

Wellington Walkers are Welcome

Path Maintenance Team Organisers Report - AGM Sunday 03/08/25

Since the last AGM (18/08/24), we have worked on a total of 17 sessions, comprising circa 231 person-hours. During the initial period, up to October 2024, all sessions were cancelled as I was unable to lead them due to personal health problems, although some ad-hoc sessions were carried out by individuals to ensure festival routes were clear - many thanks to those who did this ad-hoc work. A further 3 sessions were cancelled due to adverse weather. Our average attendance across all sessions was 4.5 persons. We have welcomed 3 new volunteers to the team.

The worked sessions covered a similar range of activities to previous years including:

- Cutting back overgrown vegetation
- Clearing stiles / kissing gates
- Clearing fallen trees
- Litter picking (supplementary to path clearing, along and around areas worked)
- Litter picking (sole activity – once, in support of The Great British Spring Clean)
- Maintaining way-marking of Rights of Way and designated routes / trails

During main 'growing seasons' our work is primarily clearance of undergrowth, outside of these times it has been dealing with fallen trees. Earlier this year we spent several sessions clearing a significant overgrowth of gorse which was reducing the width of the main track at New Works where in some places it was barely passable.

The sites we have worked on through the period, several of which we have visited more than once, include:

- Allscott - Shropshire Way
- Apley Castle – Home Farm to Apley Woods
- Bratton – path to the back of Moor Farm
- Ercall
- New Works (former coal site)
- Rushmoor Lane parallel path
- Sunnylands - Wrockwardine Road to Orleton Lane
- Tiddiecross - Old Shropshire Way, now one of the new TCW routes
- Wrekin Link (Admaston Allotments to Wrockwardine Road)
- Wrockwardine - clearing stiles around the village

Following our path sessions, photographs and comments have been posted on Facebook and on our website. This has resulted in numerous responses thanking us for our work, including emails from local councillors, and from the T&W Pride in the Community and Rights of Way Teams.

We continue to lobby T&W Rights of Way team to deal with issues that are beyond our capabilities, such as significant fallen trees, and stile / footbridge repairs or replacements.

Equipment expenditure comprised of the usual petrol for the brush-cutter, replacement of 2 batteries for the trimmers / hedgecutter, and an additional pruning saw.

Thanks again to everybody who has contributed to making the path maintenance team successful again this year. The impact of our work can be seen in the Path Team Gallery on our website at: <https://www.wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk/path-maintenance-new>

We are open to new volunteers joining our email list, and to receiving reports of footpath issues that we may be able to assist with.

Please contact us at: PathTeam@wellingtonwalkersarewelcome.org.uk