

WEST LONDON RAMBLERS – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 6TH DECEMBER 2022

FOOTPATH SECRETARY'S REPORT

PATH CHECKING

As mentioned at last year's AGM, we have 20 volunteer path checkers. On average, each checker is covering 12 paths. West London Group checks those paths in the London Boroughs of Ealing and Hounslow, which are shown as Public Rights of Way (PRoW) on each borough's official Definitive Map.

During 2020 and 2021 a total of 223 paths were checked and reports written, providing a lot of new data. All this is kept on paper (report forms etc. having been printed off).

At first glance litter has been identified as the most pressing matter, with signage next.

Litter

Littering is often very bad where a path is part in one borough and part in another. It can seem that neither borough wants responsibility.

Also unused land in urban areas seems to attract litter, which can invade adjacent footpaths. Last week the footpath secretary visited a section of the Dog Rose Ramble in Northolt. This was cleared of rubbish 2 years ago (with Ramblers participation) but it's building up again. Litter picking sticks have been bought and will be provided to clear this mess before it gets worse. Volunteers are invited to contact the footpath secretary. The borough will be asked to provide bags and arrange collection when they are full.

Signs

A number of path checkers have reported lack of signs where they are seen to be needed. Highway authorities are unlikely to do anything unless they are given clear details of the suggested site, probably photos and map references backed up by clear verbal description. After 2 years it is time to recheck paths anyway, but all checkers will need to be aware of the need for clear details when reporting anything relating to signs.

LOST PATHS

Ramblers central office require volunteers to research into lost paths that have already been identified. Josie Mizen is "Don't lose your way officer" – see email of 10th November.

Questions to: dlyw@ramblers.zendesk.com

Howard Densley (Footpath Secretary)