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.

FW: The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 alan.mattingly[SMTP:alan.mattingly@wanadoo.fr] 02 December 2000 18:04 Message to all members of staff in London and Wales The Countryside and Rights of Way Bill has now received Royal Assent and has therefore become law. In the near future, we shall see it in printed form, as the Countryside and As I said shortly after returning to the RA as interim manager last February, if the RA won legislation for freedom to roam over open country, that achievement would be something to which all members of staff could feel that they had contributed. Campaign and communications staff were in the forefront of the crusade for the legislation, but they depended upon back-up from staff working in all aspects of administration and income-It is worth remembering that the legislation is important for at least two reasons. The first reason - the more obvious one - is that, during the decades ahead, millions of people will benefit from the legislation because it will give them significantly greater rights of access on foot to the countryside. generally, it was for many years vigorously opposed by some very powerful and wealthy interests. Parliament doesn't often pass legislation of that kind. So the enactment of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 helps to show that social justice can still be achieved by peaceful, popular campaigning. In fact, it is not going too far to say that the success of the RA's campaign for the Act strengthens democracy in this country generally. What is certain is that the freedom to roam legislation would not have come about if the RA had not worked for it. The legislation has nearly been lost on several occasions over recent years, and only the RA's persistence and effectiveness kept hopes of the legislation alive. Anyone who can say with justice that they played a part in securing the Act therefore has a lot to be proud of. Alan Mattingly 2 December 2000

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





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-vour-mp