

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?

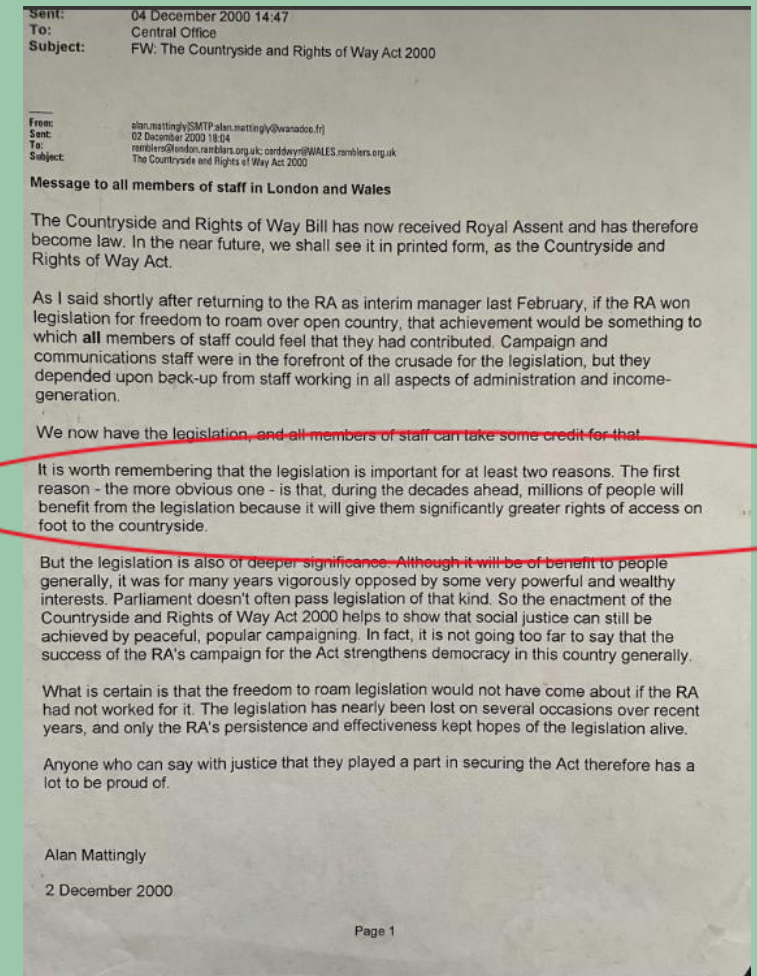
1. It must improve accessibility e.g. replace a stile or a barrier like a kissing gate or a chicane, **with an accessible gate or a gap**. Other projects like path surface or drainage improvements are considered
2. It must have landowner permission
3. The highway authority or parish/community council **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>