



Craig Whittaker MP

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Response to 'Walking Britain' (Ramblers campaign) - July 2017

Thank you for contacting me about walking and the future of UK agricultural policy.

I am always keen to support efforts aimed at promoting exercise, and walking Britain's magnificent countryside is one of the best ways I know to get and stay fit. Being outside in nature benefits people physically and mentally, so it is important to protect access to the countryside.

Our network of public rights of way plays an important role in this effort, so the process of recording them is being simplified to ensure no historic rights of way are lost. Work is also ongoing with Natural England to establish the England Coast Path. We must also ensure that our countryside remains inviting to visit.

As you have identified the vote to leave the EU, and as such the Common Agricultural Policy, gives us an unprecedented opportunity to design policies tailored to our needs. The Secretary of State will shortly launch a consultation exercise that will give all interested parties the chance to share their views and ambitions for the future. This will provide an ideal opportunity for the Ramblers' call for a Walking Britain to be heard.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP