



Proving that a particular lane, track or path existed prior to enclosure, let alone in Medieval times, can be difficult and is not always possible based on the historical evidence and archaeology currently available. However, the name and form of a route may offer circumstantial evidence for a pre-enclosure origin. Thus, lane names referring to former open fields (e.g. south field, west field, etc) or to furlongs strongly suggest a pre-enclosure and possibly Medieval origin. Similarly, names including 'moor', 'heath', 'fen' or 'carr' may indicate that the route predates the reclamation and enclosure of the parish's rough commons (though this requires care as these often survived after the open fields were enclosed). Narrow and/or sunken lanes are another indicator of routes older than Parliamentary enclosure. The following examples of probable pre-enclosure routes are all in parishes enclosed privately before the Parliamentary phase.

**LEFT: Somerby Wold Lane, Somerby, Wolds**

**BOTTOM LEFT: Dike Furlong Lane, Hough-on-the-Hill, Kesteven**

**FACING PAGE: Narrow Moor Lane, Bassingham, Vale of Trent**



purpose and/or legal status over time. Thus, it is often possible here to find lanes, tracks or paths which maintain the alignment, physical boundaries and even hedges of pre-enclosure routes. The old village core is a good place to start when looking for these, as the tracks that gave access to the open fields converged here and can survive as modern lanes or farm tracks. Sunken lanes in particular are indicative of long use and a probable Medieval or even earlier origin. Sometimes it is possible to trace how

