

## Green Lanes

Photo: Bramble Lane



Green lanes are old paths and lanes, often within a double hedgerow. Rich in trees, shrubs, woodland wildflowers and providing a range of shaded to sheltered but sunny aspects.

The historic interest however is that the lanes are some of the oldest human modified features in the landscape.

These hedgerows were part of the original woodland cover of this part of London, marked field, ownership and often parish boundaries (at that time the original local authorities), and the lanes were used by both local traffic and, as in the case of Elderstrete, as a long-distant route into and out of London.

Elderstrete also known as Hell Lane is the green lane aligned approximately south-north through the centre of what is now Fryent Country Park. Sections of the path have been restored enabling a more or less continuous walk of about one kilometre. It was part of a route, presumably from the centre of London near to the Thames, joining Dudden Hill Lane, Neasden Lane, the southern part of Salmon Street and then as Eldestrete and Hell Lane across the park area, past the Moot site of the Hundred of Gore (the first local authority for the area) and northwards as Honeypot Lane towards Stanmore and in the direction of St Albans. This was centuries before Fryent Way was constructed to the east. For much of the local section it was boundary between Kingsbury parish on the east side and Harrow parish (only more recently Wembley) on the west side.

Between Masons Field and Little Cherrylandes is a more local green lane, and if it had a name that has not appeared on old maps. Following some restoration work this is simply known as the Green Lane. It served the fields from Kingsbury Lane (now Old Kenton Lane), westwards including also Half Yards Meade, Honey Slough and Lyon field. While some sections of this lane are now lost, a parallel green lane has been created to run alongside the northern hedge of the original double hedge at Masons Field. This lane has been called 'Bramble Lane'.

Task	Notes
Restore and maintain the green lanes for their hedgerow habitat, trees, hedgerow flora and for the sheltered, sunlit paths. Maintain other decaying wood features. Preserve hedgebanks and other earthworks.	
Maintain the green lanes as paths and walking routes.	
Eldestrete / Hell Lane:	
Green Lane at Masons Field and Little Cherrylandes. Continue the restoration of the lane along the whole of the north side of Little Cherrylandes.	
Bramble Lane at Masons Field: Maintain the path vegetation to achieve a grassland / herbaceous path. Manage overhangs.	
Lost Ways: Consider registering Hell Lane and Eldestrete. Historic footpaths by 1 January 2026 (Countryside and Rights Of Way Act 2000). Contact Brent Transportation (Rights Of Way Improvement Plan), Natural England and DEFRA. For Hell Lane there should be sufficient evidence available: for example see The Rights Of Way Review Committee (2007).	

### More information

See also the 'Hedgerows' and 'Footpaths' sections of this management plan.

Barn Hill Conservation Group. [www.bhcg.btck.co.uk](http://www.bhcg.btck.co.uk)

The Conservation Volunteers. Footpaths.

The Conservation Volunteers. Hedging.

All Souls College. 1597. Hovenden Maps of Kingsbury. All Souls College, Oxford.

Braun, H. 1937. The Hundred of Gore and its moot-hedge. Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, 7: 218-228.

Braun, H. 1937. Some earthworks of north-west Middlesex. Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, 7: 365-392.

Rights Of Way Review Committee. 2007. Practice Guidance Note 5. Investigating the Existence and Status of Public Rights of Way.