



We are the Ramblers

We open the way so
everyone can get out
and go walking





Hello, thank you for inviting me to the Devon Area AGM
Nicky – Community Development Officer – South & South West

Thank you!

2024 - Year at a Glance



Over the last year, we delivered **44,000 group walks** and **52,000 Wellbeing Walks**



1,759 Walk Leaders completed our **Walk Leadership Foundation Training**



We welcomed over **15,500 new members**, taking our **total membership to 105,000**



Across Britain, we supported **4,579 path volunteers** working to keep our path network open to all

Opening the Way

Our vision:

A future where anyone can enjoy walking outdoors

Our Long-Term Aim:

Equitable access for all communities in Great Britain to walk outdoors



Our strategy priorities

Communities who have the least access and face the most barriers to walking in nature

We wish to focus our work developing new collaborative opportunities with:

Place-based communities facing significant socio-economic and/or health challenges

People from global majority backgrounds

Other community groups and partners who have identified barriers to walking which we can help overcome, particularly people with disabilities (access) and women (safety)



How can we help?

Now, more than ever, we want to work in partnership with local communities to explore how they can benefit from walking and access to green space

**Overcoming
barriers to
walking
&
accessing green
space**

**Developing
wellbeing
opportunities
for the
community
through walking**

**Improving
existing
connectivity to
greenspaces &
paths**

Overcoming barriers to walking & accessing green space



Getting started with walking - Ramblers Wellbeing Walks

Free, short, regular group walks (from 10 minutes) to help people become & stay active

Developing wellbeing opportunities for the community through walking



Training people to lead walks

Giving people the skills and confidence to lead walks that are safe, enjoyable and welcoming

Improving the safety & accessibility of paths to encourage more usage

Working alongside communities to engage with their local path network and green spaces, to create sustainable walking opportunities for all.



This could be through

- Auditing local paths
- Carrying out path maintenance
- Mapping walking routes
- Creating new routes



Ramblers Path Accessibility Fund

Path Accessibility Fund

Will be open for applications
1 January – mid March 2026



A Ramblers fund created from different donors/donations **to pay the costs of accessible path improvement projects** in England and Wales, **on public rights of way**. The improvement work is carried out by our volunteers, subcontractors or council staff.

Who can apply?

Anyone!

- **Path maintenance teams**
- **Wellbeing walk leaders**
- **Path wardens**
- **Rights of Way teams**
- **Parish/ community councils**
- **Community groups/local charities**
- **Members of the public**



What makes a successful application?

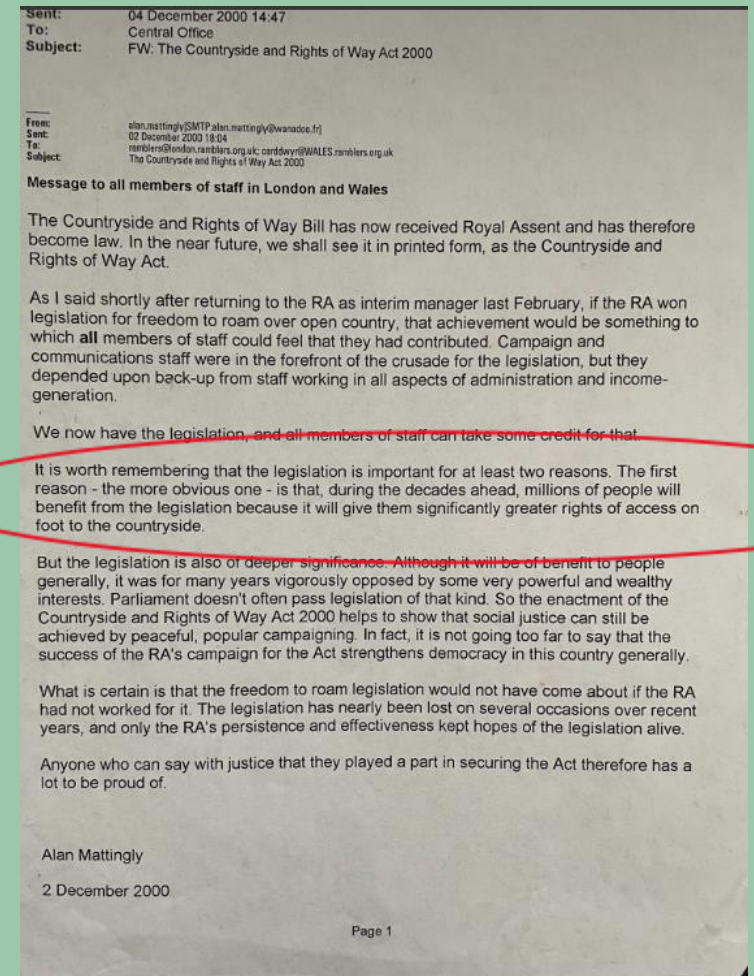
1. It must improve accessibility e.g. replace a stile or a barrier like a kissing gate or a chicane, **with an accessible gate or a gap**. Other projects like path surface or drainage improvements are considered
2. It must have landowner permission
3. The highway authority or parish/community council **must be aware** of the project
4. A **quote** must be provided with an outline of the work



Access to Nature Bill

Tomorrow is the 25th.
Anniversary since the
Countryside and Rights
of Way Act 2000 (CROW
Act) was passed
&
it's 20 years since the
public gained access
rights under the Act.

The Act, a long-time goal of the Ramblers and key achievement of the last Labour government, was groundbreaking at the time.



Access to Nature Bill

will break down barriers to the outdoors so everyone in England can enjoy **the benefits of walking in nature** by creating access closer to home, unleashing the potential of the paths network and build a long-term plan for our paths.

21 million people

in England **don't have** green or blue space within a

15 minutes' walk of home

56% of people

with physical and/or sensory disabilities say

physical barriers

stop them using the path network

1 in 5 people

currently can't use the public rights of way network due

to mobility issues



The Ramblers

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Tuesday 25 November ...

We're in Westminster today with partners from the outdoor sector, making the case that **EVERYONE** should have the chance to get out and enjoy the great outdoors.

Walking, and time outdoors, is essential to our health and wellbeing, but access to nature is deeply unequal. And progress on improving access has stalled.

As we mark 25 years of the Countryside & Rights of Way (CROW) Act, it's time for bold action again. Time to break down barriers. Time to create truly inclusive access to the great outdoors.

BMC

Open Spaces Society

British Horse Society

Paddle UK



How can we all help - in holding the government to its commitments to improve public access to nature....

By writing to your MP

- urging them to make improving public access to nature a priority and to support the Access to Nature Bill.
- sharing your experiences of walking locally (good and bad!).

The more examples of where a Bill could improve walking locally, the better!

If you do write, please do share any emails you send and any response from your MP, with campaigns@ramblers.org.uk

More information about our proposed Access to Nature Bill can be found <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/what-we-care-about/outdoors-unlocked>

If you have not written to your MP before, we have some tips <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/feature/our-top-tips-writing-your-mp>

A huge thank you
for inspiring folk to get out walking

