

Avon Area Ramblers

REPORTING PATH ISSUES

The Avon Ramblers Path Volunteer Teams are able to fix many issues that are reported to the Public Rights of Way teams by members of the public.

If you find a problem when you are out on a walk, such as a broken stile or an impassably overgrown footpath, there are a number of ways to report this.

The Local Authorities remain responsible for solving these issues and they can be contacted directly on the following email addresses:-

Bristol - rightsofway@bristol.gov.uk

Bath & NE Somerset - prow@bathnes.gov.uk

South Glos - <https://www.southglos.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/transport/public-rights-of-way/public-rights-of-way-useful-facts/> See the "Contact" section on this page.

N Somerset - <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/leisure/parks-countryside/prow/find-public-rights-way/> Here it is necessary to log in to report a problem.

For other areas outside Avon you can usually find an email address on the relevant Authority's website.

A more general method of reporting is through The Ramblers. This can be by using the webpage <https://reportit.ramblers.org.uk/report-it>, links to which can also be found on your own Group's website, or by using the Pathwatch App on a smart phone, which can be accessed from here:- <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/advice/pathwatch-report-path-features-and-problems.aspx>. These methods pass the reports to the Local Authorities.

When reporting an issue it is helpful to give a clear description of the problem and most importantly a clear location. A photograph can also help to identify the problem. To provide the location a grid reference is helpful and it is also useful to give a path number if possible. Each path has a number (just like road numbers) and these can be found nationally on rowmaps.com. Choose your location and your base map (usually OS), then click on a path to find its path number.

Each Local Authority also may have its own website for identifying path numbers. In South Glos this is outdoorswest <http://www.outdoorswest.org.uk/map/> and in BathNES it is isharemaps <https://isharemaps.bathnes.gov.uk/atmycouncil.aspx?tab=maps>. In Bristol it is on this webpage <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/streets-travel/public-rights-of-way-service> and in North Somerset it is here:- <http://map.n-somerset.gov.uk/dande.html>. On most of these you may have to Select "Highways" "Public Rights of Way" from the menu and then click on the path to find its number.

The more times people report the problems on the paths the more likely they are to be fixed and the more likely it is that the paths will stay open and accessible. Please bear in mind that some problems may be more difficult to fix than others (for example, legal issues). The Authorities will usually check out reported problems fairly promptly and fix them (or ask Volunteers to fix them) as soon as possible, sometimes prioritised by the "importance" of the route or the amount of use it gets.

I hope this gives some guidance to encourage reporting in the way that any individual finds most convenient.

Keith Weller