

Rambblers – Dorset Area – 50th Anniversary Project

At the Area AGM last November, members present agreed to pursue an anniversary project. The chosen project is to produce a compilation of our 50 favourite walks in Dorset, to be published either online or in print.

To take the project forward, Area Council is now inviting Groups, including our flexigroups, and individual members, to nominate their favourite walks in Dorset. To reach the target of 50 walks we suggest that each Group should aim to submit at least ten walks. From these, and those submitted by individual members (we would love to hear from members who do not walk with Groups) 50 will be chosen for publication. We are looking for a range of distances (short leisurely walks, those of medium distance, as well as more challenging hikes) and varied locations (coast, countryside and town).

At this first stage we ask that for each nominated walk the following information be provided:

- Walk title/location
- A couple of sentences about why the walk is a favourite
- Whether the route is linear or circular; please give start and finish points as appropriate
- Distance (miles and km)
- Key viewpoints and points of interest (please tag your walks, if appropriate as being of historic/archaeological/literary/natural history/seasonal interest)
- Public transport and car parking information
- Level (Easy/Moderate/Hard)
- Any other accessibility information (e.g. number of stiles)
- The last time the route was walked (please recce your route before submission)

The alternative project which was rejected was 'Walk the Bottoms'. A list of 102 'Bottoms' in Dorset had been compiled, with grid references, and the group territory in which they fall. The aim would have been for groups and individuals to try to walk 50 of these this year. In discussion at the AGM it was suggested that elements from the 'Bottoms' list, the Wessex Wanderer Railway Walks and the Jubilee Trail might be included in the final 50 chosen walks so please do bear these possibilities in mind when considering your entries. The list of 'Bottoms' are available on request from the Area Footpath Secretary and Vice Chairman, Jan Wardell (jan.wardell2022@outlook.com).

Entries must be submitted by the end of April 2025. Please send them as Word documents via email to janetbdavis1955@outlook.com. Once the final 50 have been chosen, each contributor (individual or group) will be asked to supply a full description of the walk, in a defined template.

Our aim is to have the final compilation ready for the 2025 AGM in November.

Many thanks and happy walking.

Janet Davis, Area Chairman. February 2025