

## Clarifications and corrections



### ***Forgive us our trespassers* by Roly Smith (published in *walk* 57, winter 2017)**

This article contained three inaccuracies in its original printed form, for which the editor apologises.

They have been [corrected in the version that appears online](#), viz.

1. **'Increasing pressure', para.3, l.1**

'In 1949 the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act was passed. One of the first things it did it did was to negotiate access agreements...'

Material was excised from this paragraph, which should have read: 'In 1949, the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act was passed. The Act provided the framework for the creation of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England and Wales, and National Nature Reserves in Scotland. It also addressed public rights of way and access to open land. No surprise that after the passing of this Act, the Peak District was the first National Park to be designated in 1951. One of the first things it did was to negotiate access agreements with the owners of those access battlegrounds of the 1930s'.

*The 1949 Act provided a mechanism whereby local and national park authorities could negotiate access agreements; most did not. The Peak Park agreements were negotiated locally by the park's board.*

2. **'Change was coming', para.1, l.4**

'The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act granted public access to all open country, mountain and moorland in England and Wales.'

This should have read: 'The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW Act) gave a public right of access to land mapped as "open country" (mountain, moor, heath and down) or registered common land in England and Wales'.

*CRoW provided a mechanism whereby open country might be made accessible to the public by recording it as Open Access Land, but this was not applied to all open country.*

### 3. 'Where can I walk?' (box-out)

'Rights of way in England and Wales only exist where they are designated and recorded on the definitive map'.

This should have read: 'Rights of way in England and Wales are recorded on definitive maps and accompanying statements, maintained by the highway authorities. However, many rights of way have not yet been claimed for addition to the maps, and many claims are awaiting determination. Depiction on the definitive map is conclusive proof of rights of way status.'

*The government has announced a cut-off date of 1 January 2026 for adding historic paths to definitive maps. Ramblers volunteers are currently working to claim unrecorded rights of way before the cut-off date as part of the [Don't Lose Your Way](#) campaign.*