

Path Tagging Guidance

Way	Physical Property	Legal / Access								Additional Descriptive Tags					
	Record as standard	Record as standard							Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional	
	highway		designation	foot	horse	bicycle	vehicle	motor_vehicle	pro_w_ref	surface	tracktype	name	wheelchair	bridge	ford
footway/ bridleway/ cycleway/ track/ path/ service/ steps/ no/ etc.	Public Right of Way	Footpath	public_footpath	Designated	no permissive/private	no permissive/private	no private	no private	<val>	asphalt/ unpaved/ paved/ ground/ gravel/ grass/ sand/ wood/ -	grade1/ grade2/ grade3/ grade4/ grade5/ -	-	yes/ -	yes/ boardwalk/ -	yes/ stepping_stones/ -
		Bridleway	public_bridleway	Designated	Designated	Designated	no private	no private	<val>						
		Restricted Byway	restricted_byway	Designated	Designated	Designated	Designated	no private	<val>						
		B.O.A.T.	byway_open_to_all_traffic	Designated	Designated	Designated	Designated	Designated	<val>						
	Permissive Access	Permissive Footpath	- permissive_footpath	Permissive	no private	no private	no private	no private	-						
		Permissive Bridleway	- permissive_bridleway	permissive	permissive	permissive	no private	no private	-						
		Permissive Cycle Path	- permissive_cycleway	permissive no/private	no private	permissive	no private	no private	-						
	Routes on pay for entry estates	-	customers no	no customers	no customers	no private	no private	-							

Guidance Summary

- Linear objects in OpenStreetMap are ‘ways’ (e.g. paths, roads, rivers, walls etc.). Paths fall under the ‘highway’ categorisation (main key for identifying roads, streets or paths). If the route does not exist, digitise the route then tag the physical property (e.g. footway, track – more details in Appendix).
- Identify legal/access rights:
 - If path is a public right of way (PROW):
 - Identify designation (public footpath, bridleway etc.), legal access rights (=designated) and any restrictions (=no) or permissive/private access (=permissive or =private). For example, a track could have a public footpath designation (designation=public footpath, foot=designated) and private vehicle access for NT vehicles only (motor_vehicle=private).
 - If path has permissive access rights:
 - Identify if path has a permissive designation (e.g. signposted or has revetments / bridges / boardwalks etc) use tags designated=permissive_footpath and tag foot/bike/horse=permissive as appropriate
 - If the path is deemed permissive by the ranger but is not signposted / there is no infrastructure on the path, leave the designation tag as blank and use foot/bike/horse=permissive as appropriate
 - If the path is not signposted / there is no infrastructure on the path, leave the designation as blank and use foot/bike/horse=yes/no/private as appropriate
 - Add if Trust permits access for transport mode (e.g. foot=permissive) and if any there are any restrictions (=no) or private access (=private).
 - If path is behind pay for entry barrier:
 - Leave designation blank. Add if Trust permits access for customers (=customers) or any restrictions (=no) or private access (=private).
 - If path access is unknown or unclear – leave blank.
 - If there is no path on the ground but they have the official right to be there, we still tag foot/bike/horse=no, even if there are no signs to say they cant be there.

- f. Discouraged paths will also be listed as access=no. Discouraged was previously defined as ‘a legal right of way exists (see =yes) but usage is officially discouraged. Eg. RoW exists but discouraged for conservation / restoration’. For us to use access=no on the basis that the path is being discouraged, there must be subtle measures on the ground to indicate this. Eg. reseeding grass, stick fences, signs, branches on the path.

3. Tag any optional extras (grey in schema) which may help end users e.g. if surface is paved/unpaved.

Notes

- '-' means a tag value can be left blank.
- The list of highway tags is not exhaustive. Use the tag to describe the physical description of the route on the ground.
- Tag values in light blue are optional to describe specific use cases (e.g. designation=public_footpath but Trust permits cycling and horse riding on a permissive basis).
- All OSM tags and tag values are lowercase.
- OSM uses its own track type grading. See Appendix 3 for more details.
- Vehicle Tag = non-motorised vehicles (e.g. horse-drawn carriages). Used in the guidance to distinguish access between Restricted Byways and Byways Open to All Traffic.

Appendix 1: highway tag values

highway tag value	Description
footway	For routes used by pedestrians.
bridleway	For routes used by pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists.
cycleway	For routes used by cyclists (not exclusive use e.g. Sustrans routes open to walkers).
track	Generic route wide enough for agricultural/forestry/ranger/4x4 use. If the way is not wide enough for a two-track vehicle, use highway=path.
path	Generic or multi-use path. Not suitable for motorised traffic (e.g. rough narrow through a wood).
service	For access roads (e.g. to property, car park) or roads within features (e.g. parking aisles).

Further information: <https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Key:highway>

Appendix 2: access tag values

Access Tag Value	Description
yes	The public has an official, legal right of access (i.e. right of way).
no	No access for the public (e.g. horse=no on a public footpath). Due to lack of use, discouraged will also be listed as =no. Discouraged was previously defined as ‘a legal right of way exists (see =yes) but usage is officially discouraged. Eg. RoW exists but discouraged for conservation / restoration’. For us to use access=no on the basis that a path is being discouraged, there must be subtle measures on the ground to indicate the path is being discouraged. Eg. reseeding grass, stick fences, signs, branches on the path.
designated	This tag value should only be used for PRoWs. Route is specifically intended (signposted / infrastructure is present on path) for use by a mode of transport
permissive	Land owner has granted public access for that transport mode (e.g. foot=permissive). Access is at the discretion of the landowner and can be revoked at any time.
private	Access only with individual permission. Route is accessible but cannot be used by the public (e.g. motor_vehicle=private for ranger vehicle access on Trust managed land).
customers	Route is accessible for paying customers only (e.g. foot=customers on pay-for-entry estates).
unknown	Route access conditions are unknown or unclear. This makes it explicit that the legal/permissive/private access rights are not known.

Further information: <https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Key:access>