



## THE BIG PATHWATCH

### HELP US WALK EVERY PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

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July 13<sup>th</sup> sees the launch of the Big Pathwatch, a Ramblers project to celebrate the organization's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by surveying every public right of way in England and Wales. The Ramblers is calling on everyone to join in and help survey their local paths as part of its biggest and most ambitious footpath survey.

With an enviable 140,000 miles of rights of way in England and Wales people can enjoy walking, the Ramblers needs people to walk their favourite paths and report back on what they find using either a smartphone app or on-line.

Launching on 13 July, the Big Pathwatch is the perfect opportunity for people to get involved in protecting the many places they love to walk, and perhaps explore some new ones.

Ramblers' chief executive Benedict Southworth said: "Our path network is the envy of walkers around the world and one of our nation's biggest assets. But there are sometimes problems that literally stop people in their tracks.

"As guardians of the path network we work hard to protect our paths, but we need a complete picture of the entire network. With the help of people everywhere, the Big Pathwatch aims to survey every right of way in England and Wales, giving us the comprehensive overview we need to then be able to solve any problems."

People will be able to download the Big Pathwatch app and share their experiences as they walk every right of way within a specific grid square. They'll be asked to share the positive features of the walk, the beautiful views, any wildlife and interesting landscapes they see, as well as noting any problems they encounter.

The results of the Big Pathwatch will allow the Ramblers to create a comprehensive report on the state of the path network, which will be used to campaign for its upkeep. The Big Pathwatch is the only project that aims not only to walk every right of way in England and Wales to find out what state the paths are in, but also to help fix any problems.

To find out more, or to register to take part in the Big Pathwatch, visit <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/get-involved/join-the-big-pathwatch.aspx>

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