

	East Cheshire Ramblers AGM
	Date of Meeting –23 November 2024 Macclesfield Tennis Club

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Appendix 1 Chair Report

Prepared by Maggie Swindells

“It’s a dangerous business, Frodo, going out your door. You step onto the road, and if you don’t keep your feet, there’s no knowing where you might be swept off to.”

J.R.R. Tolkien

As I end my second year as Chair, I would like to reiterate the sentiments I expressed last year: that the strength of our group is its members. I’ve been extremely fortunate to continue to receive a huge amount of support from so many people. Thank you too each and every member whose commitment, in whatever capacity, contributes so much to the success of

East Cheshire Ramblers: Walk Coordinators, Walk Leaders, Committee members, Footpath Inspectors, the Path Maintenance team, those who arrange amazing events, weekends away and coach trips, and last but by no means least Roger Fielding who keeps our website going and is always there to answer the ‘daft website question’ when called upon.

I would also like to thank our active walkers who turn up week after week to walk together no matter what the weather. The social dimension ECR walks provide is absolutely invaluable and is often warmly received by those who walk with us for the first time.

The year has been dominated by major changes introduced by Central Office. The volunteers site ‘Assemble’, which was always difficult to access, was removed earlier this year and all relevant support and documentation for volunteers now sits on the main website. Clicking the ‘Support Us’ link once you’ve signed in takes you to the Volunteers section. One of the most important changes was the introduction of mandatory training requirements for NEW walk leaders, those who were registered as volunteers after 15 th May 2024. The requirements in themselves are not hard, complex or time consuming. The training materials are also useful and offer a lot of relevant information for new walk leaders. One piece of good news: Walk Leaders are no longer expected to complete a written Risk Assessment. Risk Assessments are available as an ‘aide memoir’ to help leaders assess the risk of their walks but they are no longer a requirement. I have included in the papers for the AGM a guide which provides the information volunteers need to access relevant information.

System glitches between CO and ECR have proved the most challenging aspect of all the changes and I’d like to thank Anne Ball for battling through the glitches to ensure we have accurate up to date records of members and volunteers.

In May the Ramblers also changed the system for posting walks on the national website. The system was changed from ‘Group Walks and Events Manager’ to ‘Walks Manager’. This initially proved to be a major challenge. I would like to thank Jennie Mellor for ‘wrangling’ this system into place! It took hours of her time, and lots of phone calls, to achieve a successful outcome. All our walks now appear nationally. Walks Manager also has other benefits, for example it allows us the opportunity to advertise an event as we have this year for the AGM.

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I would like to stress that our system for sharing ECR’s walk information remains the same. No walk leader is expected to input information on Walks Manager; ECR’s walk leaders are only required to add their walk to the ECR website.

If at all possible, walk information needs to be posted at least two weeks before the date of the walk. Walk numbers on long walks suggest that numbers increase when detail of the walk is provided well ahead of the walk date. Cancelling a walk is easy; all that is required is for Walk Leaders to post the original walk details with CANCELLED at the top of the description and the cancellation will appear on the walk programme. New walk details can then be added. Walk Coordinators’ perception is that our walks are attracting an increasing number of new walkers who all enjoy the warm welcome they receive when they join our walks.

During the early part of the year, we used ECR training materials to create a number of documents which provide support for Walk Leaders, no matter what level of experience. The documents are available in a dedicated area of the ECR website under the tab ‘Walk Leaders’. We hope to build on this library over the next twelve months. Thanks go to Roger Fielding for facilitating this link.

In May, ECR provided a successful First Aid Training course which was well attended and geared to supporting injuries in outdoor settings. In July, we ran a training session about how to use electronic apps to create and follow walking routes. In addition to running First Aid and Apps Training sessions in 2025 we intend to offer an ‘Introduction to Walk Leadership’ session to offer members who may be considering becoming a walk leader the opportunity to complete the Ramblers required modules as a group supported by experienced leaders.

Over the past twelve months I’ve met with the Cheshire East Area Chairs, and this has enabled us to share information and ideas and support each other through CO changes. In addition, Neil Collie has had an initial meeting with Area Footpath representatives with a view to sharing information about the footpath network across Cheshire East.

In June Roger Fielding suggested we switched our website host to ‘Ramblers Webs’ which is an arrangement set up by Rambler’s members to host group web sites with the charges covered by Ramblers Head Office. The switch was approved by the committee and has now taken place. It saves ECR the cost of renewing our existing hosting contract, £95, which is due in October. In addition, we agreed it was a good idea to be part of this community and we were able to keep our web site ‘as it is now’. In October ‘What3Words’ intended to charge for the service they offered to ECR. As we are a registered charity Roger was able to maintain the service ‘free of charge’.

Finally, I would like to say a thank you, on behalf of us all, to Nigel Hersee and Keith Anderson who are stepping down from their role and to two people who have served as committee members for over ten years: Sue Munslow and Colin Finlayson. I’m sure you’d like to join me in formally acknowledging the work they have all done for ECR. I’m sure we’ll still see them on out on walks which I hope they will enjoy without the added responsibility of ‘office’!

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I am very proud to be a member of such a great group of walkers. Time is precious and the words of Alfred Wainwright offer a timely reminder to us all to make the most of each precious moment.

“The fleeting hour of life of those who love the hills is quickly spent, but the hills are eternal. Always there will be the lonely ridge, the dancing beck, the silent forest; always there will be the exhilaration of the summits. These are for the seeking, and those who seek and find while there is still time will be blessed both in mind and body.” Alfred Wainwright

Maggie Swindells

November 23rd 2024

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Appendix 2 Treasurers Report

Prepared by Colin Finlayson

Overview

Overall, the annual return shows that we had a Main Fund deficit of £950.85 for the year with our closing bank balance standing at £7657.62 which is down on last year's figure of £8475.42.

As has occasionally occurred in prior years the figures at year end are slightly skewed due to social events being held early in the new financial year calendar i.e. October when receipts for the event had largely been received in this current financial reporting period i.e. prior to end September however the costs will not appear until the next year's reporting period.

In spite of all the above we are still in a robust financial position and so once again we have sufficient funds allocated to allow us to accommodate several footpath initiatives that have been identified.

Performance:

Our funding receipts from RA for the year amounted to £1200.00 and we also received a record amount of £514.0 again (beating last year's figure of £320.0) in commissions from Ramblers Holidays received during the year.

There was an overall deficit of £375.95 shown in our cumulative self-funded socials. This was again largely due to a couple of ECR 50th Anniversary events held in the autumn of 2023.

Budget for 2024/2025:

Our budget application for £1200.00 has now been approved and our first quarterly payment has been received.

Thanks:

Thanks as always to those members who have organised our self-funded activities and diligently fed me with all the necessary financial information in a timely manner to allow the accounts to be kept in order.

Thanks also to Ken Hobbs for continuing to provide welcome and timely financial guidance throughout the year and for Independently Examining these accounts.

Colin Finlayson: Honorary Treasurer.

Receipts and payments

Name: East Cheshire Code: CH02 Year ended: 30/09/24

Restricted					
Receipts	Current yr	Prior yr	Payments	Current yr	Prior yr
Internal transfer	-	-	Internal transfer	-	-
Donations	-	-	General	-	-
Legacies	-	-			
Grants	-	-			
Deposit interest	-	-			
Investment income	-	-			
Other	514.00	320.00			
Total receipts	514.00	320.00	Total payments	-	-
Surplus/(deficit)	514.00	320.00			

Main					
Receipts	Current yr	Prior yr	Payments	Current yr	Prior yr
From CO (funding)	-	-	To CO	-	-
From CO (other)	-	-	To Area	-	-
From Area (funding)	1,200.00	1,200.00	To Group (funding)	-	-
From Area (other)	-	-	To Group (other)	-	-
From Group	-	-	To S/W Council	-	-
From S/W Council	-	-	Walks programmes	-	-
T/fer from 'Self-funded'	-	-	Walks related	-	-
Donations	-	-	Walks leader training	629.70	126.87
Legacies	-	-	Newsletters/publicity	-	-
Grants	-	-	Publication/goods costs	-	-
Fundraising	-	-	Campaigns/casework	300.49	461.96
Deposit interest	-	-	Practical work	879.21	731.27
Investment income	-	-	Fundraising costs	-	-
Publication/goods sales	-	-	Meetings (inc. AGM)	-	240.60
Advert sales	-	-	Admin	158.16	86.11
Other	-	-	Other	103.29	85.35
Total receipts	1,200.00	1,200.00	Total payments	2,160.85	1,742.26
Surplus/(deficit)	- 960.85	- 542.26			

Self-funded					
Receipts	Current yr	Prior yr	Payments	Current yr	Prior yr
Day walks	1,816.00	920.00	Day walks	1,707.40	770.80
Holidays	1,267.00	434.00	Holidays	965.03	1,123.00
Socials	3,112.58	3,562.94	Socials	3,033.01	2,286.30
Deposit interest	-	-	T/fer to 'Main'	-	-
Other	-	192.00	Other	926.09	958.99
Total receipts	6,255.58	5,108.94	Total payments	6,631.53	5,137.09
Surplus/(deficit)	- 375.95	- 28.15			

Summary	Restricted	Main	Self-funded	Total	Prior yr
Total receipts	514.00	1,200.00	6,255.58	7,969.58	6,828.94
Total payments	-	2,160.85	6,631.53	8,782.38	6,879.35
Surplus/(deficit)	514.00	- 960.85	375.95	812.80	- 250.41
Movement in funds	514.00	- 960.85	375.95	812.80	- 250.41

Balance sheet

Name: East Cheshire
Code: CH02

Year ended: 30/09/24

Assets	Current yr		
	Restricted	Main	Self-funded
Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-
Stock	-	-	-
Loans due in	-	-	-
Cash & bank	2,510.99	2,881.74	2,269.89
Total	2,510.99	2,881.74	2,269.89

Assets	Prior yr		
	Restricted	Main	Self-funded
Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-
Stock	-	-	-
Loans due in	-	-	-
Cash & bank	1,996.99	3,832.59	2,645.84
Total	1,996.99	3,832.59	2,645.84

Liabilities	Restricted	Main	Self-funded	Total
Loans due out	-	-	-	-

Liabilities	Restricted	Main	Self-funded	Total
Loans due out	-	-	-	-

Net assets/ liabilities (funds)	Restricted	Main	Self-funded	Total
	2,510.99	2,881.74	2,269.89	7,662.62

(A)

Net assets/ liabilities (funds)	Restricted	Main	Self-funded	Total
	1,996.99	3,832.59	2,645.84	8,475.42

(B)

Balance sheet reconciliation	
Movement in funds: balance sheet (A) - (B)	812.80
Movement in funds: R&P	812.80
Variance (C) - (D)	-

(C)

(D)

Summary of financial year for Independent Examiner

Summary	Restricted	Main	Self-funded	Total
Total receipts	514.00	1,200.00	6,255.59	7,969.59
Total payments	-	2,130.85	5,631.53	8,782.38
Closing cash balance	2,510.99	2,831.74	2,269.89	7,612.62
Net assets/liabilities (funds)	2,510.99	2,831.74	2,269.89	7,612.62

Having carried out procedures in accordance with the Area and Group independent examination guidelines,
I consider the "CH02 "accounts to give a fair representation of the Area's/Group's
financial activities for the year to 30 September 2024

Signed:

Date:

Name of examiner:


31/10/24
K.S. Horsley

(Alternatively, if you do not wish to print off this sheet please send in a signed copy of your own Area/Group accounts to GB office).

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Appendix 3 Footpath Secretaries Report prepared by Louise Whittaker

Footpath Inspections Complete	The annual inspection of all 1295 paths [around 430 miles] across 33 parishes is complete for 2024. This is an amazing achievement year on year. A big thank you to all our voluntary inspectors for their commitment to walk and report the condition of their assigned paths in the ECR Footpaths Database. This effort is pivotal for leveraging resolution of issues to keep the path network open. We continue to be indebted to Roger Fielding for maintaining and updating our unique database.
Inspection Results	Results for 2024 are showing a marginal deterioration (around 9% 'C' and 'D' classification). This is not a cause for immediate concern unless next year's results exhibit the same.
Recruitment	Enquiries are very welcome from anyone interested in becoming a Footpath Inspector. Please email Tony Battilana - inspections@ramblerseastcheshire.org.uk Tony is a member of the Footpaths Committee and co-ordinates the annual inspection programme including 'retirements' and 'recruitments'. A big task – thank you Tony.
New Head of PROW	In April 2024 Nicola Lewis-Smith was appointed as the new head of the Public Rights of Way Unit at Cheshire East Council (CEC). Our relationship with CEC is important to us. Nicola and the three Maintenance Officers have direct access to the ECR Footpaths database and inspection results. It is heartening that action is already being taken on some of the footpath problems reported this year. Longer term and complex issues form the basis of face-to-face discussions (office based or 'in situ'). A meeting with Nicola is planned for Q1 2025.
Bridges	PROW Unit at CEC awaits the outcome of a business case submitted earlier this year for capital to support damaged bridge replacements. ECR Footpaths Committee is particularly concerned about a Temporary Closure Order effective 2021 which affects a number of paths in the Dean Valley where a bridge became unsafe after erosion of the riverbank.
Diversions	One Diversion Order this year for Alderley Edge Footpath 12. Straightforward and no concerns.
Planning Applications	An application for the remediation and stabilisation of Disley Paper mill has (if approved) implications for footpaths/bridleways in the immediate vicinity during the construction phase. We will monitor the situation. Thank you to Graham Walker [member of Footpath Committee] for his weekly scan of the Macclesfield Express for Public Notices impacting Public Rights of Way.
DMMOs	Notice of three Definitive Map Modification Orders [DMMOs] were received from CEC during 2024 to date. These are claims to reinstate an unrecorded Public Right of Way (PROW) [e.g. a Lost Way]. We anticipate the number will increase during 2025 as CEC focus more resources on clearing a backlog [a national problem].
Permissive Paths	It is disappointing that two permissive footpaths are closed: • Path from Torgate Farm to Cat & Fiddle (Macclesfield Forest) • Path from Harehill to Alderley Woods (when Harehill gardens are closed) We hope to meet with the landowners to understand the reasons for their decisions.
Sharing Success	Following on from the successful trial of Adhesive Waymarkers completed & reported by Dave Barraclough a press release was submitted to Ramblers Walk Magazine. A much-edited down version appeared in the summer 2024 edition of the magazine entitled 'Stick on Success'. See link below/page 12. https://cdn.ramblers.org.uk/media/files/walk-mag-summer-2024.pdf?
Plastic Waymark Posts	Nick Brearley [Footpath Committee member] has been investigating the use of recycled plastic posts for waymarking in wet areas. They are rot proof and offer a much longer service life. We hold a small number of 1500 mm long posts for trial use. The post sections are 80 mm square for areas free of livestock and 90 mm square and round for areas where they are present. We welcome suggestions for suitable trial locations.

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E-Working Space	The Footpaths Committee is looking at digital solutions for storage and sharing of e-documents to facilitate storage and create a digital workspace.
The Footpaths Committee JOIN US	This is my first year as ECR Footpaths Secretary and there has been much to learn. Fortunately, there is an immense wealth of knowledge around the Committee table from Neil Collie, Graham Walker, Nick Brearley and Tony Battilana. I am deeply grateful for their support. If you would like to join the ECR Footpaths Committee or just want to know more please contact myself through the ECR website, or any other Committee member including our enthusiastic newest committee member Gillian Kay. Welcome Gillian!

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Appendix 4 Membership Report

Prepared by Anne Ball

At 1 st November 2024 there were 601 Ramblers on the East Cheshire membership list, 589 members with East Cheshire as their home group and 12 members affiliated to ECR (maintaining their home group elsewhere). This is just a slight change from a year ago when the membership stood at 596. Members of other local Ramblers groups are continuing to find it attractive to join our walks and if they wish they can become affiliated to ECR so that they can receive our emails.

There are always members who let their membership lapse but sometimes members resign. In August and September five members resigned, four of whom after only a matter of weeks membership. As this seemed unusual, they have all been emailed to ask if they would mind telling us why they resigned. However, none have as yet replied. East Cheshire prides itself on being a welcoming group and members are asked to redouble their efforts to make sure new members feel welcome and included.

There have been challenges this year resulting from changes to the main Ramblers website and to how various membership data is accessed. In May Ramblers head office introduced the requirement that potential new walk leaders must complete specified online modules before they can lead walks. There were concerns that this would be unduly onerous, however, those members who have completed them generally found them to be interesting and useful. After an initial delay, volunteer roles and training data is now available to us so that we can smoothly process the registering of walk leaders and other volunteers. Team leaders have been asked to advise the Membership Secretary of any new volunteers so that they can be added to the register.

One change which has made access easier for members, is that information that was previously available to volunteers Assemble is now available on the main Ramblers website. Assemble is no longer in use.

This year there have inevitably been some members who have sadly died. These include two members who had held the role of Chair of East Cheshire Group: Michael Jackson on the 2 nd of November 2024 and June Mabon on 7 th May 2024. Our current Chair, Maggie Swindells, has previously advised members of the significant role both played in Ramblers and more widely in the lives of others. They will both be much missed.

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Appendix 5 Social Secretary Report prepared by Gina Thompson

Christmas Lunches 2023

Our Christmas lunches last year were held at two new venues. Sutton Hall in Macclesfield, organised by me, and The Legh Arms in Adlington coordinated by Andy Davies and Melanie Davy. Both were well attended; hence Melanie has rebooked the Legh Arms for this year. However, those of us who went to the 50th anniversary event last October was very impressed by the standard of the food at Davenport Golf Club. With that in mind I have moved this year's Saturday Christmas Lunch to Davenport Golf Club.

Looking Back on 2024 Events

Moving on to review 2024. We started the year in style with our Signature Event, KEITH'S SHERRY WALK on January 1st, welcoming 34 attendees, special thanks to [Lorraine Tolley](#) and [Melanie Davy](#) for giving the Social Secretary a much-appreciated lift into the New Year!

The next few weeks of 2024 I spent much time organising events and worrying whether anyone would be interested in them. To my relief they received enthusiastic participation, confirming our members' interest. Here's a snapshot:

- Two Avro tours with lunch and a short walk in February and March, with 40 attendees.
- Two Macclesfield History Walks with Dorothy Bentley Smith, in March with 30 attendees.
- Two tours of The Old Medicine House plus short walk and lunch in June and July with 30 participants.

Thank you to all who attended these events and made my efforts worthwhile.

Special thanks go to [Melanie Davy](#) for organising Kim Letson's Canterbury and Other Tales at the Tennis Club. The author and adventurer captivated over 40 of us, while Kathryn Carty and Sue Munslow's buffet assistance added to the event's success.

Highlights Throughout the Year

[Steve Hull](#) organised an excellent coach trip to Church Stretton where we had three guided walks led by [Steve](#), Anne Ball and me.

I also organised a walk around New Mills with historian Mike Daniels, unfortunately this took place on the wettest day in May, but Mike was very informative and entertaining and made a great pot of coffee for those of us who joined him.

June's Dolgellau weekend was a wonderful gathering organised by [Melanie](#), with walks led by Steve and Jane Rawlings, Ann Thompson, Sue Munslow, and Jane and Frank Gay.

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Meanwhile at the Tennis Club Maggie Swindells organised FIRST AID TRAINING delivered by a lovely lady from Staffordshire First Aid Trainers.

Maggie also organised the APPS TRAINING with Gillian Kay, Jane and Frank Gay, Michael Murphy and Anne Ball all helping to deliver this.

Michael Murphy Then went on to organise an introduction to PICKLEBALL at the Tennis Club which was enjoyed by all.

Sue Munslow Led an excellent Geology Trail from Teggs Nose in September.

The ever-popular QUIZ NIGHT re appeared with our brilliant Quizmaster Steve Hull taxing our brains, Jane and Frank ran the bar whilst great support with the buffet came from Kathryn Carty and Sue Munslow.

In October, **Ann Thompson** organised a Mid-Week Away in Borrowdale, with a variety of walks led by Steve Rawlings, **Melanie Davy**, **Michael Murphy**, and **Ann**. A huge thank you goes out to **Ann** and **Melanie**, who managed the many logistics for this and the Dolgellau trips from walk coordination to accommodation.

A Call for More Organisers

Finally, I just wish to explain that I haven't gone mad with the colouring in pen but have coloured in members who organise events, members who help on events will see their name in bold italics. As you will see the organisers are very few in numbers so not only do I want to say a BIG THANK YOU to them from us all but PLEASE WOULD SOMEONE ELSE STEP UP?

I am happy to help anyone who wishes to organise an event, please email me: gthompemail@gmail.com or see me on a walk.

Gina Thompson

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Appendix 6 Lost Ways Report prepared by Keith Anderson

Ramblers are currently lobbying the new Government to further extend or even scrap the final date for registering lost ways beyond the current deadline of 2031

There are currently 4 researchers working on a number of paths in the Cheshire East Highway area.

As far as I am aware no applications have yet been made to Cheshire East because the process of looking at historical records is quite lengthy.

Ramblers HOS are working to make Assemble more useful both as a record of lost ways and of which paths are already being worked on. They have also recently produced several guides on how to go about reclaiming a lost way.

There have been recent staff changes on the project at Ramblers Ho which I think have slowed progress on improving Assemble for use by researchers. There are normally bi-monthly meetings on Zoom attended by Co-ordinators throughout the country, but partly I think because of the staff changes, the next meeting is not until January 2025.

Finally, I am standing down from the Ramblers Committee and from being a Don't Lose Your Ways Co-ordinator

Keith Anderson 30/10/24

Appendix 7 Social Media Report

prepared by Jennie Mellor

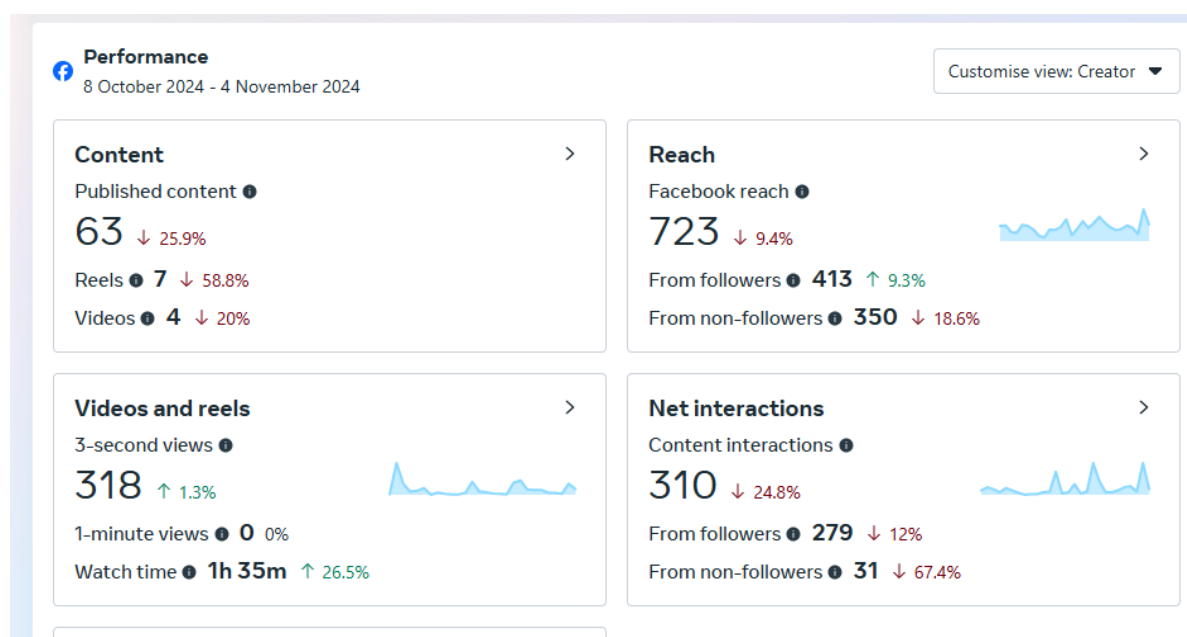
As always, a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Facebook page, in particular to the long walkers who have recently started to add their walks.

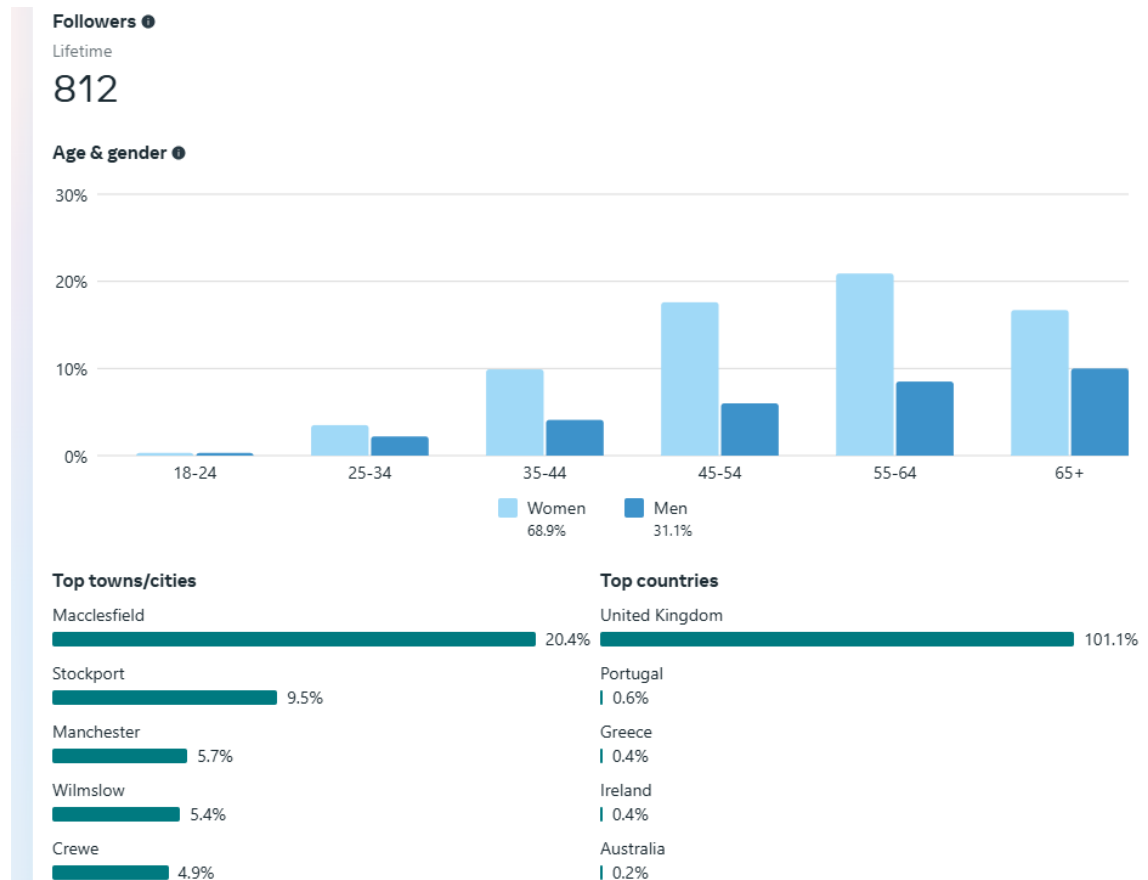
Thank you too, to those Facebook members who share our posts to their own contacts, which helps to increase our audience and to the walk leaders and photographers who send us their amazing photographs.

Earlier this year, we started sharing posts with social media sites **Macclesfield Nub News** and **I Love Macc.**

Performance figures below refer to the period 8th October – 4th November 2024 on **Facebook**

During this period activity has reduced, however overall, traffic to our page annually has increased. The demographics have changed showing interest as far away as Australia!





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Appendix 8 Walk Numbers

Prepared by Steve Hull

Walk Numbers for 2021

Programme	LMW	LWE	MMW	MWE	SMW	SWE	EVE	STR
Jan to June								
No. Walks	12	10	12	10	11	10	7	5
Max	11	11	13	16	22	19	12	15
Min	4	5	5	4	9	9	3	8
Mean	8	8	10	10	15	13	8	9
Median	8	8	11	11	15	12.5	8	8
July to Dec								
No. Walks	25	17	20	18	25	23	8	8
Max	15	15	19	14	28	28	12	12
Min	3	5	6	4	3	3	3	4
Mean	9	10	11	7	15	13	9	7
Median	9	9	11	7	14	13	8.5	6

Walk Numbers for 2022

Programme	LMW	LWE	MMon	MThu	MWE	SMW	SWE	EVE	STR
Jan to June									
No. Walks	24	20	23	26	22	26	25	8	5
Max	16	13	14	19	15	31	46	12	15
Min	4	4	2	2	4	7	4	6	3
Mean	8	8	7	11	9	17	14	9	8
Median	8	8	8	11	9	16.5	12	8.5	8
July to Dec									
No. Walks	21	18	20	21	16	24	23	7	6
Max	15	15	15	20	17	33	27	11	13
Min	2	5	2	3	3	3	5	6	6
Mean	8	9	8	10	8	16	16	8	9
Median	7	9	8	9	8	15	16	8	9

Notes

Short weekend distorted by including New Year's Day Walk with 46 people.

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Walk Numbers for 2023

Programme	LMW	LWE	MMon	MThu	MWE	SMW	SWE	EVE	STR
Jan to June									
No. Walks	18	24	14	24	23	26	24	8	7
Max	16	17	11	14	25	26	27	10	16
Min	3	5	3	3	3	6	3	3	3
Mean	8	12	6	8	11	17	13	6	8
Median	8	12	6	8	10	17	12	4	5
July to Dec									
No. Walks	22	19	14	16	18	25	24	7	8
Max	15	15	14	14	13	26	16	15	15
Min	3	1	4	3	2	3	3	4	3
Mean	8	10	7	7	7	13	10	8	7
Median	8	10	6	6	7	14	10	7	6.5

Walk Numbers for 2024

Programme	LMW	LWE	MMon	MThu	MWE	SMW	SWE	EVE	STR
Jan to June									
No. Walks	22	22	11	15	21	21	24	4	7
Max	14	17	13	16	18	26	26	15	12
Min	2	4	5	2	2	7	5	2	5
Mean	8	10	9	9	10	15	13	9	8
Median	7	9	8	8	11	15	14	9	8
July to Dec									
No. Walks	16	16	6	12	16	12	15	7	9
Max	11	13	11	15	20	21	22	15	15
Min	2	5	2	3	3	9	9	5	5
Mean	7	8	5	7	12	15	15	10	9
Median	7	8	4	8	12	15	15	9	9

Notes

As decided by the coordinators meeting last year numbers for the New Year's Day Walk, coach trips and weekends away have not been included. There were 35 people on the New Year's Day Walk and on the coach trip the short, medium and long walks had 15, 15 and 11 walkers respectively.

The numbers on the Dolgellau weekend were: Long 6 and 12; Medium 18 and 4; Short 6 and 10.

The numbers for the Borrowdale midweek away were: Long 8 and 7; Medium 12 and 13; Short 8, 4 and 13.

Two walks where only the leader turned up have not been included.

No data is available for several midweek medium walks.

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There look to have been an unusual number of cancellations in the first half year, probably because of the bad weather.

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Summary of Walk Numbers Since 2010

Year	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24 1st	24 2nd
SMW	17	17	17	17	17	18	20	19	14	20		15	16	15	15	15
SWE	14	15	15	15	15	15	16	15	10	15		13	15	11	13	15
MMon													8	6	8	5
MMW	18	15	12	16	13	11	13	11	12	9		9				
MThu	-	9	11	12	11	13	12	12	10	9			11	8	9	8
MWE	12	11	11	12	12	9	9	9	10	9		8	9	9	10	12
LMW	15	14	12	13	13	12	14	12	9	10		9	8	8	8	7
LWE	12	11	12	11	12	10	11	10	13	12		9	9	11	10	8
EVE	9	11	11	14	12	15	11	12	11	7		8	9	7	9	10
STR									17	14		8	9	8	8	9
										Jan- Jun	Lost					

The average number of walkers on all the programmes held steady or increased slightly in the first half of the year except for a slight decrease on the Long Weekend walks. The second half of the year so far has been more mixed; both long walk programmes have resumed the long-term downward trend. The decline for the Monday Medium walks is probably not greatly significant as it is based on a small number of walks, although it does seem that the Thursday Medium walks are still more popular than the Monday walks.

There has been a general decline on numbers on walks over the years. This is particularly apparent for long and medium walks, probably because of our ageing membership. Long walks had reduced numbers post covid. Long weekend walks this year are now more popular than their midweek equivalents which reverses the situation in earlier years. We have lost a number of midweek long walkers and newer members seem to be keener on walking at weekends.

The mid 2010's saw a much larger number of people on evening walks than has been the case over the last few years. The numbers have picked up slightly over the last two years. The average hides the fact that some walks have been well attended and some very poorly attended.

Stroller walk numbers do not seem to have been much affected by the change from Fridays to midweek.

I can't explain the temporary drop in short walk numbers in 2018.

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Appendix 9 Footpath Report

Prepared by Brian Richardson

ECR Projects Team works since Nov 29th, 2023, AGM to October 30th, 2024.

The Project Team has been active during November 2024 and then, I and the team had a long break until September 2024.

This year we have concentrated heavily on Wilmslow FP 19 which passes between Linney's Bridge (across the River Dean at Stanneylands Road) and Styal Station Road. 400 metres of the path are on the east side of a steep-sided and wooded valley. In essence, we have installed four pipes (100mm dia., 3~4.5 metres long), and finished surfaces at these and at two previously placed (last year) pipe locations. These pipes carry field drain water under the path at eroded and very muddy locations. The field drains discharge from the field bank-side adjacent and above the path. I shall inspect the path in February 2025 to see if the full winter rains have charged other field drain locations. We have, over several sessions, trimmed the full length of the wooded path. At old stile locations we have levelled the ground in conjunction with new soil-retaining edging boards and installed three more steel kissing gates and placed new fence posts next to them with triple rails and netting to close the fence openings. The path is now free of stiles between its road intersections. The debris from the wooden siles and wire must yet be disposed of at a recycling yard. The path requires surface-retaining boards at several locations on the downslope west side and surface material added. The field fence is in a ruinous and dangerous condition along all of its wooded length and will require CEC's attention next year. Our team has permission to replace it, but the length is beyond our capability.

A small core of the Project Team have placed three finger posts and four waymarker posts as replacements to rotten posts on Rainow FP86/22 (in Harrop Wood), Rainow FP 7 (on Sherrow-Booth driveway), Chorley FP 2 (off Carr lane), Great Warford FP 22 (Noah's Arc Lane), Wilmslow FP 29/5 (Near Community Hall), Wilmslow FP 144/22, Wilmslow FP 10 east of Styal golf course). These posts have all been protected at ground level (where rotting occurs) by a bituthene (bitumen/polythene) heat-melded wrap. A table is presented of protected post locations.

Thirteen Project Team members have attended 38 days and carried out tasks for a total of 201.5 hours (excluding lunch breaks).

Brian Richardson

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WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE TEAM Year To 30th Nov 2024

Coordinated by Brian Richardson

YEAR 2024	WORK LOCATION	WORK UNDERTAKEN	Members & Hours Employed		
			Members	Hours.	Cum.
29/11/2023	Wilmslow FP 19	Restoring path over twin 100mm dia. pipes 'under' oak tree roots. Forming retaining 'wall' with hessian sacks filled with dry post concrete mix, and wood planks above. Taking soil from verge above the nearby path to restore to level. A pipe just north was installed along and across the path.	3	16.0	16.0
30/11/2023	Wilmslow FP 19	. Surface level at both pipes built up to proper surface level by taking soil from nearby path edges.	3	16.0	32.0
YEAR 2024					
19/9/2024	Wilmslow FP 19	Collect trailer from Chris Munslow. Collect 3 Kissing Gates and Timber posts etc from CEC Depot at Winsford. Three Galvanised Steel Kissing Gates to be installed at locations: A. SJ 8475.8311, B. SJ 8464.8311, and C. SJ 8460.8314	1	6.0	38
20/9/2024	Wilmslow FP 19	Preparation for installation of three KG locations in a sequence (from the path south intersection with the road) at locations A B and C. 1. Fallen oak branch cut up and stacked in field under tree. 2 Steel kissing gate components taken to site A. Ditto four metre edging plank, and two fence posts. 3. Edging plank placed to form a level platform. 4. Kissing Gate A erected.	4	18.0	56

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YEAR 2024	WORK LOCATION	WORK UNDERTAKEN	Members & Hours Employed		
			Members	Hours.	Cum.
21/9/2024	Wilmslow FP 19	1. Steel kissing gate components, two fence posts, dry post concrete bags and heavy digging tools carried to Site B. 2. Kissing gate 'B' and adjoining fence posts erected. Some vegetation clearance.	4	18.0	74
22/9/2024	Wilmslow FP 19	1. Fence post installed at kissing gate A - with bituthene protective wrap. 2. Rotting wooden step stile at C taken down. 3. Bagged dry post concrete for e.g. carried to gate C site. Ditto; two fence posts. 4. Waymarker disks placed on new fence posts at gates A & B . Rain stopped 'play'	2	7	81
27/9/2024	Wilmslow FP 19	1. Brambles cut to ground with strimmer near k-gates A and B. 2. Path edge board placed alongside k-gate C with three support stobbs. 3. Hillside excavated to form a level platform for the k-gate location. 4. k-gate C erected with new adjacent wooden fencepost. 5. All dismantled wooden stiles, rotted fence posts and barbed wire remnants taken near to the road to be sewn up and wire separated ready for removal to council waste/recycling site.	5	21.5	102.5
3/10/2024	Wilmslow FPs10, 29/5, 144, 19. Gt Warford FP 22	Wilmslow FP 10. Cutting down many obstructive branches. Placing a waymarker post - using a recovered finger post with rotten base sawn off. Wilmslow FP 29/5 (The Carrs) - placed a waymarker post at paths' intersection. Wilmslow FP 144. Placed a waymarker post and cleared hedgerow away from roadside finger, Great Warford FP 22 , Placed a finger post by roadside. Cut away thorn hedge from the stile. Recovered a defunct finger post from hedgerow. Trimmed away rotten base and transferred it to Wilmslow FP 19 to use as a	2	16	118.5

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YEAR 2024	WORK LOCATION	WORK UNDERTAKEN	Members & Hours Employed		
			Members	Hours.	Cum.
		fence post.			
4/10/2024	Wilmslow FP 19	Gate A: Cut back holly substantially for access to fence. Fence post placed and fence rails re-established. Kissing gate platform filled with soil. Gate B: Secondary fencepost placed, and rails erected. Gate C: Wire netting restored on uphill side. Boardwalk: Six slats replaced as temporary repair Path Vegetation/brambles strimming continued.	5	33	151.5
23/10/2024	Chorley	FP10 SJ 8193 7838 Veg clearance - to arrange. FP2 The Waymarker post in bramble on a field-edge slope. I will replace it with a tall fingerpost to be always visible above bramble. FP7A. Finger post HAS been cleared by others. I cut more overhead Hawthorn. FP15 Roadside finger post HAS been cleared by others already. Other tasks are assessed to be included. - see later date.	1	6	157.5
24/10/2024	Rainow FP14/ Todd Watershed Concession Path	Finger post is sound. I recall, now, post replaced 21/7/23. Petrol hedge trimmer taken for service/repairs in Macclesfield	1	3	160.5

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YEAR 2024	WORK LOCATION	WORK UNDERTAKEN	Members & Hours Employed		
			Members	Hours.	Cum.
27/10/2024	Rainow and Chorley	Rainow FP86/FP22 intersection: New Fingerpost placed. Fallen post recovered, trimmed and placed on Sherrow-Booth driveway for Rainow FP 7 (SJ 9566 7909). Chorley FP 2 , waymarker at SJ 8309 7836 replaced with taller post to improve visibility over brambles. Chorley FP 10 ; swaying handrails on footbridge (SJ 8193 7910) stabilised with temporary supports	2	14	174.5
28/10/2024	Wilmslow FP 19	Wilmslow FP 19 . Drainage pipes placement. Three 100mm dia. field-drains placed across the path to capture rainwater from higher adjacent field. Pipe runs 3~4.5 metres lengths. Strimming of more vegetation along the path. Bolt croppers employed to dismantle wires and wire mesh from dismantled stile wood - ready for disposal.	4	20	194.5
30/10/2024	Wilmslow FP 19	Wilmslow FP 19 Kissing Gate 'C' : Secondary fenceposts 200 x 100 mm placed for fence line. Soil dug from path side and deposited on sunken soil where three trenches for 100 mm dia. pipes were placed Monday last.	2	7	201.5

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Post Saver Bituthene Protection Locations - Treated and placed by ECR FP Projects Team

Parish	Path	Location Coords	Post-Type	Date Placed	Who By
Poynton-w-W	FP27	SJ94849/82889	Finger post	20/07/2022	B A R's team
Poynton-w-W	FP27	SJ 9472/8276	Waymarker	20/07/2022	B A R's team
Pott Shrigley	FP 9	Between SJ 9562/7870 and SJ 9562/7857	2 No Waymarker posts	11/08/2022	B A R's team
Pott Shrigley	FP 9	SJ 9563/7871	9 No.Step Rail posts	18/08/2022	B A R's team
Pott Shrigley	FP 7	SJ 9565/7910	Waymarker post replaced with taller finger post - visible above brambles	27/08/2022	B A R's team
Nether Alderley	FP 7	SJ 8443/7689	Finger post	17/08/2022	B A Richardson
Wilmslow	FP19/ 20	SJ 8424 8333	Existing Finger Post fixed to a base post installed with post saver. Latter set 600mm high (recovered mid-section of ex Neth Aldy FP 7, cut & re-treated)	03/11/2022	B A Richardson
Wilmslow	FP 23	SJ 8422 8149	Notice post 75 mm square for Blue Plaque	06/11/2022	B A R's team
North Rode	FP27	SJ 8796.6572	Finger post marking Permissive Path intersection A	10/08/2023	B A R's team
North Rode	FP27	SJ 8798.6574	Way-marker post B	10/08/2023	B A R's team
North Rode	FP27	SJ 8113.6581	Finger post marking Permissive Path intersection D	10/08/2023	B A R's team
North Rode	Permissive	SJ 8808.6580	Way-marker post E on PP	10/08/2023	B A R's team
North Rode	Permissive	SJ 8856.6597	Way-marker post (discretely remote from FP27 - landowner's request) M2	10/08/2023	B A R's team
North Rode	Permissive	SJ 8113.6581	Way-marker post D south-west of field gate	10/08/2023	B A R's team

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North Rode	Permissive	SJ 8805.6573	Way-marker post F at Inters'n of PPs. (To E&D, with riverside PP east to M2)	15/08/2023	B A R's team
North Rode	Permissive	SJ 8807.6573	Way-marker post (discretely located, indicating riverside PP east to M2 - landowner request)	15/08/2023	B A R's team
North Rode	Permissive	SJ 8800.6570	Plank Bridge Handrail Support. At bottom of stairs below J	15/08/2023	B A R's team
North Rode	Permissive	SJ 8800.6568	Plank Bridge Handrail Support. Two & Half metres from stairs.	15/08/2023	B A R's team
Bollington	FP 35	SJ 93942.77099	Finger post in close proximity to drystone wall corner	28/08/2023	B A R's team
Wilmslow	FP9	SJ 8431.8356	Finger post - new base section to support rotted post retaining wood finger and Golf Club notice. By Styal Road.	23/09/2023	B A R's team
Wilmslow	FP 6	SJ 8430.8460	New finger post erected.	23/10/2023	B A R's team
Wilmslow	FP 74	SJ 8767.8181	New Fence post 100mm sq By stile repaired at Deanwater Hotel	25/10/2023	B A R's team
Over Alderley	FP 4	SJ 8610.7812	New Way-marker post erected	25/10/2023	B A R's team
Wilmslow	FP 127	SJ 8659.8333	New finger post erected.	25/10/2023	B A R's team
Wilmslow	FP 127	SJ 867.8343	New Way-marker post erected	25/10/2023	B A R's team
Nether Alderley	BR 51	SJ 8528.7723	New finger post erected.	26/10/2023	B A R's team
Nether Alderley	FP 20	SJ 8510.7710	New finger post erected.	26/10/2023	B A R's team
Nether Alderley	FP 21	SJ 8462.7682	New support leg to lower step of stile	26/10/2023	B A R's team
Over Alderley	FP 4	SJ 8604.7816	New Way-marker post erected	23/11/2023	B A R's team
Wilmslow	FP 19	SJ 8475 8311	2 200x100 fence posts by Kissing Gate 'A' & 100 x 100 secondary fence post (Recovered/trimmed finger post from Gt Warford FP 22)	22/09/2024	B A R's team
Wilmslow	FP 19	SJ 8464 8311	2 No. 200x100 fence posts by Kissing Gate 'B' NOT Bitumen-protected	21/09/2024	B A R's team

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Wilmslow	FP 19	SJ 8464 8311	1 No. 100 x 100 secondary fence post bitumen-protected	04/10/2024	B A R's team
Wilmslow	FP 19	SJ 8460 8316	! No. 200 x 100 fence post by K-gate 'C'	27/09/2024	B A R's team
Wilmslow	FP 19	SJ 8460 8314	! No. 200 x 100 fence post by K-gate 'C'	30/10/2024	B A R's team
Wilmslow	FP 10	SJ 8477 8424	Waymarker post replaced with taller finger post - visible above brambles	03/10/2024	B A R's team
Wilmslow	FP 29/5	SJ 8460 8165	Waymarker post.	03/10/2024	B A R's team
Wilmslow	FP 144	SJ 8391 8117	Waymarker post	03/10/2024	B A R's team
Gt Warford	FP 22	SJ 8093 7844	Tall waymarker post	03/10/2024	B A R's team
Rainow	FP, 86/22	SJ 9569 7854	New replacement for rotten (at ground level) finger post*	27/10/2024	B A R's team
Rainow	FP 7	SJ 9566 7909	*Recovered finger post cut to replace knocked over & crushed Waymarker	27/10/2024	B A R's team
Chorley	FP 2	SJ 8309 7836	Waymarker post replaced with taller finger post - visible above brambles	27/10/2024	B A R's team