



Historic Rights of Way QSD on 2 April 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Lord Greaves to ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the progress that has been made in the registration of historic rights of way and of the benefits of extending the cut-off date for their registration.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

Key Information

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, '[New Plans to Simplify Recording Rights of Way](#)', 14 May 2012

Press release outlining how the public can record footpaths and bridleways ahead of the cut-off date on 1 January 2026. The press release notes that all unrecorded footpaths and bridleways created before 1949 cannot be recorded after this date.

- Natural England, [A Guide to Definitive Maps and Changes to Public Rights of Way: 2008 Revision](#), July 2008

Guidance providing information on public rights of way, definitive maps—which are the legal record of public rights of way—and the cut-off date for recording rights of way.

- Natural England, [Stepping Forward: The Stakeholder Working Group on Unrecorded Public Rights of Way—Report to Natural England](#), March 2010, pp 6–11

Executive summary and recommendations from a report commissioned by Natural England examining unreported public rights of way in England. One of the aims of the report was to deliver “greater certainty” about where pre-1949 rights of way existed, which could protect them from extinguishment.

Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- House of Lords, '[Written Question: Rights of Way](#)', 27 January 2015, HL4235
- House of Lords, '[Written Question: Environment—Rights of Way](#)', 11 February 2014, HL5227
- House of Lords, '[Written Question: Rights of Way](#)', 20 March 2013, HL5846
- House of Lords, '[Written Question: Rights of Way](#)', 23 November 2011, 82379
- [Debate on 'Rights of Way: Maps'](#), HL *Hansard*, 14 May 2008, cols 1077–87

Press Articles and Comment

- Jerome Starkey, '[Time Running Out to Save Lost Walks](#)', *Times* (£), 15 January 2019
- Kevin Rushby, '[Memory Lanes: The Ramblers Trying to Save 10,000 Lost Footpaths](#)', *Guardian*, 4 December 2018
- Mark Rowe, '[Britain's Footpaths: Why Are So Many Disappearing and How to Save a Footpath](#)', *Countryfile Magazine*, 1 May 2018
- Rozina Sabur, '[Councils Spending Hundreds of Thousands of Pounds as Walkers Rush to Record Rights of Way](#)', *Telegraph*, 10 September 2017
- Caroline Davies, '[Countdown Begins to Prevent Loss of Thousands of Footpaths and Alleyways](#)', *Guardian*, 25 December 2015

Further Information

- Gov.uk, '[Rights of Way and Accessing Land](#)', accessed 21 March 2019
- Open Spaces Society, '[Claiming a Public Footpath](#)', accessed 21 March 2019
- Natural England, '[Public Rights of Way: Local Highway Authority Responsibilities](#)', updated 7 December 2015
- House of Commons Library, '[Establishing a Right of Way](#)', 6 July 2011

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