Crowdsourcing the nation’s forgotten paths

Jack Cornish @cornish_jack
Dan Ormsby @ormsbydaniel1
Matt Walker @walkermatt
• 140,000 miles of rights of way (England and Wales)
• Footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways
• Local councils are required to have a map of all rights of way in their area (the Definitive Map)
• Thousands of miles are missing
• Lost rights of way based on historical evidence
• Make the Definitive Map….definitive
• 5 years, 6 months, 15 days
• Volunteers collect evidence to prove there was a right of way
• Evidence from time immemorial
• Then submit to their local authority (Definitive Map Modification Order)
Challenges

- Where are the lost rights of way?
- Getting more volunteers involved with claiming lost rights of way
- Understanding the extent of the issue and prioritising (locally and nationally)
We have now mapped 100% of England and Wales in the search for lost paths! Join the movement to be the first to find out what we've uncovered, and to get involved with the next steps for saving them.

DEMO IT !!!
We’re joining @RamblersGB and thousands of people across the country to uncover an estimated 10,000 miles of lost paths and add them to the definitive map forever. Join the search:

Skills and adventure begin with paths. They lead us to all sorts of people, places and skills for life. That’s why @RamblersGB are working to save the miles of paths across England and Wales forever if they’re not added to the map by 2026. Join the search to help find these lost paths before it’s too late!

Calling walkers, cartophiles, citizen geographers & lovers of footpaths/rights of way: the @RamblersGB today launches a new project to help find, map & register lost footpaths before a 2026 cut-off. Find out more/how to help here. Spread the word!
154,000 squares mapped twice in just six weeks
Almost 4000 volunteers
Over 80% not Ramblers members
Our top mapper did 17,734 squares!!
Lots more to do!

- Verifying the data
- Building tools for volunteers to claim the paths
- Training and guidance

JOIN THE MOVEMENT
Ramblers.org.uk/dontloseyourway

dlyw@ramblers.org.uk