

## THE RAMBLERS BIG PATHWATCH

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the forum about the “Big Pathwatch” scheme being launched by The Ramblers.

### 2. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 To coincide with their 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Ramblers is launching a new project to carry out a survey of all the public rights of way in England and Wales, using volunteers to collect the data
- 2.2 The survey will commence in July 2015 and will run until the end of the year. The data is collected either using a free smart phone app or a paper survey (to be submitted online afterwards).
- 2.3 Participants will be able to choose a 1km grid square on a map and commit to surveying every public right of way in that area.
- 2.4 The system allows users to see where grid squares have been chosen by others and which ones are free, however it will allow more than one person to choose a grid square. To prevent participants from choosing too many squares than they can handle the maximum number of squares a person can choose at any one time is 10.
- 2.5 The aim of the project will be to generate a national picture of the public rights of way network, using a consistent approach to surveying. This will allow direct comparisons between different authorities.
- 2.6 The Forum is invited to consider whether members would wish to take part in the survey. A report for the RBWM Rural Forum is also being prepared.
- 2.7 A copy of the frequently asked questions, draft guidance notes and survey questions are included in Appendix A to this report.

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