



Welcome to the March edition of the Open Spaces Society eZine. This month, we're celebrating the Welsh Government's progress towards repealing the 2026 cut-off date for public rights of way. We've welcomed decisions to protect land in Bradford and in Leeds. And we're pleased to share details of an in-person training course in June.



Walkers near Devil's Bridge in Ceredigion. Photo: Open Spaces Society

Public-path guillotine set for repeal in Wales

We are delighted that the Welsh minister Julie James has tabled amendments in the Senedd to repeal the 2026 cut-off date for public rights of way.

The move will save countless unrecorded paths in Wales from extinction, and will allow members of the public to enjoy greater freedom of access to open country.

Says Kate Ashbrook, our general secretary: 'The Welsh Government is delivering on its earlier commitment to repeal, and we warmly welcome its fulfilment. We look to the Government in Westminster to act with equal celerity and determination.'

[Read more on our website](#)



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Commons swap at Brow Moor refused

We have welcomed the decision of an inspector to refuse an exchange of common land in Brontë country at Brow Moor, Haworth, Bradford.

Our case officer Hugh Craddock said: 'This is a sensible and welcome decision by

the inspector. The proposed exchange was poorly researched, inadequate and inappropriate.

[Read more about the commons swap](#)

Restoring the Record training in 2025

The BHS, OSS and Ramblers have joined forces to offer an in-person Restoring the Record training course in June 2025 in Bristol.

The aim of the training event is to enthuse, enable and empower rights of way researchers to make applications for definitive map modification order to ensure routes that would be extinguished in 2031 are saved from the cut-off date.

[Click here to find out more and book a place this June.](#)



Inspector refuses Adwalton-Common development bid

We welcome the government's refusal to deregister part of Adwalton Common at Drighlington, five miles south-west of Leeds. We objected to the application on the basis that the land was subject to a public right of access for 'air and exercise'.

Photo: © Google Street View

[Find out more about the development bid](#)

Call for Gloucestershire councils to promote new greens

We have written to county and district councillors, and town and parish councils throughout Gloucestershire promoting the voluntary registration of open spaces as town and village greens (TVG) to benefit the public.

Photo: Open Spaces Society



[Read more about our call to Gloucestershire councils](#)

Got a story to tell? We'd love to hear from you

We've recently set up a new form to capture your experiences of our work. If we've helped you with a cause that's important to you, please do take a few minutes to fill in the form below and let us know.

[Click here to fill in the form.](#)



Do you believe that access to open space should be possible for everyone close to where they live?

The society works to protect and enhance access to commons, greens, public paths and open spaces. We rely on member subscriptions to fund this work and provide a mandate for action - we receive no government funding.

As a valued member you will be part of a dynamic and passionate movement of people determined to protect paths and open spaces for everyone to enjoy.

[Help shape the future of open spaces - join online today](#)

[What do we fight for?](#) | [Can we help you?](#) | [What can you do?](#) | [Need to know more?](#)