



## Sunken Roads (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you like going on long walks?
2. If so, where do you like to walk? In towns? In the mountains? In the country? Along the coast?
3. Are there any footpaths in your area? If so, where do they lead to?

### B – Listen and answer

Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and fill in the blanks.

1. In the English countryside, there are many sunken roads between towns and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. They have been created by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ over thousands of years.
3. Many sunken roads connect pastures in the \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ in towns.
4. The most famous are in \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ England.
5. Their ecosystems provide homes for \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and fungi.
6. A government organisation called \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ is now mapping these roads in Dorset.

### C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What kind of landscape is usually associated with the English countryside?
2. Why are sunken roads also called holloways?
3. What natural elements contributed to their creation?
4. How low are the deepest of them?
5. Who sometimes used them for illegal purposes?
6. Why are some sunken roads like tunnels?
7. What should people do to make sure these roads are preserved?
8. Who is sometimes responsible for destroying them?

### D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. The children's toys were all over the floor and I accidentally \_\_\_\_\_ on one and broke it.
2. At the bottom of our garden, there's a large \_\_\_\_\_ with lots of fish in it.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ last month, Tom had never been abroad.
4. I saw a policeman walk up our neighbours' \_\_\_\_\_ and knock on their front door.
5. Dan missed a lot of lessons last year so there are some serious \_\_\_\_\_ in his preparation.
6. We installed the latest antivirus software and it \_\_\_\_\_ the virus from our computer.

### **E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 3)**

*Use the word in brackets to form a word that fits in the space given.*

1. The English countryside is celebrated in \_\_\_\_\_ (COUNT) paintings and poems.
2. However, its hundreds of sunken roads usually go \_\_\_\_\_ (NOTICE).
3. All over the country, there are miles of these \_\_\_\_\_ (MYSTERY) roads.
4. They link \_\_\_\_\_ (SETTLE) dating back to Saxon and Roman periods.
5. Shute's Lane and Hell's Lane are \_\_\_\_\_ (NOTE) examples of sunken roads.
6. Hell's Lane was an \_\_\_\_\_ (FAME) smugglers' pathway.
7. The unique topography of sunken roads often creates \_\_\_\_\_ (USUAL) ecosystems.
8. These ecosystems allow the \_\_\_\_\_ (GROW) of rare ferns and mosses.

### **F – Write about it**

*Write about the best place to go walking in your town or area. Mention:*

- where to start the walk;
- the route to follow;
- what you can see on the walk;
- the best season/time of day to go.

## Answers:

### **B – Listen and answer**

1. villages 2. human – animal feet 3. hills – marketplaces 4. South West 5. animals – insects 6. Natural England

### **C – Read and answer**

1. Green, rolling, wooded landscapes with pretty villages and ponds. 2. Because they are paths or lanes (i.e. ways) hollowed out in the soft earth. 3. Soft rock and rain. 4. The deepest are six metres below the surrounding countryside. 5. Smugglers sometimes used them. 6. Because tall trees meet overhead and create a canopy. 7. People should continue to use them. 8. They are sometimes destroyed by landowners and local councils, who remove them or cover them over.

### **D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. trod 2. pond 3. Up to 4. path 5. gaps 6. removed

### **E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?**

1. countless 2. unnoticed 3. mysterious 4. settlements 5. notable/noteworthy/noted  
6. infamous 7. unusual 8. growth