



Job

Done



A potted account of the Erewash
Ramblers Footpath Group's work

2010 to 2014

Erewash Ramblers Footpath Volunteers

This is a tribute to the small group of members of the Erewash Group who have set a high standard of help and commitment to maintain and improve the footpath network in Erewash. Their efforts and those of the Derbyshire County Council team – unfortunately, largely unsung - help keep the footpaths open for all to enjoy.

It is also a testament to the co-operation and support of the landowners in allowing access to the work sites without which it would have been very difficult to complete the tasks.

Erewash Ramblers Task List

Date	Area	Job Description	Volunteer Hours
22.11.2010	Ockbrook	Litter pick	24
09.02.2012 13.02.2012 08.03.2012	Sandiacre FP4	Stoney Clouds; clear undergrowth, make new concessionary path, install 5 way mark posts, plant new hedging	55
26.07.2012	Mapperley FP24	Clear undergrowth and install wicket gate – Whittlestone Walk	33
06.09.2012	Ockbrook FP's 13, 14 & 18	Ockbrook, Dunnshill & Bartlewood Lodge; clear undergrowth, install 2 way mark posts.	30
08.10.2012	Ockbrook FP's 17 & 26	Dale Hills & Brunswood Farm; clear undergrowth, install 5 way mark posts	18
07.02.2013	Risley FP's 14 & 15	Remove 3 stiles and install wicket gates	3
25.02.2013 22.04.2013	Long Eaton FP49	Trent Meadows; Clear undergrowth and overgrowth, make steps and install 3 way mark posts.	57
20.05.2013	Ilkeston	Whittlestone Walk; clear paths and install 5 way mark posts.	24
03.06.2013	Stanton by Dale FP's 11, 12 & 13	Install way mark post, clear paths and overgrowth.	10
17.06.2013 01.07.2013 15/07/2013	Risley FP's 15 & 16; Dale Abbey FP47	Clear paths, overgrowth, install steps, stone around gates	28
07.10.2013 to 06.05.2014	Ockbrook FP26	Columbine Farm; install flight of 57 steps	152
10.02.2014	Ilkeston FP4	Cotmanhay; clear path, install steps and way mark post, clear around stile	12
10.03.2014	Long Eaton FP36	Clear steps and approach paths	8

Date	Area	Job Description	Volunteer Hours
19.05.2014	Ockbrook FP26	Columbine Farm; install causeway	16
16.06.2014 30.06.2014 14.07.2014	Dale Abbey FP2	Ladywood Farm; install board walks, clear overgrowth and approach paths	40
02.06.2014 28.07.2014	Dale Abbey BW30 & Stanley FP10	Path clearances and install 3 way mark posts.	21
11.08.2014 08.09.2014	Dale Abbey FP's 1 & 4	Cat & Fiddle; replace steps, clear steps and approach paths and stile.	34
22.09.2014 20.10.2014	Stanley FP20 & Morley FP11	Hayeswood Lodge; install steps and clear overgrowth and undergrowth from approach paths.	14
03.11.2014 01.12.2014	Dale Abbey FP's 14 & 15	FP14; Replace existing stile with wicket gate and build up footpath. FP15; Build box step to Improve access of existing stile (to be completed).	10 8
Ongoing		Brian Bennett continues to 'yellow top' the DCC waymark post stock held at Elvaston Country Park	
Future Programme			
TBC	Morley FP11	Install steps and cut back overgrowth	
TBC	Mapperley FP12 West Hallam FP4	Joint project with Amber Valley to replace stile with wicket gate, install steps and clear concessionary path	
TBC	West Hallam FP31	Install way mark post, steps and clear path	

Humble beginnings



Ockbrook Litter Pick

22/11/2010



Job Done!

The full litter pick team from L to R:

Keith Shiers

Fay Blackburn

John Blackburn

Carol Shiers

Daphnie Eaton

John Blake

Ray Needham

Dorothy Needham

Task Report

Stoney Clouds 09/02/2012

The first 'real' footpath project was to help another charity, Groundworks Derby and Derbyshire, to help clear overgrowth and way mark a new concessionary path on Stoney Clouds, a local beauty spot and nature reserve administered by them on behalf of Erewash Borough Council. The area is known locally as 'Cardboard Hill' because, for generations past, the locals have used cardboard for sledging down the hill when snow was on the ground.

The footpath was an anomaly from when the M1 was first built and the planners in Whitehall were obsessed with footpaths in straight lines irrespective of contours. The effect on the ground, of course was that the revised definitive line went straight over a cliff and as a consequence people made their way round as best they could. The path forms a part of a route of one of Erewash Borough Council's sponsored country walk leaflets – No. 2 Walk in the Clouds –one of twenty such leaflet walks. Hence, a concessionary path has been agreed upon until such time as a diversion along its route can be arranged.

The task involved clearing overgrowth from a pathway, erecting new way marker posts and planting saplings. This was done over three sessions and we were joined in the task by a member of Groundwork staff and volunteer.



Digging post holes and cutting back



Tea break



Tidying up



Way marking

Volunteer Team included:

Trevor Bamford, Sue Bates, Fay & John Blackburn, Brian Marshall, Keith Shiers, Pete Smith.
There were also two members of the Groundworks team.

Task Report

Mapperley FP24 Whittlestone Walk 26/07/2012

Following a survey, the group were notified that parts of the Whittlestone Walk – an Erewash Borough Council sponsored leaflet walk – did not, in places, follow the lines of the Definitive Map. This was particularly so in an area known as 'The Screens' at West Hallam, an area once used for storing coal and screening before transportation to its destination. A re-route was necessary and the only footpath suitable and close enough to the original route was Mapperley FP24 which lies in Amber Valley domain. The path was seriously overgrown though the landowner had begun to clear some of the trees to claim back the land for pasture. It was decided that the path be cleared with the help of Derbyshire County Council Ranger Service to get it back into usable condition with the hope that, as part of a sponsored route, it would be used more regular and in so doing, keep the path in walking order.



Wicket Gate installation team



Here comes the Cavalry



A small stretch of the cleared footpath

Volunteer Team included:

Sue Bates, Trevor Bamford, Brian Bennett, Fay & John Blackburn, David Blake, Brian & Jane Marshall, Carol & Keith Shiers, Pete Smith.

SUSTRANS Volunteer: Jeff Wynch

Grateful thanks too to Derbyshire County Council Ranger Service.

Task Report Ockbrook FP's13, 14 & 18
Ockbrook, Dunnshill & Bartlewood Lodge.
Path clearance and new waymark posts.
06/09/2012



Ockbrook FP13; Preparing problem ground for new waymark post



Ockbrook FP13/14; tamping in new waymark post



Last job

The task required installation of two waymark posts and clearance of stretches of footpath .

Since the tasks were some distance apart, there were two work parties on the day, one installing the posts and the other, comprising all ladies, clearing the footpaths.

Unfortunately there are no photographs of the clearance work.

Volunteer Team s included:

Brian Bennett, Fay & John Blackburn, Barry & Margaret Chapman, Tom Dutton, Brian Marshall, Carol & Keith Shiers, Pete Smith.

Task Report

Dale Hills & Burnwood Farm

Ockbrook FP's 17 & 26

Path clearance & new waymark posts

SK43223840; SK43053826; SK42903790

SK42853774; SK42743760

08/10/2012



Ockbrook FP26 - Clearing the slippery slope of Dale Hills
This features later as a flight of steps were installed as part of an improvement project.



Installing one of the five waymark posts completed along Ockbrook FP's 17 & 26

Volunteer Team included:

Trevor Bamford, Tom Dutton, Brian Marshall, Carol & Keith Shiers, Stevie Watkin

Task Report

Risley FP14

SK45303694

Risley FP14

SK45343674

Risley FP9

SK45263632

07/02/2013

This task was undertaken in answer to a call from the DCC Footpath Officer for assistance with installing wicket gates as replacements for difficult stiles. The work involved one of our volunteers working with a DCC Ranger to complete the work and was completed on 07/02/2013.



Before – SK45303694



After – SK45303694



Before – SK45343674



Work in progress



Done – SK45343674



Before – SK45263632



After – SK45263632

Task Report

Trent Meadows Long Eaton FP49 SK50403252 to SK50723172 25/02/2013 to 22/04/2013

The task was in three parts:

- 1) Clear overgrowth and overhanging branches to a width of 1.8metres for a distance of approximately 1 km along Long Eaton FP49 (SK50403252 to SK50723172).
- 2) Dig out and install steps at the 'dog-leg' of Long Eaton FP49 south of Home Farm where the path crosses a brook by a metal bridge (SK50403252)
- 3) Install three way mark posts at various locations along Long Eaton FP49.

The work was undertaken over a number of weeks between 25/02/2013 and 22/04/2013 and took a total of 57 volunteer hours.



Before – SK50403252



Step work in progress

Unfortunately, there are no pictures of the path clearing team.

Volunteer Team included:

Trevor Bamford, Brian Bennett, John Blackburn, Clive Davis, Pauline Lawson, Brian & Jane Marshall, Carol & Keith Shiers, Pete Smith, Stevie Watkin.



After – SK50403252

Task Report Whittlestone Walk (Country Walks Leaflet No.6)
Various paths and locations
20/05/2013

The Whittlestone Walk was named in memory of the late Ron Whittlestone, former Parks Manager with Erewash Borough Council and Footpath Officer of the Erewash Ramblers and was initially inaugurated sometime in the 1990's.

The task was in two parts and undertaken as part of Erewash Ramblers commitment in supporting maintenance of the Erewash Borough Council countryside series of leaflet walks in association with DCC Rangers and the Groundworks Charity.

1 Clear overgrowth and overhanging branches to a width of 1.8metres along the concessionary path between Ilkeston FP84 and FP27 (SK45474221 to SK45174251), a distance of approximately 500 metres

2 Install five way mark posts situated at:

SK45354150; junction of West Hallam FP10 and Ilkeston FP84

SK45434202; junction of Ilkeston FP84 and FP37

SK45524200; line of Ilkeston FP37

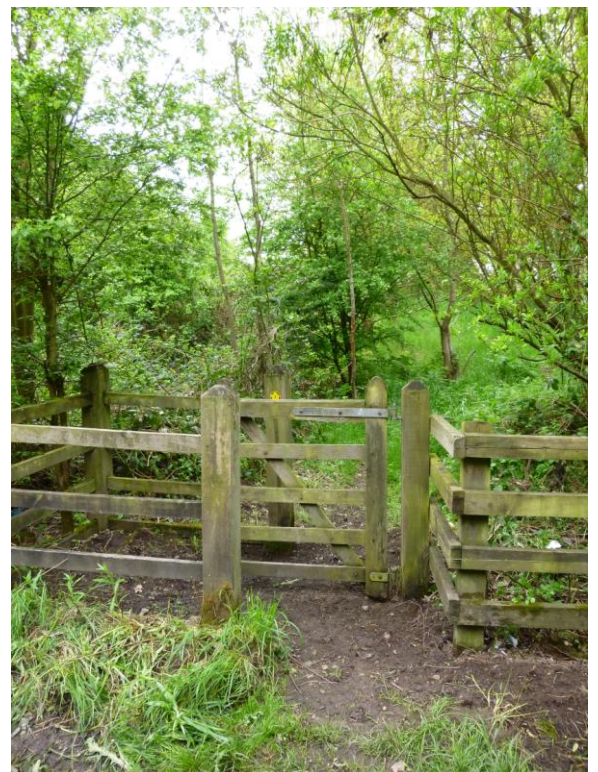
SK45654158; line of Ilkeston FP37

SK45744157; concessionary path between Ilkeston FP's 37 & 97

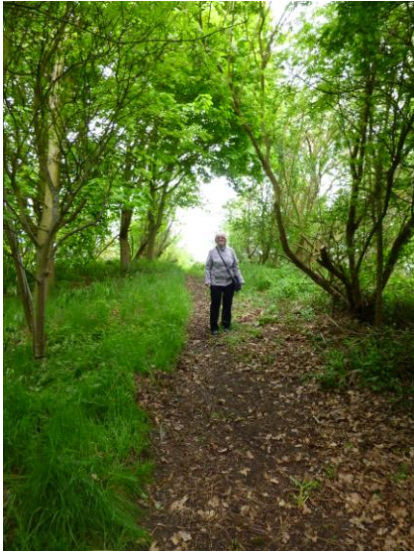
The task was completed in one day by 8 volunteers and took a total of 24 volunteer hours.



Part of the concessionary path requiring clearing (west side)



Part of the concessionary path requiring clearing (east side)



Concessionary path cleared
(west side)



Concessionary path cleared
(east side)



One of the new way mark
posts

Volunteer Team included:
Trevor Bamford
Fay & John Blackburn
David & Lynn Blake
Carol & Keith Shiers
Pete Smith

Task Report Stanton by Dale FP11 Waymark post (SK46103824)

Stanton by Dale FP12 cut back holly (SK46103812)

Stanton by Dale FP13 undergrowth (SK46003816)

03/06/2013

This work was undertaken following a request from the rights of way officer. It required the clearing and installation of a waymark post at the junction of Stanton by Dale FP's 11 and 13.

There was also considerable overgrowth of a holly bush that impeded passage along Stanton by Dale FP12 that was cut back to fence line.

Clearance work of Stanton by Dale FP13 was also undertaken.

5 volunteers were involved with the task.

There are no photographs of the work undertaken.

Task Report

Dale Abbey FP47 (SK44883773 & 44903782)

Risley FP16 (SK44993743)

Stoning up and path clearance.

Risley FP15 (SK45783717)

Path clearance, install steps and stoning of path

17/06/2013, 01/07/2013, 15/07/2013

This work was undertaken to improve surface conditions around gates and stiles that had become muddy and difficult to negotiate, especially in wet weather. There was one spot – Risley FP15 – that transitioned from field to a golf course that required particular attention at which considerable cutting back of overgrowth was undertaken, steps installed, path stoned and waymark post installed.



Risley FP15 - before



Risley FP16 - before



Dale Abbey FP47 - before



Clearing Risley FP15



Risley FP16 – levelling off for stoning



There was a lot of barrowing of stone to sites to be done



Risley FP15 – Job Done

Volunteer Team included:

Brian Bennett, David Blake, John Blackburn, Keith Shiers, Pete Smith.

Task Report

Ilkeston FP4; Cotmanhay
(SK463445)
10 February 2014

Task A

Cut back overgrowth to fence line.
Scrape path to remove vegetation.



Before



After

Background;

The landowner had illegally gated this path due to vandalism, hence the robust fencing at the position of the steps.

After persuasion from the council, the gate is now unlocked and free access prevails.

The landowner then applied for a DMMO but has since withdrawn this.

Task B

Clear area for installing steps.
Install steps and way mark post



Before



After

Task C



Cut back hedge for access and clear undergrowth around base of stile.

Either; repair stile and install new lower foot tread

Or

Install wicket gate.

No 'After' photo available.

Stile repaired by landowner;
undergrowth clearance only undertaken.

Volunteer Team included:

John Blackburn, John Harrison, Brian Marshall, Keith Shiers

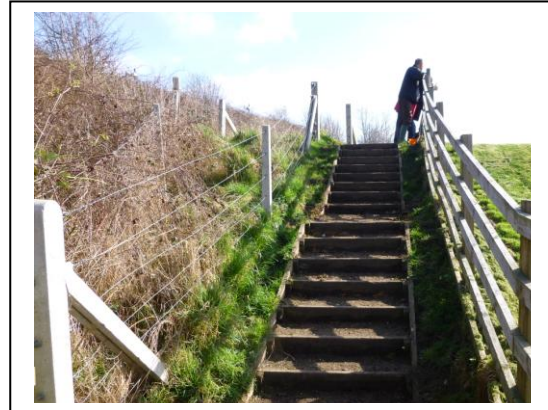
Task Report

Path clearance Long Eaton FP36 (SK488320)
10/03/2014

Before



After



- 1 Overgrowth cut back to fence
 - 2 Step scrapings used as infill between steps and fence (note there are some damaged risers and edging boards on the field side flight).
 - 3 Metal kissing gate area cleared.
 - 4 A 'dog mess' litter bin at the corner between steps and metal kissing gate has been requested together with 'Pick it up' signs along the route.
- Note: the damaged risers have subsequently been replaced.
The responsibility for maintenance has now been established to be with the Environment Agency.

Task Report

Steps at Columbine Farm

Ockbrook FP26

SK43223836

07/10/2013 to 06/05/2014



Before steps installed

Working with Derbyshire County Council Volunteer Co-ordinator, Steve Cresswell, Erewash Ramblers volunteers have been involved with installing a flight of steps as part of a rights of way improvement scheme for Ockbrook Footpath 26. It required the cutting out, boarding and stoning of over 50 steps to improve a difficult section of path in the Dale Hills area. The site is isolated which meant a logistics problem in getting the stone from the storage area to the work site. Fortunately I persuaded Sue Pratt of Columbine Farm and kennels to come to the rescue with the offer of using her Clydesdale horse 'Sunny' and cart to help transfer the material. So it was that on the lovely sunny morning of 24th March 2014, 'Sunny' was hitched up to help with the task. What a lovely sight it was to see his measured pace in pulling the loaded cart to site and the skill and patience of Sue and her helper, Helen, in manoeuvring both horse and cart to the desired loading and tipping points. Three deliveries were sufficient to keep the volunteers busy for the day before he retired for a well earned rest. Thank you 'Sunny', Sue and Helen for a superb experience.



Stone delivery on its way



Backing up into tipping position



Work in progress



Tipping in progress



Stoning of steps in progress



Yellow topping – the finishing touch

There are a total of 57 steps. The task was undertaken over several weeks between 07/10/2013 and 06/05/2014 that took a total of 152 volunteer hours. Volunteer Team included:

Trevor Bamford, Brian Bennett, Fay & John Blackburn, Clive Davis, Pauline Lawson, Brian Marshall, Carol & Keith Shiers, Pete Smith, Stevie Watkin.

Guest Volunteers included: Helen Bullock, Kay Pilkington

Special thanks for assistance from Sue Pratt, Helen and Sunny from Columbine Farm.

‘Sunny’ worked for us on three days and probably moved about 4-5 tons of stone in this period. His vital statics are:

He is a Clydesdale breed.

He is 10 years old

He weighs about 800 Kg

Power rating: 1horse power

He can pull up to 4 times his own weight.

His other features are; he is placid, good with people and environmentally friendly.

Note: We called upon his services on another project – building a causeway - which is reported separately.

Task Report

Causeway at Columbine Farm Ockbrook FP26 SK43283856 19/05/2014



Before building causeway

Following on from building steps along this footpath, we were faced with a problem of how to improve a renowned boggy area whilst still allowing livestock to use the field. Working with Derbyshire County Council Volunteer Co-ordinator, Steve Cresswell and in discussion with Sue Pratt of Columbine Farm, it was agreed a causeway of stone would be an acceptable solution. There was also a requirement to build a small stone raft on the other side of the footbridge that also suffered from frequent flooding. As with the steps, the site is isolated which meant a logistics problem in getting the stone from the storage area to the work site and once again Sue Pratt came to the rescue with the offer of using 'Sunny' and cart to help transfer the material.

So once again on a gloriously sunny day 'Sunny', Sue and Helen were available to help complete the task

Thank you once again 'Sunny', Sue and Helen for another superb experience.



Laying out causeway



Making progress



Stone delivery



There is a skill in lining up for tipping



Working on the small stone raft



Stone raft completed



Job done



Lift home after a hard day

The task was undertaken on the 19/05/2014 and completed in a single day. Five volunteers were involved who took a total of 16 volunteer hours.

Volunteer Team included:

Trevor Bamford, John Blackburn, John Harrison, Carol & Keith Shiers

Also involved were Steve Cresswell, Derbyshire County Council Volunteer Co-ordinator and Sue Pratt and Helen from Columbine Farm and of course 'Sunny' - who helped move 3-4 tons of stone.

Task Report:

**Dale Abbey FP2 , Ladywood Farm (SK446397)
16/06/2014, 30/06/2014/14/07/2014**



Sloping and very muddy stretch; requires boardwalks and path clearance.



Setting out the run of
boardwalk



Driving in support posts



Fixing side rails to support posts



Fixing protective tread mesh



Overgrowth clearance in operation



Job Done

Volunteer Team included:

Brian Bennett, John Blackburn, Clive Davis, John Harrison, Pauline & Maurice Lawson,
Keith Shiers

Task Report

Dale Abbey BW30 SK41843916
Dale Abbey FP29/FP26 SK41883930
Stanley FP10 SK41763930
02/06/2014 & 28/07/2014

Installation of way mark posts and path clearance.

No Pre-work pictures available

Work started on 02/06/2014 and after installing two way mark posts, work was curtailed due to a herd of rather irate cattle impeding further work. The site was re-visited on 28/07/2014 during which installation of the final way post was completed. Meanwhile, a second team did a circuit of other footpaths in the locality, notably Dale Abbey FP's 24, 26, 50 and Stanley FP10 in clearing undergrowth/overgrowth around stiles and pathways.



Bridleway marker post – Dale Abbey BW30



Way marker post installation team – Dale Abbey FP26



Job done – way mark post Dale Abbey BW30/FP29



Path clearance – Stanley FP10, part of the Midshires Way

Volunteer Team included:

Brian Bennett, John Blackburn, Clive Davis, John Harrison, Brian Marshall, Keith Shiers

Task Report :

**Dale Abbey FP4 (SK43683954);
Dale Abbey FP1 (SK43543948)
11/08/2014 & 08/09/2014**



Steps, Dale Abbey FP4



Steps, Dale Abbey FP1

Following footpath surveys, steps on Dale Abbey FP4 were found to be eroded and dangerous and in need of desperate repair. There was also a stretch of path that was overgrown and in need of clearing. Another set of steps on Dale Abbey FP1 also required clearing together with a short stretch of path and stile leading from them.



Making a start, Dale Abbey FP4 steps



Pauline, our very own Strimmer!



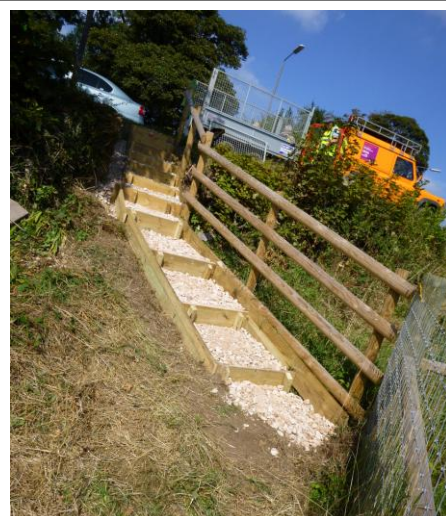
Phase 1 of step replacement completed



John & Fay beavering away



Contemplation time



Job done

Volunteer Team included:
Trevor Bamford, Brian Bennett, John & Fay Blackburn, John Harrison,
Pauline Lawson, Keith Shiers

Task Report:

Stanley FP20 (SK41254230 area)
Morley FP11 (SK41084198)



The very slippery Morley FP11 path before.

The task required clearing of substantial undergrowth on Stanley FP20 and the installation of steps and undergrowth/overgrowth clearance of Morley FP11.

The work was undertaken over two periods; the steps being installed first and the clearance followed up later.

Volunteers on the project were John Blackburn, John Harrison and Keith Shiers ably assisted by Steve Cresswell DCC and who completed the stoning of the steps single handed..

Our thanks too to Mr Hamer of Hayeswood Lodge who kindly allowed parking and access to the work site from his property.

Task Report:

Dale Abbey FP14 (SK43443872)

Dale Abbey FP15 (SK43283872)

Work to be done in 3 Phases:

- 1) FP 14, replace stile
- 2) FP14, insert edging board and build up path
- 3) FP15, build box step around existing stile to improve accessibility



FP14; stile to be replaced



FP14; Path to be built up



FP15; Stile to be improved

Phase 1; Volunteers – John Blackburn, John Harrison, Keith Shiers; Mentor Steve Cresswell DCC.



Site cleared, hinge post in place



Gate hung ready for slam post



Preparing for putting in fence rails



Fencing in progress



Phase 1 Complete



Rare picture of Steve Cresswell

The ground here caused particular problems with it being sandy and also large roots from adjacent hedge and tree stump. This required sinking the posts deep to ensure stability and packing with a mix of stone and soil.

Phase 2; Volunteers - John Dyson, Keith Shiers; Mentor Steve Cresswell DCC



Clearing ground and setting out



Boarding complete



Laying membrane



Stoning complete



Job Done!

To all the Volunteers

ThankYou

**This is what sets Ramblers aside from
'ordinary walking clubs'.**

Thanks too to Derbyshire County Council's:

David Jenkinson;

Rights of Way Assistant, who provides advice
on all footpath matters

Steve Cresswell;

Volunteer Co-ordinator, who provides the
materials, equipment and practical advice.

Farmers and landowners;

Who have provided help and assistance.

My apologies to anyone I have missed out.

If you are interested in joining the Volunteer Footpath Group and
help in continuing this important work of the Ramblers, then please
contact Keith Shiers :

Telephone 01332 665902

Email: kashiers@tiscali.co.uk



Ramblers

Charitable Objectives:

The Ramblers is Britain's walking charity, committed to improving the places where people walk and encouraging more people to do so, in England, Scotland and Wales. We have four charitable objectives, summarised as follows:

We safeguard paths with our network of active members working to clear and make accessible illegally blocked or overgrown paths that form part of Britain's unique path network.

We increase access for walkers by being at the forefront of establishing statutory rights of access for walkers in England, Scotland and Wales.

We promote walking to everyone, including the health and environmental benefits so that walkers can enjoy our wonderful heritage and undertake a healthy activity. We also educate the public through publicising our work about both their rights and responsibilities.

We protect the countryside and green spaces from harmful and polluting developments so that walkers can enjoy their tranquillity and beauty.