

Railway Ramblers is a national walking club that focuses on walking and exploring disused railways. The club was founded in 1978 and now has over 600 members across the UK (and a few overseas-based members).

The club is organised by regional groups which arrange their local walk programme, but members are welcome to join walks anywhere in the UK.

The length and type of walks varies from urban strolls of a couple of miles between old station sites, to tramping across the wilds of Dartmoor looking for the remains of old tramways and everything in between.



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Wherever possible, walks are arranged to be accessible by public transport, or car shares will be organised from accessible pick-up points. Many walks are arranged to allow members to only walk part of the day (eg morning or afternoon), with advice given on transport links.

Walks will often include the chance for a pub/café lunch or a scenic spot for a picnic, depending on the location, local facilities and the time available.



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The club publishes a quarterly magazine '*Railway Ramblings*' which is sent to all members. The magazine includes Club news, letters from members, the upcoming walks programme, walk reports, news of footpath developments and other interesting articles submitted by members.

In recent years a separate walk report supplement has also been published in the Autumn, allowing more space for reports of the walks that have been run around the country.

The club's website holds a large amount of information on railway paths throughout the UK, including photographs and news updates on the development of new paths. An online Gazetteer of walkable sections of railway lines is also available to members.

Walks are organised by members, often in their local area. Some will be 'old favourites' that are put on the programme every few years, whilst others will be new walks.

We also work with other interested local groups, such as heritage railways and local history groups. These links allow private access to trackbeds, tunnels and station sites. Walks have also been possible along mothballed (and operational) lines, under the supervision of the appropriate authorities.



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The club holds its AGM weekend in May each year, at different locations chosen for their railway interest and available walks. The weekend usually includes a Saturday morning short walk or visit, followed by the formal meeting in the afternoon. Further walks are offered on the Sunday and Monday. Other weekend and longer breaks are also organised around the country, open to all members.

The club membership includes people with extensive railway historical knowledge and those whose primary interest is the walking. A number of members have written books on disused railways and walks.

In recent years the club has been involved as consultants in the production of a number of TV programmes, including "Railway Walks with Julia Bradbury" (2009) and Rob Bell's "Walking Britain's Lost Railways" (2018).

Membership is by annual subscription. The current subscription rates can be found on our website or by contacting the club's Membership Secretary (see back page).

CLUB AIMS

The aims of Railway Ramblers are as follows:

1. To discover, explore and document disused railway lines.
2. To encourage interest in the walking and conservation of abandoned railway lines.
3. To bring to the attention of the appropriate authorities those disused lines which we consider to be suitable for conversion into public footpaths or cycleways.
4. To promote and assist with signposting, clearance of undergrowth and other maintenance work on closed railway lines.
5. To create regional groups of the society through the United Kingdom with area teams to organise local activities.
6. To bring together members of Railway Ramblers to walk the routes of abandoned railways in different parts of the country.
7. To disseminate up-to-date information through reports, newsletters, etc.
8. To respect private property and the Country Code at all times.

Contact details

Membership Secretary
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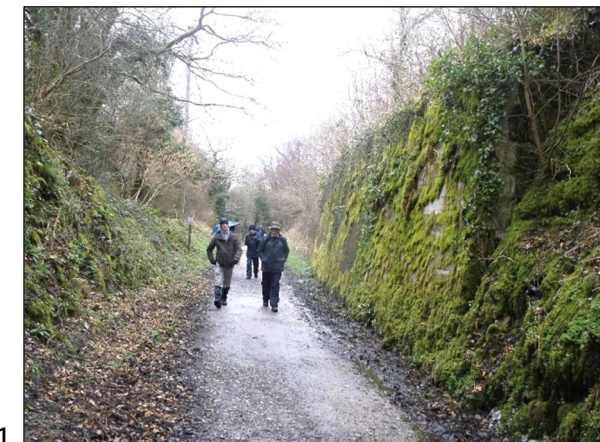
www.railwayramblers.org.uk



Text by N Hebborn © Railway Ramblers May 2019



RAILWAY RAMBLERS



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Railway Ramblers is the UK's specialist club for walking and exploring old railways, with regional groups throughout the UK



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Photo locations & credits

1. The Camel Trail, Cornwall. (N Hebborn)
2. Charlton Road Viaduct, Shepton Mallet. (M Spearman)
3. The Haytor Granite Tramway. (J Vinter)
4. Nickey Line underbridge, Redbourn. (D Godfrey)
5. Private trackbed walking [with permission].
6. 'The 3ft Track', Dalegarth to Boot. (N Hebborn)



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Website www.railwayramblers.org.uk



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