

## Slow Ways Website Launch Date Announced: 23 April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May



Slow Ways is a national project to create a network of walking routes that connect all Great Britain's towns and cities as well as thousands of villages. It is designed to make it easier for people to imagine, plan and go on walking journeys. Using existing footpaths, people will be able to download and use the Slow Ways routes (free of charge) to walk between neighbouring settlements or combine routes for long distance journeys.

During lockdown 700 volunteers from across the country collaborated to produce a first draft of the Slow Ways network, creating a stunning Slow Ways map in the process. This incredible effort has led to the creation of 7,500 routes that collectively stretch for over 110,000km.

### **Get Involved: Walk, Review, Verify, Survey**

Slow Ways now depends on walkers to sign up ([www.slowways.uk](http://www.slowways.uk)) and provide review information to help others decide if a route is suitable for them. Reviews can be simple (giving a star-rating and verifying a route as good enough to be on the network) or a more detailed survey of features on the route (e.g presence/absence of cows, stiles, mud on the route, path widths & gradients, facilities etc). Basic online training and guidance will be given to surveyors.

Slow Ways will launch its website on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April and will be holding a series of Zoom webinars during the launch week to help users (sign up via [www.slowways.uk](http://www.slowways.uk)):

[Introduction to Slow Ways](#) - Tuesday April 27th at 7pm

[How to use the Slow Ways website](#) - Wednesday April 28th at 7pm

[How to survey Slow Ways walking routes](#) - Thursday April 29th at 7pm

Groups like PNFS can play a special role in this process by selecting, walking, and reviewing routes using our valuable local knowledge. Get involved:

- Sign up on the Slow Ways website
- Walk routes as individuals in your local area.
- Footpath Inspectors could walk Slow Ways routes where these run through your parish(es), using your observations for the benefit of both the Slow Ways review and your PNFS inspection reports.
- Use your local knowledge to suggest better routes if the original route has limitations.
- Groups of individuals could get together to 'swarm' a route or an area, providing strong information from multiple surveys and opinions.
- Spread the word to others in the walking community and via social media (use the hashtag #SlowWays)
- **If you find a fault** – report it to PNFS via our website (Path Checkers / Report a problem to us)

PNFS hopes that Slow Ways will encourage more path usage which, in turn, should result in more pressure for public rights of way to be maintained to a good standard.

Take a look at the Slow Ways website, get involved and tell us what you have been doing with Slow Ways in your local area (submit an article for one of our newsletters or post on our social media).

**Linda Smith, Footpath Inspection Team**