

Unrecorded Ways Sub-Committee Report

The sub-committee has not held a business meeting since the last full LAF meeting, but will meet on January 9th at 1430 before the next full LAF meeting.

However, we have not been completely idle.

Firstly we now have a bank account under the umbrella of the Leicestershire & Rutland Area of the Ramblers' Association, with John Howells acting as our Treasurer; money is beginning to flow into and out of the account to support our aims. Hopefully, final accounting procedures will have been agreed at the meeting on January 9th.

We also ran a very successful Recruitment/Training event in Glenfield on November 6th, at which Roy Denney presented a series of slides modelled on the Bucks & Wadey Roadshow presentations, with hardware support from Mike Gamble and Barry Thomas, and in depth rights-of-way knowledge provided by Vicky Allen and myself. Several members of local history societies attended, and we were praised for our enthusiasm in presenting what was regarded as an important and worthwhile project.

Fortuitously, this was followed up on December 2nd by the full day intensive training delivered by the acknowledged authority on historical research – Phil Wadey & Sarah Bucks. This was over-subscribed, with 42 people packed into the Marlene Reid Centre in Coalville, although admittedly not all were from Leicestershire. This was rated as excellent by all whose comments I have received, and it was observed that the two events were complementary for relative newcomers to the strange world of rights-of-way – the first helping understanding the greater depth of the second. Many thanks to Vicky for the room organisation and catering – the number of laptops in the room probably caused lights around Coalville to dim.

The next crucial matter is to retain the enthusiasm of our researchers – 64Gb memory sticks holding all the information on the project so far accumulated will be distributed on request in January, if demand does not outstrip supply. We intend to ask the researchers what they feel they need next in terms of support, and set up a small Working Group to document a plan for carrying the project forward and maximise the number of DMMO Applications submitted before Jan 1st 2026. On this matter I am arranging a meeting with the LCC Rights of Way Team, including the two who attended the Coalville event, to discuss best practice and maintain our good working relationship.

Stan Warren
Chairman, Unrecorded Ways Sub-Committee
December 14th 2017