



West Berks Ramblers AGM Walking Environment Officer's Report

12th November 2025

I continue to take the view that CPRE is better resourced to handle countryside protection issues than I am and so will continue to recommend renewing the Group's subscription.

I have made a personal representation in support of the Committee's agreed position objecting to the diversion proposed at Broadview Farm, Cold Ash which Neal is leading on. I have also adopted a policy (as yet not ratified by the Committee, so done on a personal level) of writing in support of speed limit reductions where rights of way emerge onto busy roads.

West Berks Ramblers AGM Work Party Report

12 gates were installed on behalf of West Berks Council to replace stiles gates during the 12 months to 30th September 2025 – as always, the Council negotiated with the landowners and supplied the materials. 11 people are currently signed up to help me on these tasks on a rotating basis.

The 'Power Tools Group' (PTG) turned out to do vegetation clearance once in October 2024 and 9 times between May and September 2025, with some group members also attending a training/refresher session in April. The long dry summer limited the demand for the team's services this year and some tasks were postponed due to weather conditions (including heatwaves) and/or people's availability. The group currently has 9 members, with between 3 and 5 participating in any given session.

I estimate that about 200 hours of volunteer time (including travel and administration) was put into gate installation work and about 175 hours into PTG work during the year (including attendance at the PTG training session).

As many will already know, Tony Key has kindly picked up the baton and resumed operation of the 'Ramblers Work Party' (RWP) previously run by Fiona Walker and Roy Batty. Its first session was held at the end of September - it has been asked to cover the various 'recreational routes' initially.

GVS, October 2025