

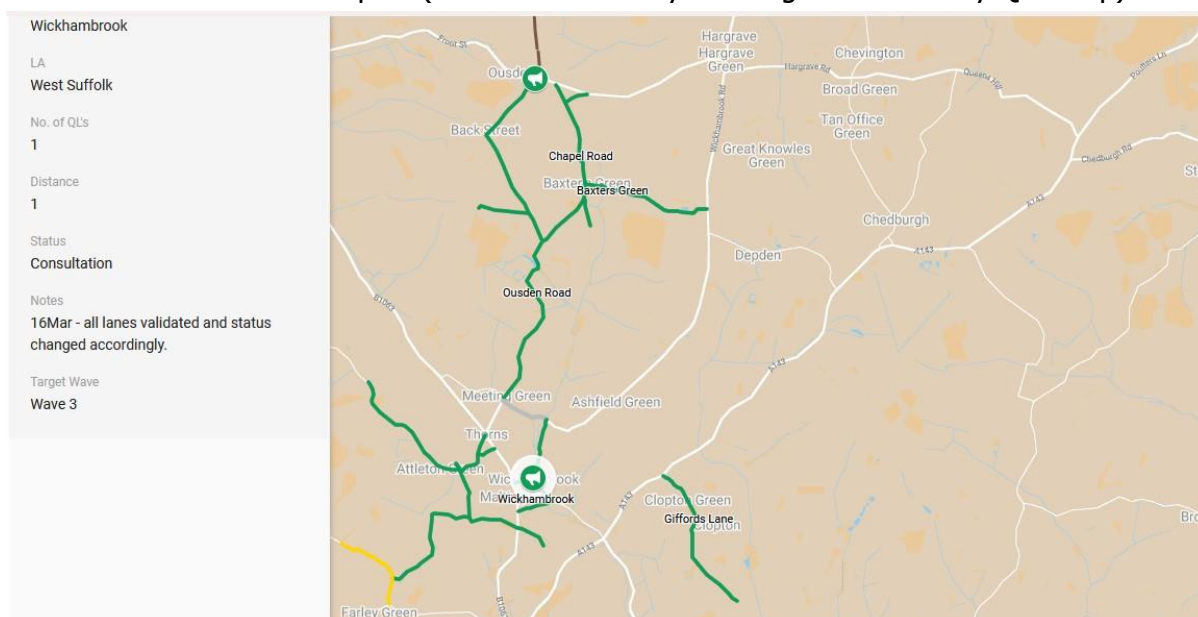
Nominating Quiet Lanes in Wickhambrook

Quiet Lanes are roads where walkers, horse riders, cyclists and motorised vehicles all have equal rights. Motorists are not discouraged but they must expect and respect all other road users. The Scheme aims to lead to increased safety for all and enhanced tranquillity of country lanes. The designation is nationally recognised and is controlled by Suffolk Highways.

Roads nominated must be single track, with no road markings or footpaths, with less than 1000 vehicles per day.

Wickhambrook Parish Council registered an interest in nominating Quiet Lanes. At its February 2021 meeting (**Min. 21.02.16 refers**), the parish council agreed to submit nominations initially on the basis of report [WPC.21.02.06](#) with the following amendment:

- The addition of the C7035, from the edge of the settled area to Boyden End (by the location of the VAS pole (this is not currently showing on the County QLS map)



The section of road from Meeting Green to Coltsfoot Green was not accepted as a proposed Quiet Lane.

At its Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, funding was approved for £50 per route to be designated as a quiet lane (not more than eight) and the cost of producing leaflets advising the proposed routes (**Min. 21.05.30.1.i & ii refers**).

The signage costs spreadsheet has been completed and submitted, and images of all the junctions taken uploaded to the QLS resource pages.

At a Community Engagement day held on Saturday 3rd July 2021, a full display of all the proposed lanes and supporting leaflets was viewed by almost 60 attendees, and many positive responses to the proposals were received. Following this, the parish council considered which routes to take forward (report [WPC.21.07.07](#) refers), and the meeting resolved ([Min 21.07.19.1i](#) refers) to take forwards the following 10 routes for designation:

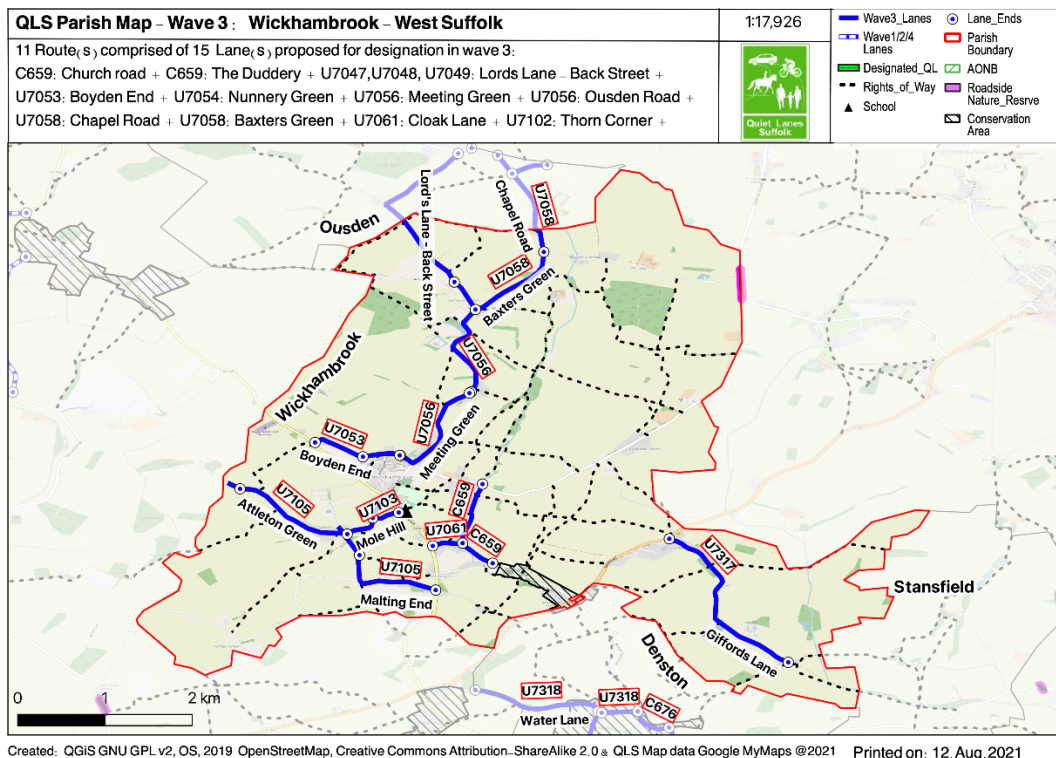
Route	Lanes included	Route Number(s)
1	Church Road, The Duddery	C659
2	Boyden End to Nunnery Green	U7053
3	Nunnery Green	U7054
4	Meeting Green, Ousden Road	U7056
5	Baxters Green	U7058
6	Cloak Lane	U7061
7	Thorns Corner	U7102
8	Mole Hill	U7103
9	Attleton Green, Malting End	U7105
10	Giffords Lane	U7317

Additionally, Wickhambrook sharing a boundary with Ousden on two routes, the following routes were included in the designation notices:

11	Lords Lane – Back Street	U7047, U7048, U7049
12	Chapel Road	U7058

Designation notices were posted, and parish letters and maps delivered to all affected households in August 2021. Following this, Suffolk County Council had to review all the responses and prepare reports to Suffolk County Council Cabinet for sign off.

There were no changes to the final routes included in the Designation Order (Appendix A refers) published by Suffolk County Council on 24th August this year, which are shown below:



The lanes have now been designated and are 'legal' and the signs can be installed. It is expected that all parishes will install their own signs. This is reported to have worked well for Wave 2 parishes and means that where parishes have schemes using existing posts, signs can be installed as soon as the designation order is made.

The Suffolk Highways Design engineer has started creating the signage work packs for Wave 3 based on the signage spreadsheet and will contact the parish where any changes are identified. This will include a Location Plan for the scheme and Location Details for each sign

SCC Legal have asked that 'Parish Councils' enter a formal arrangement with 'Suffolk County Council' regarding the self-installation of signs. SCC, Suffolk Highways & QLS have devised a 5-page document (attached as Appendix B) that sets out the 'legal', 'liability' and 'Health and Safety' aspects of that arrangement.

In accordance with the scheme of delegation, having established that the volunteers would be covered by the parish Public Liability Insurance (in the event of clause 4.3) the clerk has now signed and returned this agreement on behalf of Wickhambrook Parish Council.

The parish council may authorise spending under the powers below:

- Power to provide traffic signs on roads - Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 s.72(1)
- Powers to contribute financially to a highways authority for traffic calming schemes for the benefit of the council's area – Highways Act 1980, s.274A
- Power to do anything that will facilitate, be conducive to or incidental to the discharge of its powers and functions - Local Government Act 1972, s.111

There is £1171.00 (against a budget of £1750.00) in the Highways – Road Safety budget for the current financial year (£400.00 committed contribution to Quiet Lanes project, leaving a balance of £771.00).

Actions:

- 1) Identify a team of volunteers (minimum of two) to undertake the installation of the signs once the work packs have been prepared by Suffolk Highways and agree one (or more) community volunteer leads to oversee the work
- 2) produce and retain a written risk assessment for each piece of work in their specific area.
- 3) Purchase the following equipment to support the volunteers, and meet the requirements of the Community Self Help Agreement (this equipment may then be stored for future use in the event the Community Emergency Plan ever has to be activated, or for future parish volunteer activities:
 - a. High visibility long sleeved jackets (small, medium, large).
 - b. Two hazard triangles
 - c. One first aid kit

Recommendation

The parish council authorise the cost of items 3 a-c above at not more than £75.00 plus VAT.

The parish council authorise a further £50.00 contribution to designated routes.