Quiet Lanes can be a positive way of:

- Providing a positive modal shift to enhance the number of people walking, cycling and riding horses.
- Widening transport choice through multi-modal shift and protecting the character and tranquility of the country lane.

They should protect and enhance the local character and distinctiveness of the countryside.

2. Typical Problems

'What can we do to make the road safer for walkers and horse riders'

'We want to slow cars down on the country lane'

'Walkers and horse riders use the road more than cars'

3. Things to consider

PR1 and PR2 routes cannot be designated as Quiet Lanes.

If the road carries more than 1000 vehicles per day, then it cannot be considered for a Quiet Lane. The speed of vehicles using the road is also important and the 85th percentile must show speeds less than 35mph.

Only narrow, single-track roads are suitable to be designated as Quiet Lanes. They should be rural in character and ideally be in a rural area to be most effective.

Community involvement is essential to encourage a change in behaviour of road users. When a request is submitted for a Quiet Lane it must have a high level of proven community support.

Once any potential Quiet Lane has been funded through an LHP then formal consultation will be necessary with both the local and wider community.

It must be noted that 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 sign reminds users of the types of traffic they will be expected to see and encourages them to respect each other.



4. Typical Measures

The only physical measures to be implemented would be the national Quiet Lane sign to identify entry into and exit from a Quiet Lane. At the exit, the Quiet Lanes emblem is crossed out.

The Quiet Lanes introduced by Essex County Council have featured a sign and wooden post to ensure that these signs are inconspicuous within the rural street scene.

Essex County Council will ensure that Landscape features, such as hedges, verges, walls and wayside trees will be sensitively managed to improve the landscape, retain local character and make travel easier for cyclists, walkers and horse riders. Designation as a quiet lane will effect the routine verge cutting.

5. Scheme Investigation

Speed surveys and traffic counts must be undertaken in order to validate any potential Quiet Lanes request against the criteria under section 3 Things to consider.

It must be possible to position signs in discrete locations whilst indicating clearly to road users that they are in a Quiet Lane.

6. Costs and Timescales

The Essex County Council contract with Ringway Jacobs is a target cost contract and not a fixed price contract. This type of contract was chosen as the best type of contract to deliver savings and efficiencies and also to promote partnering between ECC and Ringway Jacobs.

An explanation of the process can be found in Appendix 1.

7. Glossary of Terms

AVL	Automatic Vehicle Location (similar to RTPI)
CMA	Cabinet Member Action
CMB	Cabinet Member Briefing
EA	Environment Agency
ECC	Essex County Council
EH	Essex Highways
LHP	Local Highways Panel
NEPP	North Essex Parking Partnership
PP	Parking Partnership
RTPI	Real Time Passenger Information
S106	Section 106 (Money provided by a Developer to County Council to implement infrastructure as an obligation of the planning permission)
S278	Section 278 (Infrastructure required to be implemented by the Developer as an obligation of the planning permission)
SERP	Safer Essex Roads Partnership
SID	Speed Indicating Device
SEPP	South Essex Parking Partnership
SLO	Speed Limit Order
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TRO	Traffic Regulation Order
TSRGD	Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions
VAS	Vehicle Activated Sign