



Making paths more accessible for all

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Ramblers Great Britain



Our work on paths

- 225,000 kilometres of public path in England and Wales
- Ramblers GB has important role in protecting, expanding and improving these paths
- We have a focus on making sure people have access to the path network



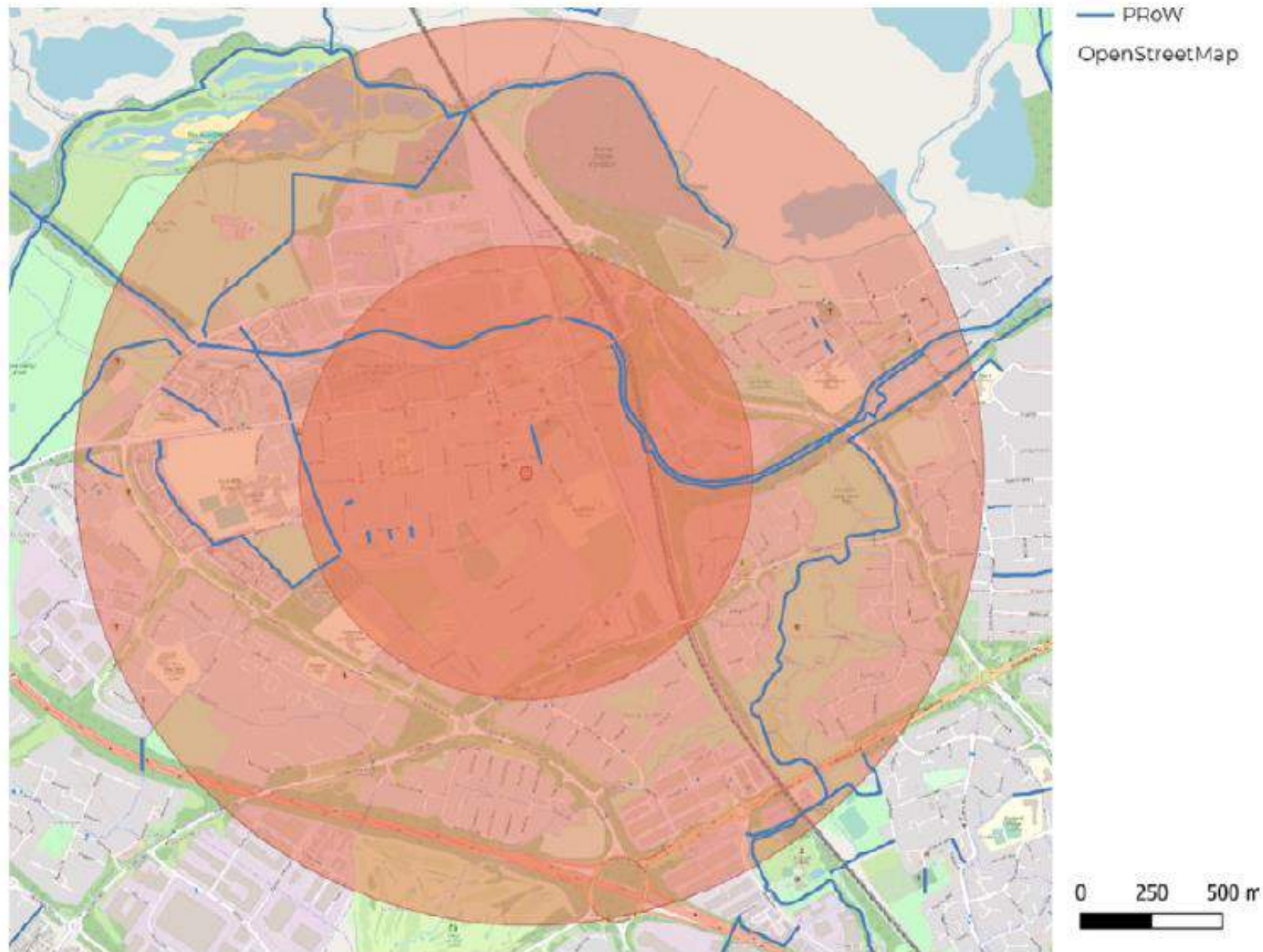
Our research

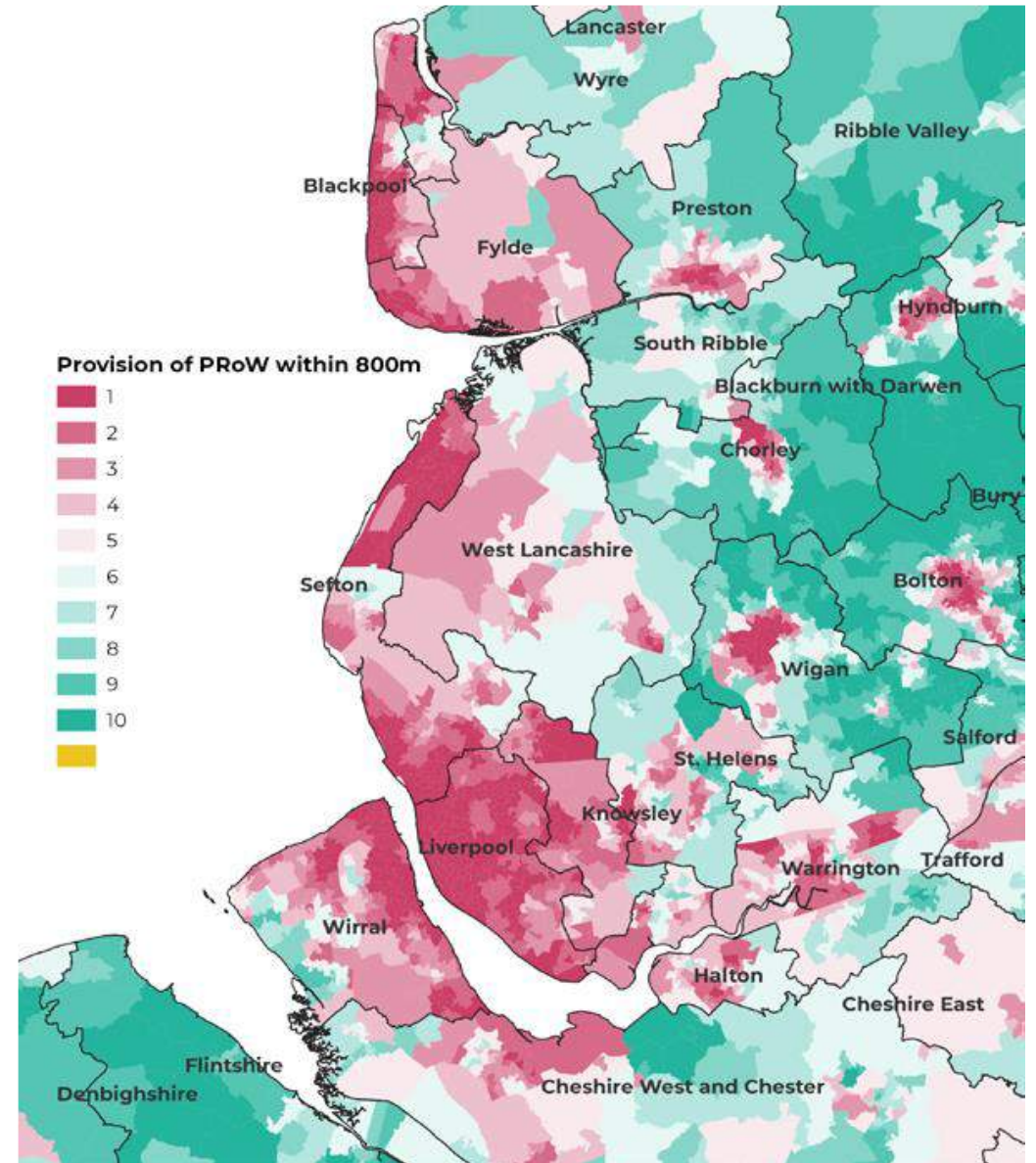
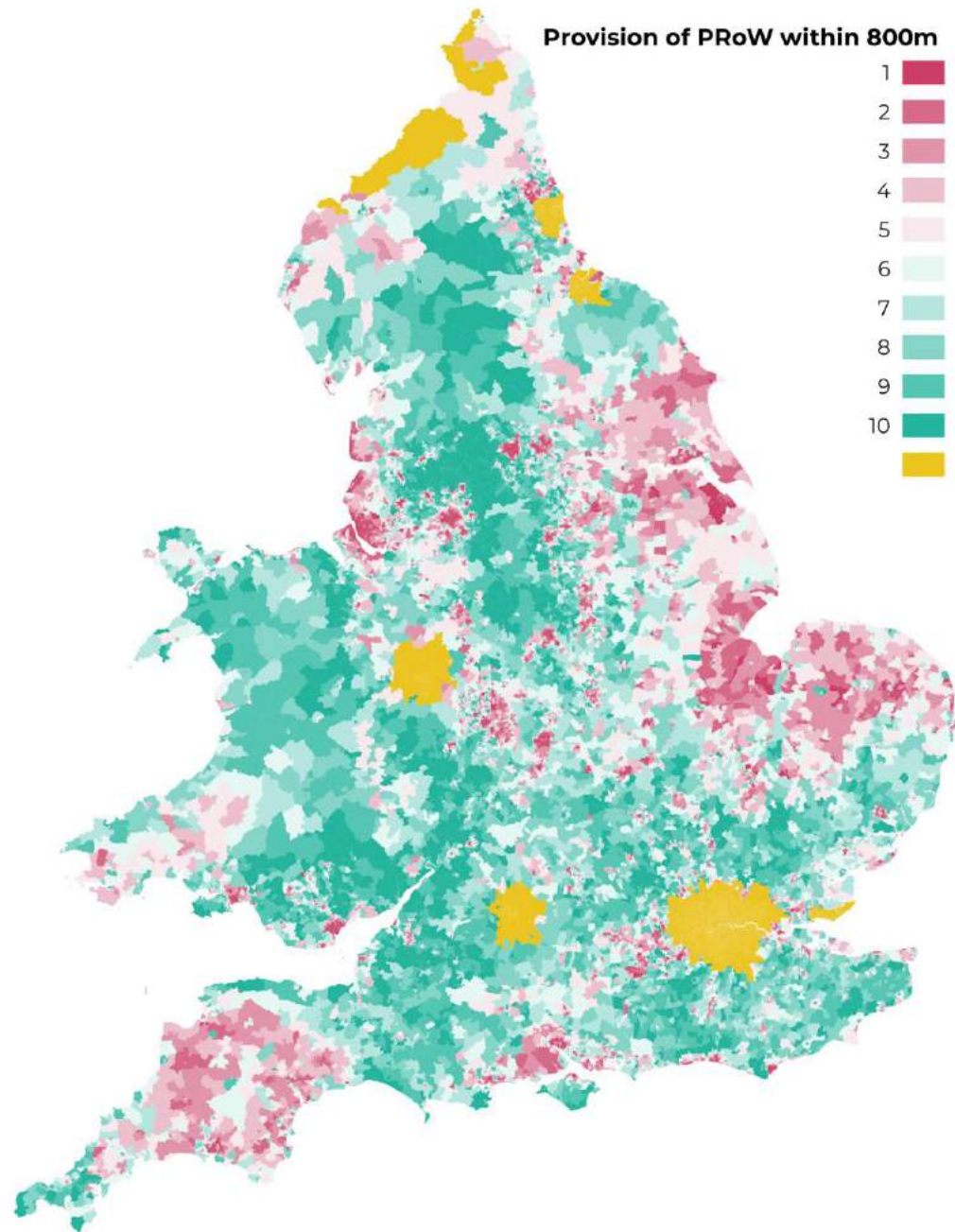
- Collected path data for 98.5% of the land surface of England and Wales
- **Demographic data:** deprivation, age, ethnicity, income, heart-attacks, mental health, age of homes
- **Looked at neighbourhoods (every 1,500–2,500 people)**
- **Landscape data:** satellite data on greenness, nature reserves, National Parks, rural/urban, lakeside/riverside



- 400m = 5 minutes' walk
- 800m = 10 minutes' walk
- 1,200m = 15 minutes' walk
- • 1,600m = 20 minutes' walk
- • 3,200m = 40 minutes' walk

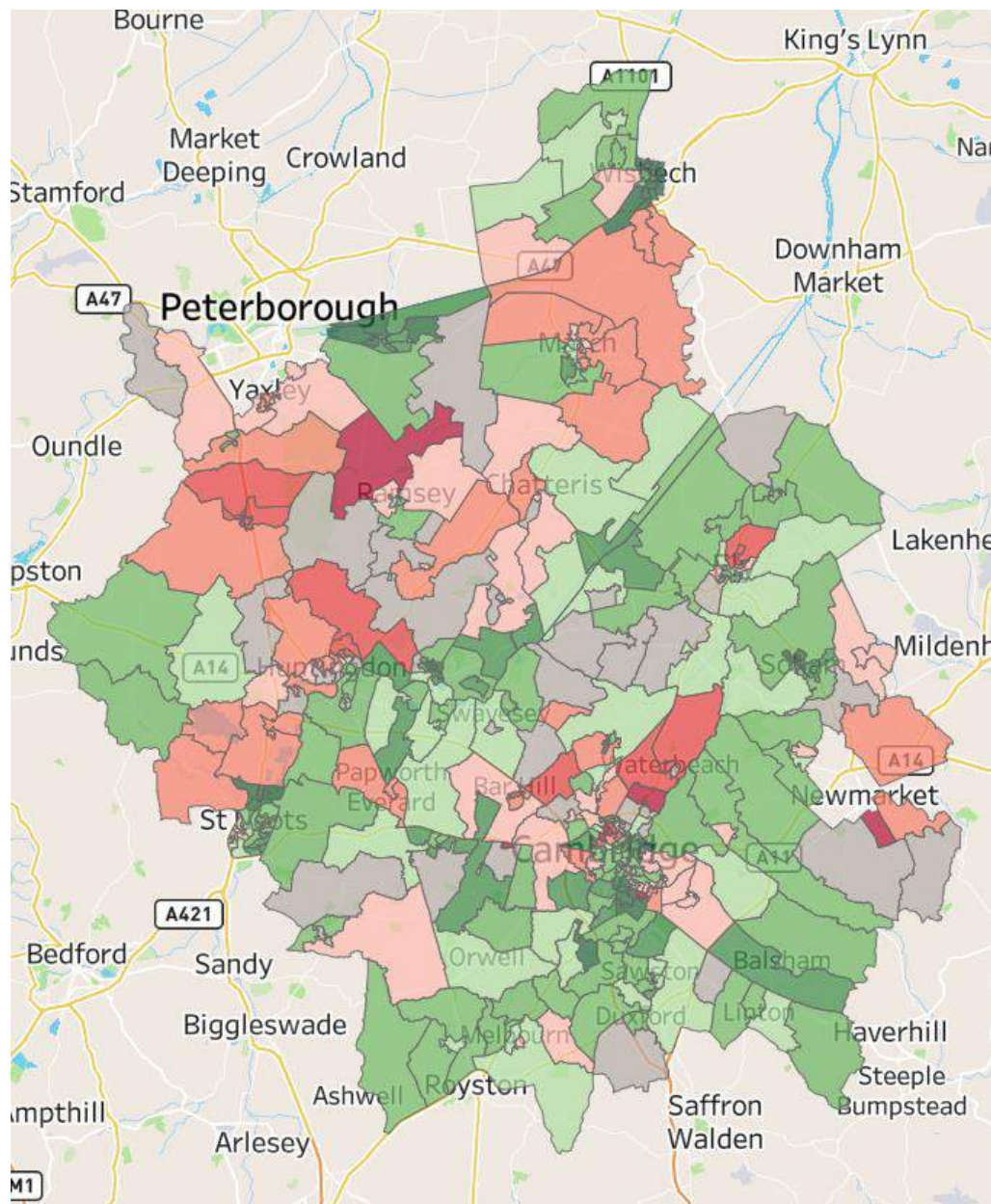
MAP 2: ILLUSTRATIVE 800M AND 1,600M RADIUS CIRCLES AROUND A POSTCODE, ENCOMPASSING PROW ROUTES OF DIFFERENT LENGTHS IN WOLVERTON, MILTON KEYNES





PRoW = Public Right of Way (public paths)

Length of path within 10-minute walk



Length of **green** path within 10-minute walk

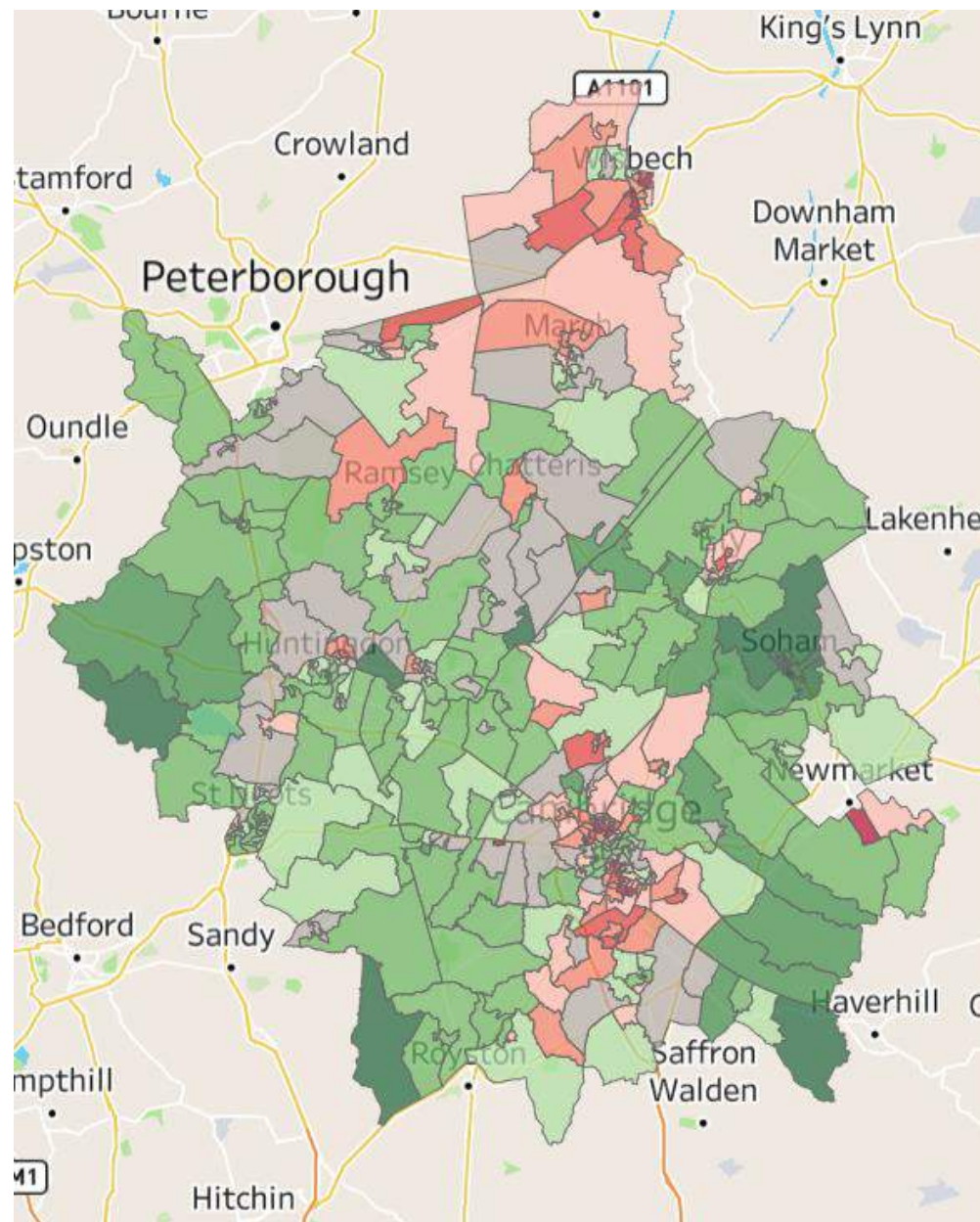
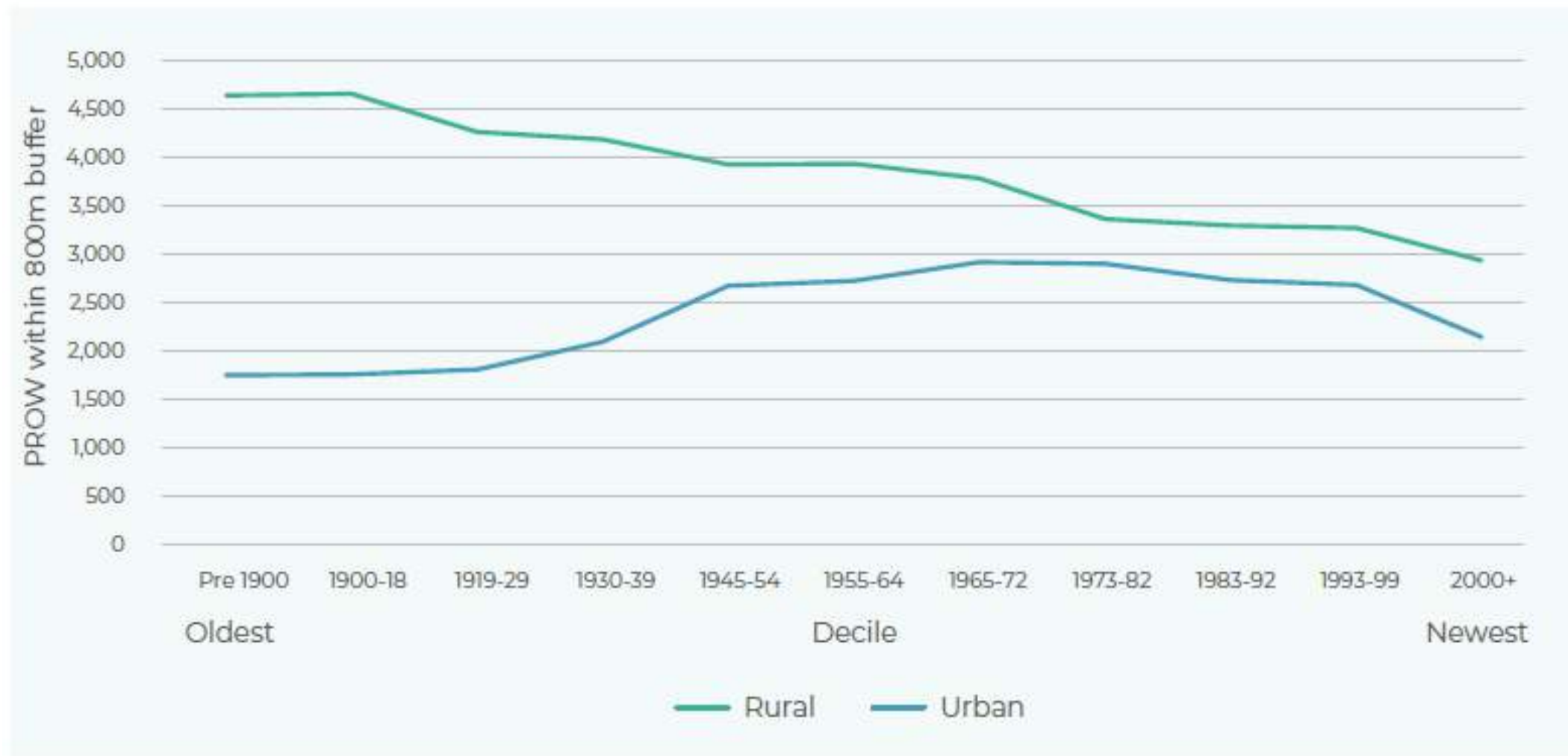


FIGURE 3: AVERAGE PROVISION OF PROW WITHIN AN 800M BUFFER SPLIT BY MEDIAN AGE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING STOCK AND RURAL/URBAN LOCATION



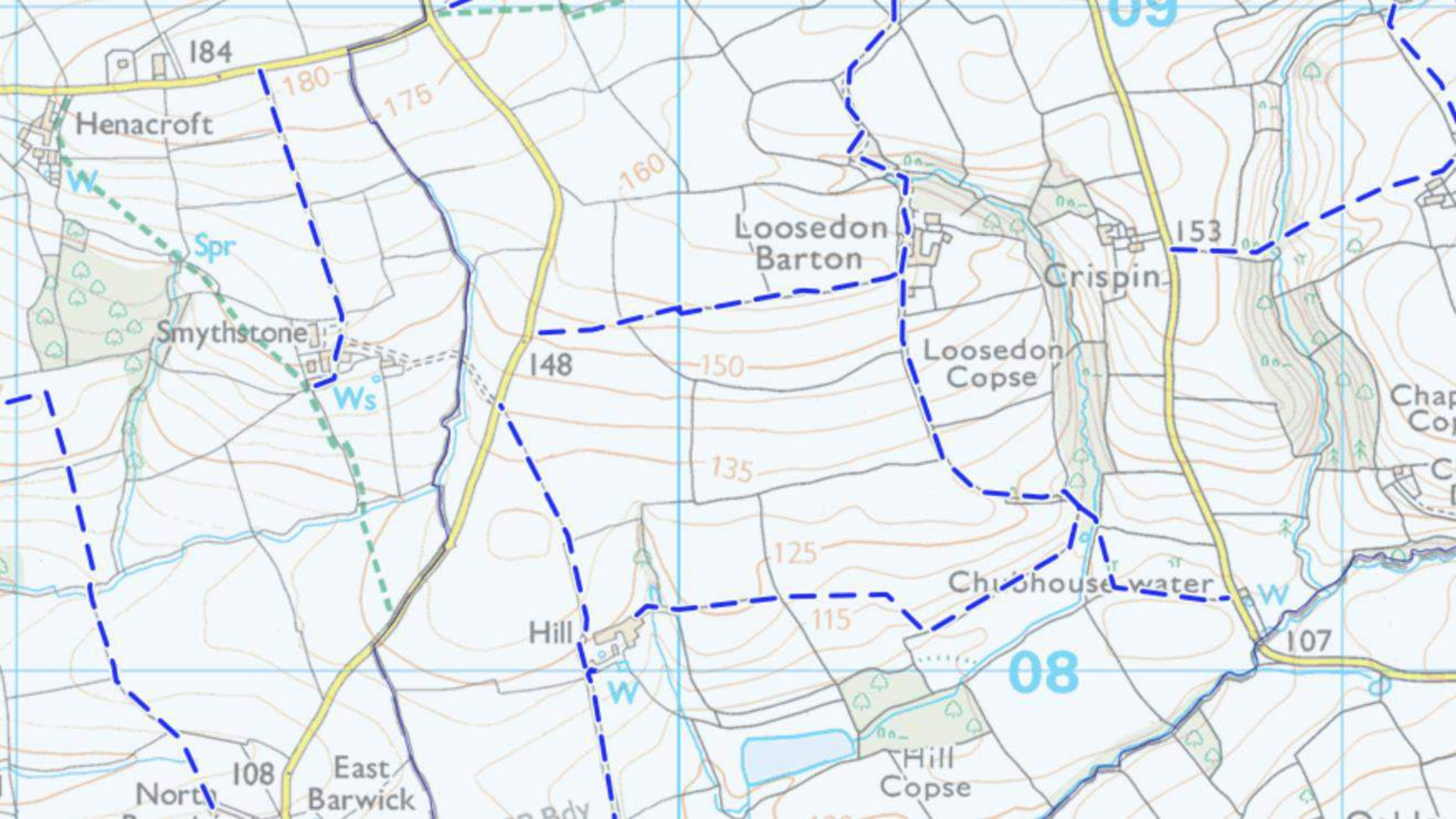
Source: Authors' analysis, ONS, and VOA data collated by Datadaptive

What have we found out?

Our analysis shows that the value of the public path network is:

£1.8bn (€2bn) per year, or £32.20 per person per year in England
£109m (€125m) per year, or £35.30 per person per year in Wales

The network's usage adds over 3,000 healthy years of life to the nation



184

Henacroft

180

175

160

Loosedon Barton

153

Crispin

Smythstone

148

150

Loosedon Copse

135

125

Churchhouse water

115

Hill

107

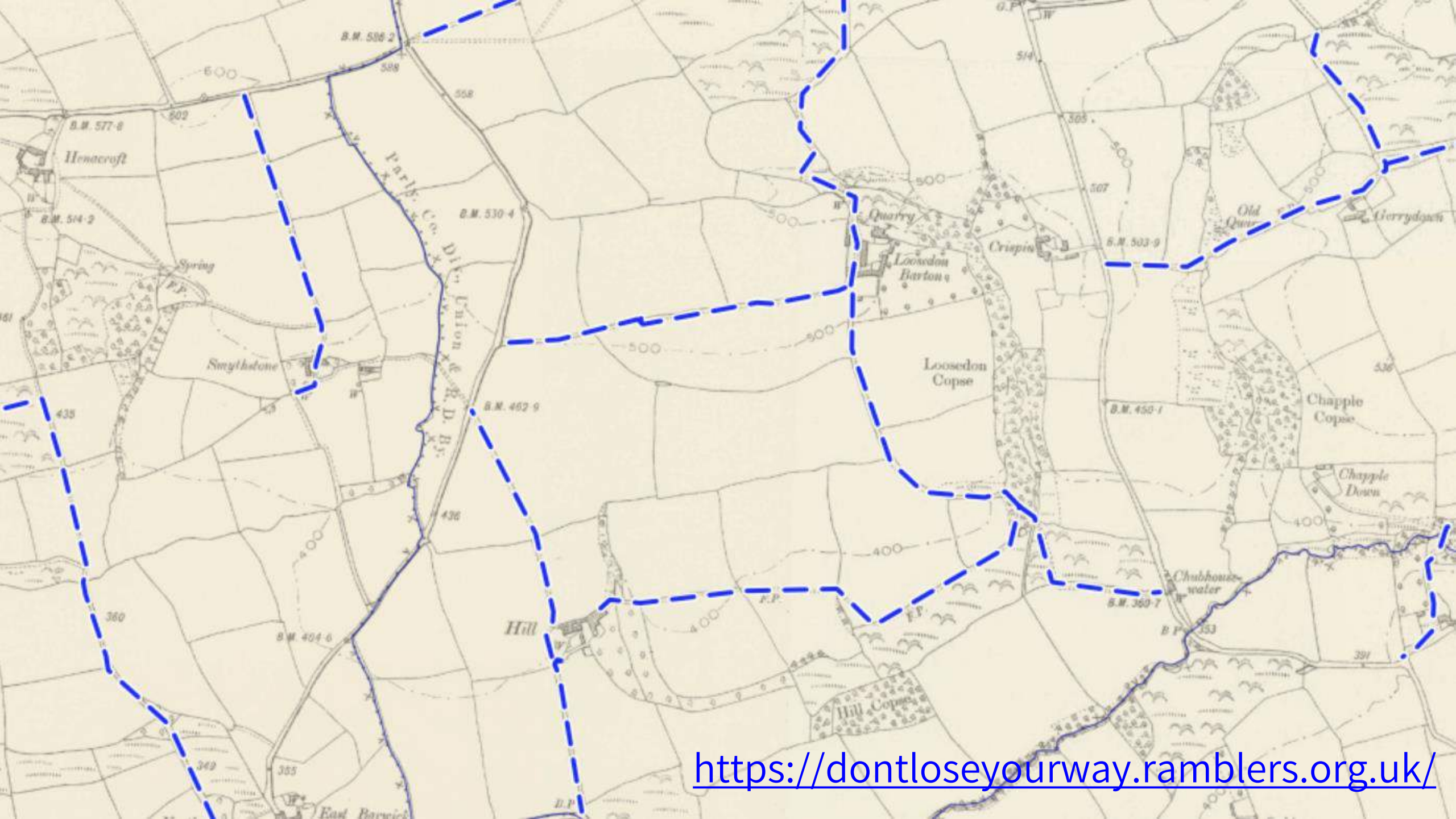
08

108

East Barwick

North

Hill Copse



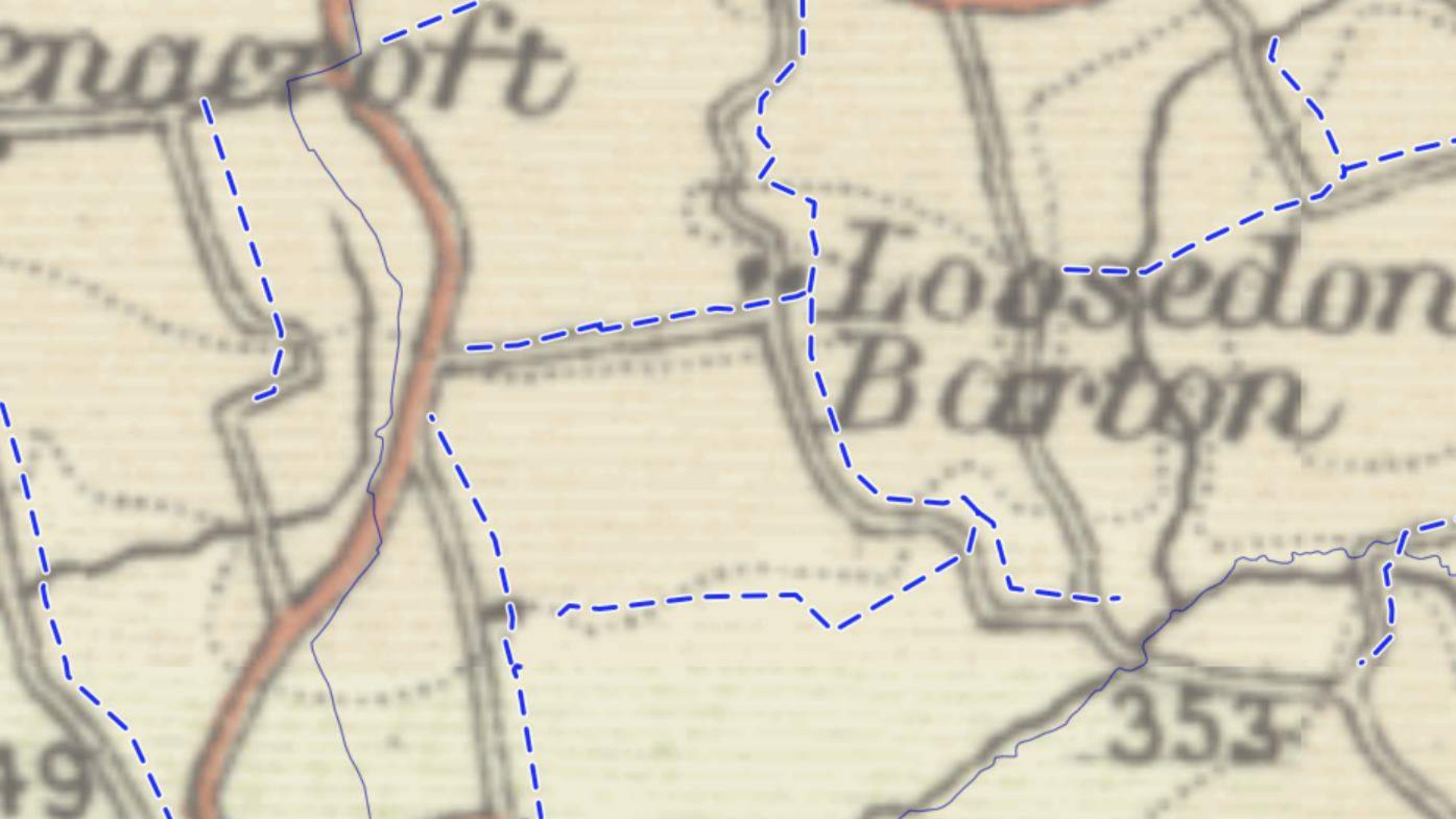
<https://dontloseyourway.ramblers.org.uk/>

map of

*Loosedon
Barston*

353

49



A global community



100M+

Members

8B+

Activities

2000+

Organizations using
Strava Metro



MAP VIEWS

Streets

Routes

Origins & Destinations

Travel Times

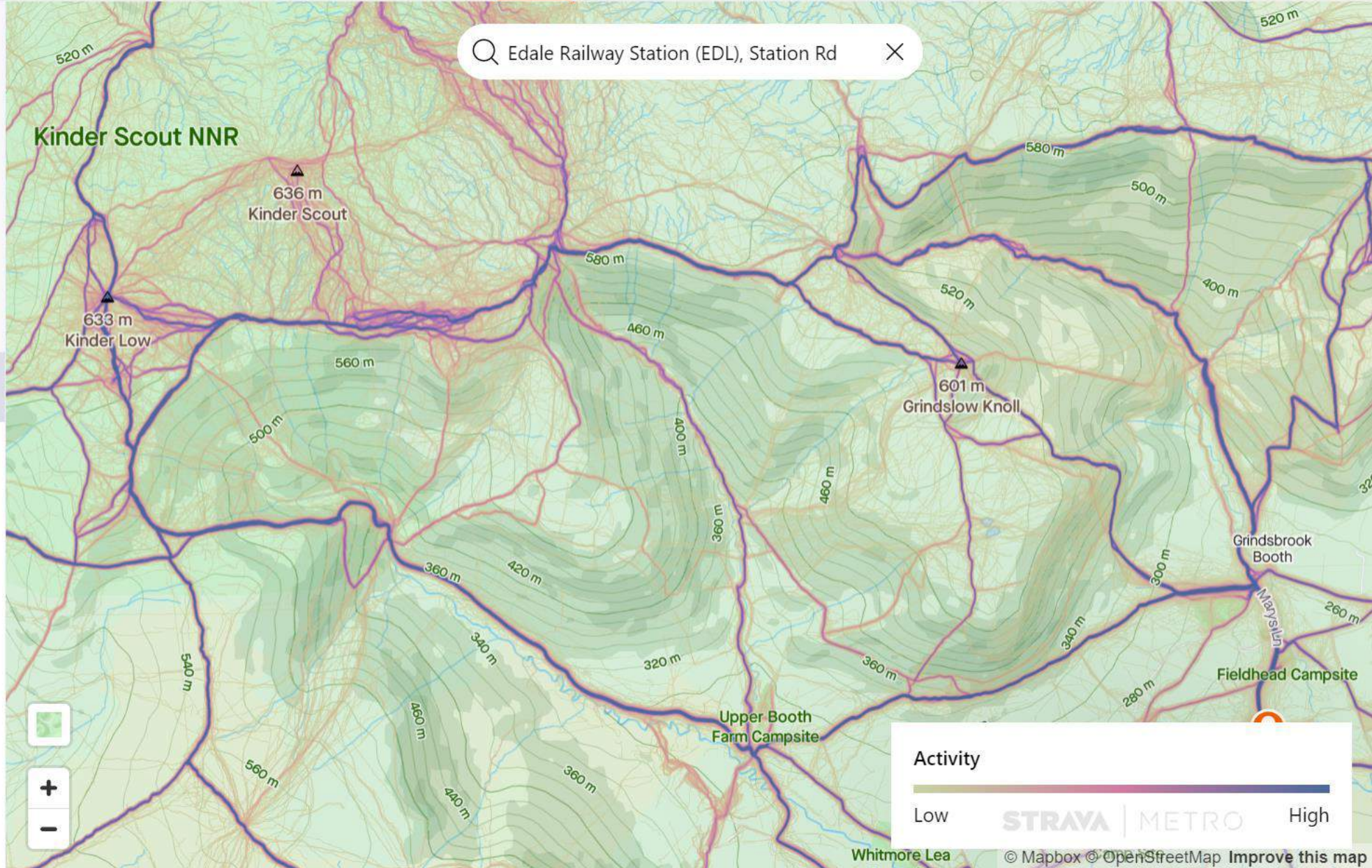
Heatmap

FILTERS

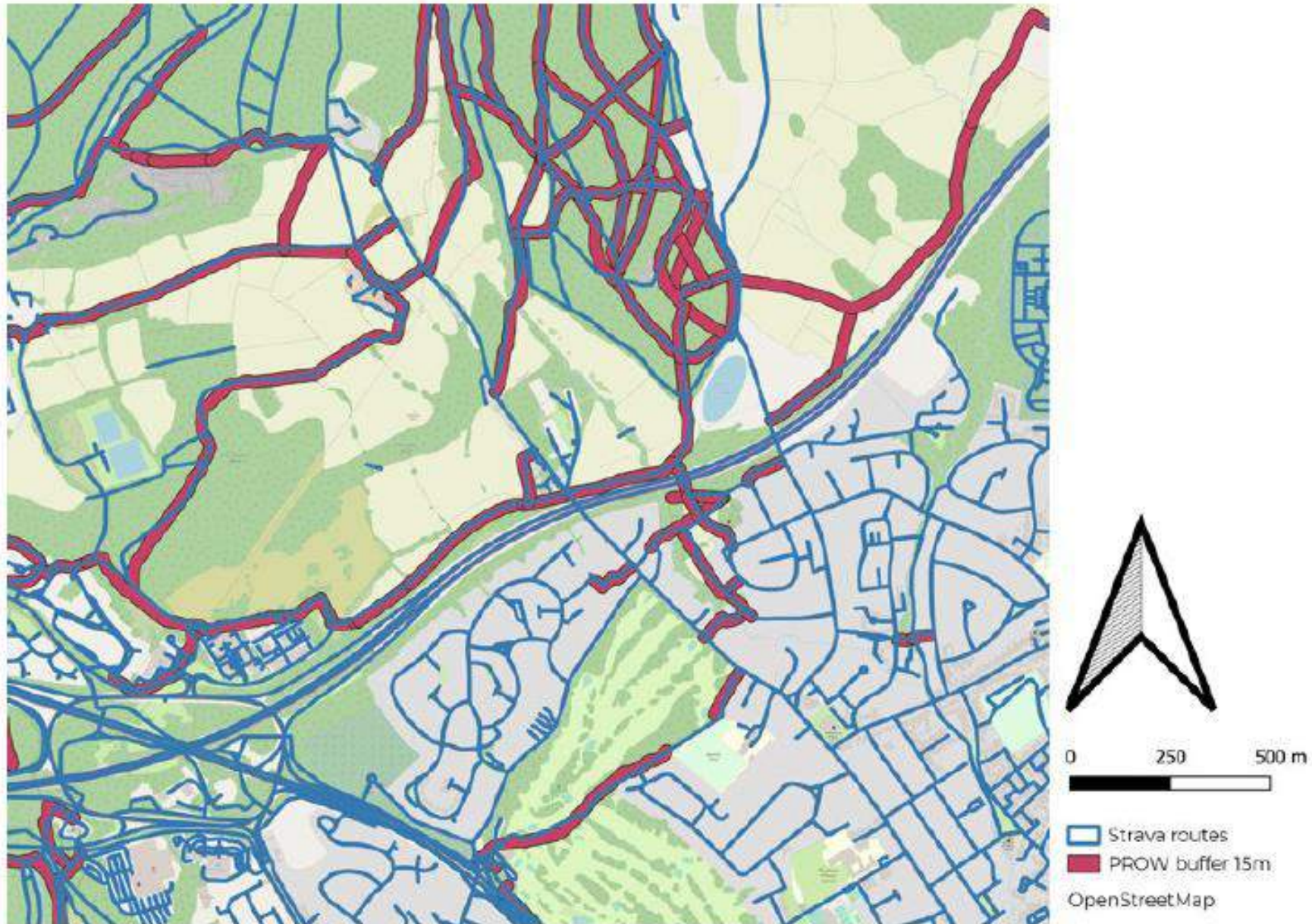
Time period

September 2022 – August 2023

Edale Railway Station (EDL), Station Rd



MAP 7: PROW PROVISION AND STRAVA ROUTES IN NORTH CARDIFF



Public polling: what we found out...

83% of people agree that
the path network is a national asset

85% of people agree that
the path network should be protected for future generations

Only half of all people surveyed know (some of) their rights and responsibilities when out walking on the path network

Almost a third of all respondents told us one of the main reasons they don't go out walking on the path network is because
they don't know where paths are or where they go

What we found out...

'Physical barriers stop me from using the path network'

24% of people in England

28% of people in Wales

22% of people in Scotland

**56% of people registered physically
disabled**





Outdoor Accessibility Guidance

Supporting inclusive outdoor access in the UK



paths
for all



Sensory Trust



For All

Gradients will be no more than 1:10. The surface will be tarmac or compacted stone with a diameter of 10mm or less. Suitable for pushchairs and unassisted wheelchairs.



For Many

Gradients may be up to 1:8 on newly built sections. The surfacing will be stone of 4cm diameter or less. Suitable for assisted wheelchairs and more robust, all-terrain type equipment.



For Some

Slopes greater than 1:8 will have improved surfacing or handrails. Stone surfacing will be less than 10cm in diameter and steps or breaks less than 10cm in height. Suitable for robust all-terrain type equipment and off-road mobility vehicles.



Sensory Trail

Use your senses along these trails to connect with and immerse yourself in nature.

Visitor experience

Decision to visit

Journey and arrival

On-site experience

Return home



Examples of things to consider

Information about access and accessible facilities
Accessible formats and choice of languages available
Promotion and publicity present a welcoming and inclusive image for all visitors
Good publicity with targeted distribution

Public/community transport
Accessible car parking/drop off
Welcoming entrance with orientation information
Free entry for carers/supporters
Inclusive facilities eg toilets, changing facilities, cafes

Routes and signposting for all abilities
Inclusive events planning
Accessible information and interpretation
Inclusive facilities eg toilets, changing facilities, cafes
Inclusive visitor experiences available to a diverse audience

Public/community transport
Accessible car parking/pick up
Feedback and involvement encouraged
Activity packs for groups - accessible formats and choice of languages available







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An introduction to Amar Latif, President of the Ramblers

Amar talks about his sight loss, travelling the world and his love of rambling.



THE RAMBLERS MAGAZINE
Britain's walking charity

walk

ISSUE 76 AUTUMN 2022 £3.60

ACCESS

Expanding your
freedom to roam

HEALTH

Wellbeing Walks -
friendship, fitness
and fun

THE BIG WALK

Explore London's
Elizabeth Line

Adventures on wheels

Tips and trails for accessible hikes



MASTERCLASS

Rambles on wheels

If your mobility is limited it doesn't mean the
countryside is off limits. Ever-increasing ranges of
all-terrain wheelchairs and accessible trails are helping
disabled people explore the outdoors on wheels

WORDS DEBBIE NORTH

The countryside should be for everyone. But is it? Do our National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), forests and parklands welcome everyone, whatever their abilities?

I have been an avid campaigner for access for all since ill health prevented me from walking in the hills, mountains and fells. Twelve years later, I am still knocking on the doors of people who can make change happen.

My love of walking was set alight when I met my husband-to-be many moons ago. Living in Bradford, we had the Yorkshire Dales on our doorstep. The Lake District and North York Moors also became our

playground and we spent most of our free time rambling in open countryside. It was a way of relieving the stresses of everyday living and a special time we shared together.

In the early days of my being a wheelchair user, Andy and I would drive into the Dales and I would sit in the car park, watching other hikers don their boots and head off for a day in the hills. I can honestly say the black dog of depression was nipping at my heels. Andy stopped walking, too, as he said it wasn't the same without a partner.

I then found out that the Yorkshire Dales National Park had a series of routes called Miles without Stiles (yorkshiredales.org.uk/miles-without-stiles), suitable for different types of wheelchairs. Some were

less than 1km/1/2 mile long and suitable for a manual wheelchair user. Others were around 3-8km/2-5 miles, more suited to all-terrain and assisted wheelchairs. I was curious to find out what other National Parks offered in the way of access for all.

Choosing the right chair

Around this time, I started researching all-terrain wheelchairs (see panel, right). I'd never heard of them before and certainly they weren't a topic of discussion during my months of physiotherapy or the occupational therapy support I received.

I discovered the definition of 'all-terrain' is rather vague. Some manufacturers promote their chairs as 'all-terrain' when

We want:

- **People to have a variety of walking experiences**
- **To target our work and expand the path network**
- **Greater accessibility of our paths**
- **More investment (& legislation)**

More information

- Ramblers research:

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/who-has-access-our-paths>

- Paths for All:

<https://www.pathsforall.org.uk/resource/resource/outdoor-accessibility-guidance-download>

- Miles without Stiles:

<https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting/miles-without-stiles>



Thank you

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