

Tameside Ramblers - April 2021

Chair Talk

Welcome back to group walks

I am delighted to tell you that we have received confirmation from Ramblers that group walks can now resume. We will have our first walk on Wednesday 14th April 2021 and walks will continue on subsequent Saturdays and Wednesdays.

In addition, there will be two Thursday evening walks during May. However, Covid-19 is still with us and although being outside is fairly safe and by now most of us will have had at least one jab of the vaccine, we still need to take precautions.

Therefore, we will continue to limit the numbers allowed on our walks to a maximum of 12, or fewer, at the discretion of the walk leader, and members will need to book onto the walk in advance, as we did before.

The walks will be advertised weekly although the way we do this will change:

Each Wednesday at 6.00pm we will advertise **TWO** walks: the walk for the following Wednesday AND the walk for the Saturday after that. i.e. Wednesday walks will be advertised 7 days in advance and Saturday walks will be advertised 10 days in advance. Wednesday 7th April the walks for Wednesday 14th and Saturday

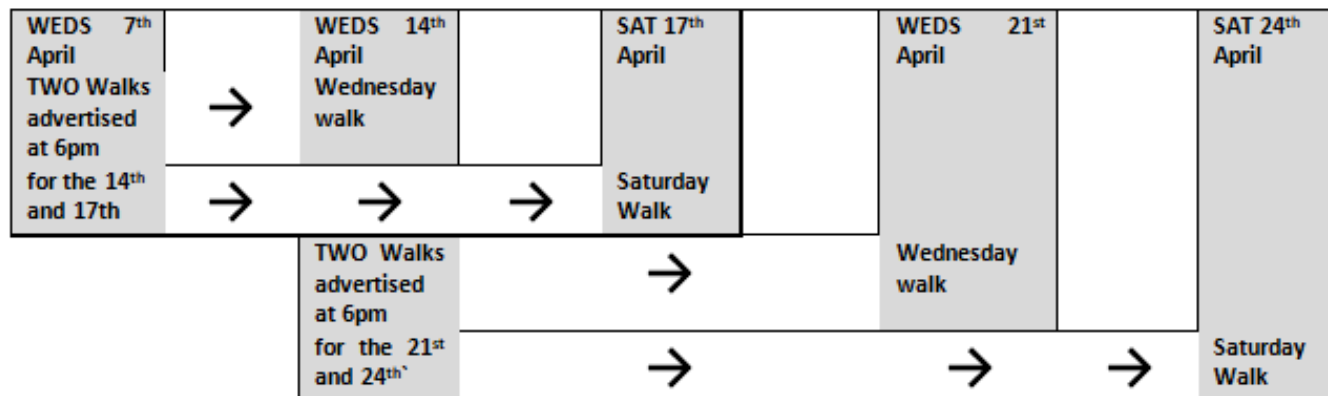
By this means, we only have to check for walks once a week. On Wednesday 7th April the walks for Wednesday 14th and Saturday 17th will be advertised. The next walks will be advertised on Wednesday 14th April, as illustrated below:

As before, the walks will be advertised by email to all members as well as on our private Facebook page and on our WhatsApp group, followed by posting onto our Website. Please note that whilst the emails and Facebook postings will be scheduled to go out at exactly 6.00pm each Wednesday, the WhatsApp and website posts have to be done manually.

More details about how we must conduct our walks are given on the following page.

Happy walking and keep safe

Stewart Ramsden, Chairman



Re-starting Group Walks

Our group walks will be organised in much the same way as they were last year, with walks being advertised weekly and walkers being required to book onto them in advance, as explained on Page 1.

The following is a summary of Ramblers guidance for the resumption of group walks:

1. Walk leaders must be registered as such with Ramblers: this ensure that Ramblers insurance applies to our group walks. All Tameside Ramblers walk leaders are registered.

2. Walks have to be Risk Assessed by the walk leader: walk leaders already think about risks, hazards and alternative routes in order to make sure everyone has a safe and enjoyable walk. We just need to put this planning on paper from now on. We know that it is impossible to plan for every scenario and filling in a risk assessment **does not** make a walk leader more liable for incidents – nor will the insurance be invalidated if every box is not ticked.

3. Walks have to be advertised: We currently do this via email to our members, via our Facebook and WhatsApp groups and our website. (Tameside Ramblers normally publishes walks programmes covering a four month period. When the infection rate of Coronavirus is much lower than it currently is, and booking onto walks is no longer needed, then we will consider reintroducing four-monthly programmes).

4. Walk leaders will take a register which in our case will be the form of their record of who has booked onto their walk. This is required to support NHS contact tracing.

Stay safe by physically distancing: follow government guidelines and carry and use hand sanitiser, especially after touching gates and stiles, etc.

More information can be found on the Ramblers website: <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/coronavirus>

Self-guided walks:

Not everyone will wish to participate in group walks just now. In the February newsletter (you can find it on our website www.tamesideramblers.org.uk and click on Newsletters) we included a local route and there is another route in this newsletter too.

As Ramblers members, you can also find more walks to follow on the Ramblers website at <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking.aspx>

More information can be found on the Ramblers website: <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/coronavirus>

Self-guided walks:

Not everyone will wish to participate in group walks just now. In the February newsletter (you can find it on our website www.tamesideramblers.org.uk and click on Newsletters) we included a local route and there is another route in this newsletter too.

As Ramblers members, you can also find more walks to follow on the Ramblers website at <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking.aspx>



A new walk to try out

Werneth Low, Back Wood & Great Wood

A hilly walk along paths, (all public rights of way), through ancient woodlands and along quiet lanes. Some of the paths can be muddy following prolonged wet weather.

Distance: 8 miles / 13km

Height gain: 1,300 ft / 396 metres

Walk Grade: Moderate with some uphill sections.

Start: Godley Railway Station, Mottram Road, SK14 2PJ

Parking: Station Road, opposite the station steps

Alternative starts: The walk could be joined from other points including the former Apethorn railway track/Trans Pennine Trail (Step 3 in the directions); from Gee Cross or Werneth Low Visitor Centre by walking up to the Cenotaph on Werneth Low and heading to the gates at the bottom left of the golf course (Step 6 in the directions).

Map: OL1 The Peak District, Dark Peak Area

1/ From Godley railway station, walk across Sheffield Road and into Vincent Park, opposite the bus shelter. Bear left across the boardwalk and follow the path which runs parallel to both Mottram Road and Godley Brook. At the end of the path, turn left up the cobbled lane onto Mottram Road.

2/ Cross Mottram Road to Green Lane opposite. (*Note: Green Lane has been spilt by housing developments*). At the top of Green lane, go up the slope on the right then turn left onto St. Michael's Road, then left again at the top onto St. Paul's Hill Road to reach the bridge over the former Apethorn railway track, which is now part of the Trans Pennine Trail.

3/ Walk ahead along the continuation of Green Lane (unmade), passing the Dove House Stables and Godley Stud Farm, until you reach Mottram Old Road.

4/ Cross Mottram Old Road and turn left, then take the narrow, part-cobbled road on the right to pass Higham cottages on the right. Turn right at the corner of the end cottage and pass through a narrow squeeze stile between a stone gate post and the cottage wall. Walk ahead but ignore the narrow graded path to the left as that is reserved for horses and cycles and instead enter Werneth Low Country Park by the walk-through stile on the right.

5/ Turn left to walk up steps then continue uphill and entering the trees keep left along a narrowing path. Near the top keep close to the fence on the left to reach a gate. The Cenotaph can be seen a little above to the right.

6/ Go through the gate on the left, to cross the horse/cycle track, then through a second gate and follow the path as it winds gently downhill and then uphill, with extensive views, to reach the junction of Werneth Low Road (on the right) and Apple Street (ahead) beside the site of the former Windy Harbour Restaurant.

7/ Turn left to follow a Public Footpath sign towards a remote bungalow but a diversion across the former car park area to the topograph indicating the surrounding hills and places is well worthwhile.

8/ Continue along the path, keeping the bungalow on the right. As the path narrows and descends there are extensive views, including Bleaklow to the left and Kinder Scout. This is Idle Hill. Cross a stile and follow the sign pointing to Apple Street steeply down to another stile, cross the lane then across another stile and follow the path bearing slightly right to yet another stile.

9/ Cross the stile to walk along the top edge of the field and at a signpost at the end of a line of trees, turn left keeping the trees on the right. At the bottom of the field, descend to a stile (the path can be slippery here) and cross it to enter Back Wood. Follow the clear path as it meanders through the wood crisscrossing the stream via wooden bridges, to emerge onto a lane.

10/ Turn left up the rising tarmac lane and pass by two cattle grids, using the side gates. After approx. half-a-mile, as the lane levels off, just BEFORE the lane bends sharply left towards the nearby Mottram Old Road, go through the gate on the right keeping a green metal fence on the left, to enter the Great Wood Local Nature Reserve

There is a large sign that cannot be missed for “Great Wood” !

Great Wood is an ancient woodland over 400 years old and was once part of the Longdendale Forest. Oak is predominant but there are also birch, alder, beech, willow, hazel and holly.

11/ Follow the path as it winds through the wood, ignoring any side tracks, to emerge onto a narrow lane. Pass Leyland Cottage on the left then turn immediately right to follow the lane to Leyland’s Farm (signed to Botham’s Hall) and pass through the gate on the left of the farm buildings.

12/ Continue along the lane to reach the impressively restored buildings of Botham’s Hall Farm. Keep ahead and just before reaching Rob’s Rock, which is dedicated to a young mountaineer, turn left at the sign to re-enter Back Wood. Almost immediately, take a path to the left (signed to Etherow Goyt Valley Way), cross the stream and ascend the steps. The steepness soon eases as the path levels and meanders between trees and bushes. After crossing two stiles the path becomes more stony and the low-hanging branches give the feeling of walking in a tunnel. sunken path, with a canopy of trees, which continues uphill to a stile.

13/ Cross the stile and pass over another farm track to enter a second sunken tree-canopied path, still climbing, to emerge by a bungalow and turn left onto Apple Street. Pass the entrance road to Lumn Farm on the left, then just after a right-hand bend and as the road climbs, look for a small stone stile on the left just before a farm gate and cross it into a field. Walk ahead, with Lumn Farm below left, to pass into a second field then cross another stile into a third field. Continue ahead, initially with a pylon to the right then follow the tractor tracks uphill to the right to reach a corner gate with a rickety stile on the left.

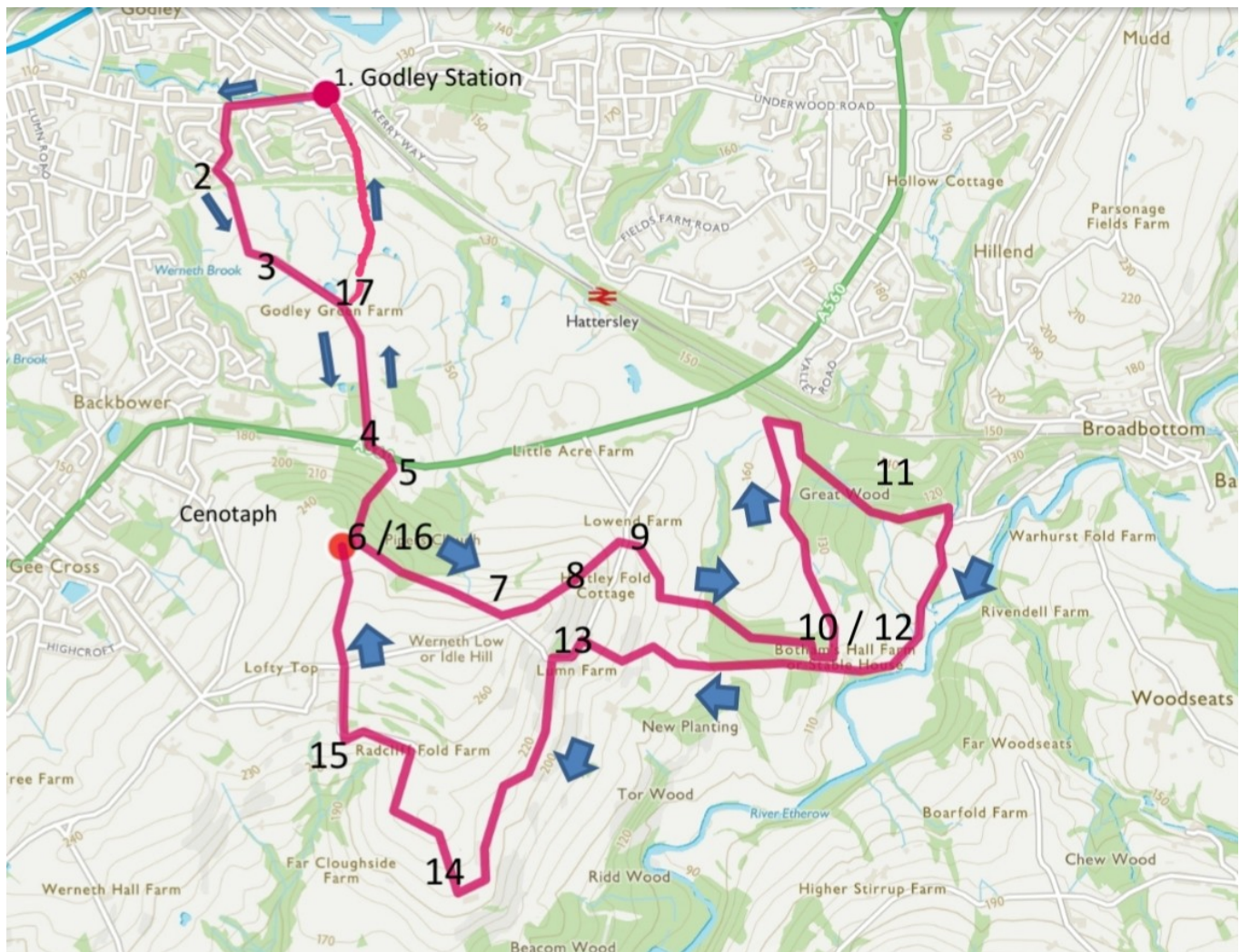
Cross this onto Beacom Lane and turn left.

14/ Walk down Beacom Lane to pass between the attractive Beacom Houses and as the lane turn sharply left, go through the gate on the right and walk up the field to a stile; cross this and continue ahead, bearing left at the top over a second stile and continue ahead. Note the circular sheep shelter on the right. At the next stile turn right along a narrow bridleway and at the end turn left along the unsurfaced lane.

15/ After passing houses and cottages on the right, the lane turns sharp right. Continue uphill to reach Werneth Low Road. Cross the road to take the footpath to the right of a horse/cycle track. Initially with a high stone wall on the right, continue down the left-hand edge of the golf course to reach a gate and a gap in the fence. Go through either to cross the horse/cycle track to another gate, then turn right.

16/ Walk downhill keeping the fence on the right to retrace your footsteps down to Mottram Old Road. Cross the road, turn left then right into Green Lane.

17/ Pass Godley Stud Riding Stables then look for a large house, ‘*Greenfield*’ on the right. Take the next right to Albert Farm the enter the narrow bridleway in the left corner. Follow this to a gate, go through and turn left. Cross an estate road and continue along the unmade lane to reach Mottram Road, opposite Godley Station and the start of the walk



Walk kindly provided by Stewart

Lock Down projects



Ken & Margaret—herb garden



Before

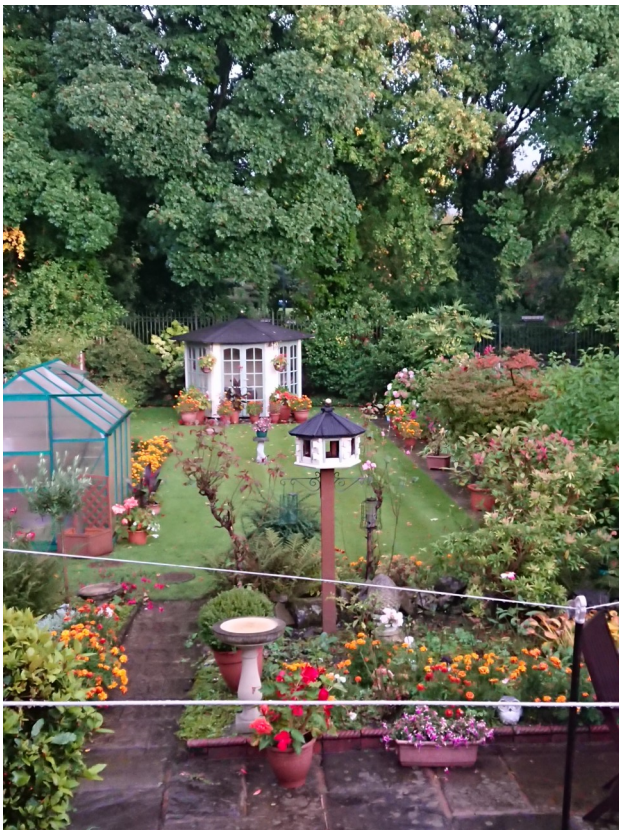


After

Alan's garden project



Stewart & Prue's new trellis



Before



After

Christine & John's garden

Walking and Me

Get up, go to work, come home, go to bed. Repeat for the rest of the working week.

Weekends become my balm, as I know I can get out walking, even if the weather curtails the distance I like to walk.

I have recently moved to a new area, where there are lots of wide-open spaces to explore. Getting out in them helps me shake off the worries I have with work or personally. When I am out walking, with the fresh air around me, I feel my mind becoming normal again, if only for a short time.



I joined Tameside Ramblers at a time when my personal life was a little less chaotic. I needed something outside my current social and family circle, something just for me. Taking that step to go to the Summer barbecue at Pete and Ruth's house was such a leap of faith: will they like me, will I like them? I was instantly made welcome and found that with like-minded people I could relax and be myself. Walking with the group has allowed me to meet such a wonderful variety of people but all of us with a common interest. Listening to the various walk leaders tell you about the places you are walking in is something I shall not tire of doing. I love to learn about new places and the history of it all.

I have always been a person that is happy in their own company and walking is a way I can be happy. Exploring new paths, letting them take me to different places, helps keep dark thoughts out of mind. I am constantly looking up at the sky, appreciating the quiet apart from birdsong or the sound of running water in a nearby stream.

Now that I am a walk leader for the group (at the time of this article I am yet to make my debut) I find I am searching for new paths, new routes, that I think the rest of the group will enjoy.

I live in the Holme Valley and its beauty all year round is a constant source of pleasure. My first Winter has been interesting to say the least, as the photographs show. It introduced me to my first pair of ice

spikes, which led me to buy a more advanced pair (with the help of Stewart Ramsden). The Holme Valley is a myriad of paths leading to moors, woods, and river paths. The views over to Pule Hill and West Nab from the top of Ramsden Road, in the snow, took my breath away .



Even short walks from home can take me along the Cliff at night to see Holmfirth, lit up, snaking its way up the valley. Walking from parish to parish such as Wooldale, Paris, Wolfstone and Wash Pits is something I can lose myself in, just for a few hours .



I hope the walks I have submitted to be scheduled soon will be enjoyed by you all as much as I have enjoyed discovering them.



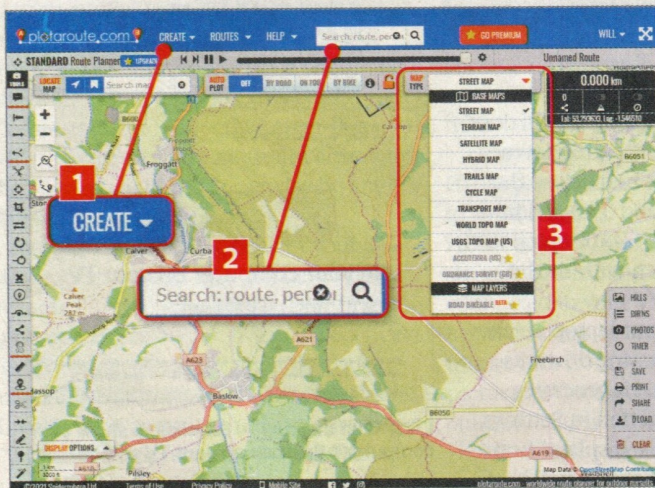
Cathryn

Create and share walking maps

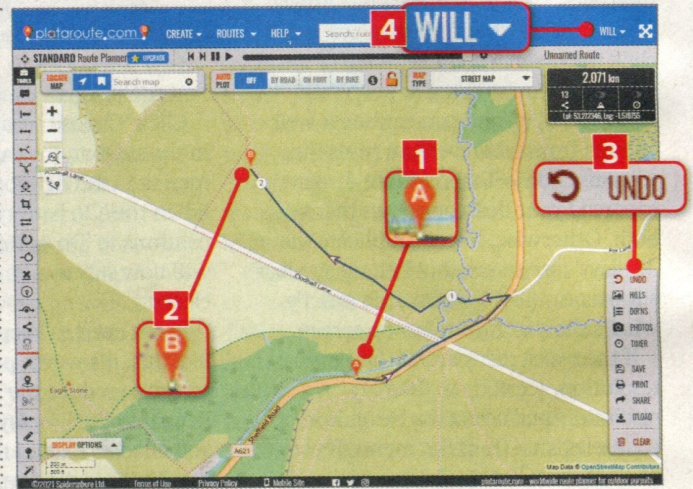
What you need: Plotaroute account (free); Windows 7, 8.1 or 10
Time required: 30 minutes

What better way to look forward to a summer free of restrictions (or at least fewer of them), than planning long walks in the countryside with friends. With a free Plotaroute account (ad supported – you can remove these with a Premium subscription at £17 per year),

you can create your own detailed walking maps, then share them with others. Plotaroute doesn't offer a mobile app, but the website works flawlessly on phones, and you can download maps for walks that take you away from mobile networks.



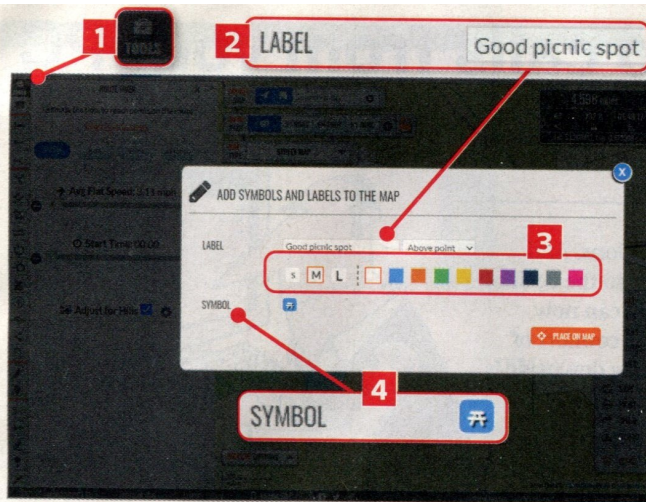
STEP 1 Create a free Plotaroute account at www.snipca.com/37632. Once you've registered, click the Create dropdown menu **1** on the homepage, then select 'Plot a Route'. If you want to open the map at your current location, select 'Show local map' (your browser will ask you to allow Plotaroute to access your location), otherwise select 'Search for a place' then enter your walk's starting point in the search box **2** or click and drag the map using your mouse, scrolling to zoom. Click the Map Type button **3** to choose from a selection of maps (maps with a star, such as Ordnance Survey, require a Premium subscription). We're using Street Map, which works best for walking routes because it shows most footpaths.



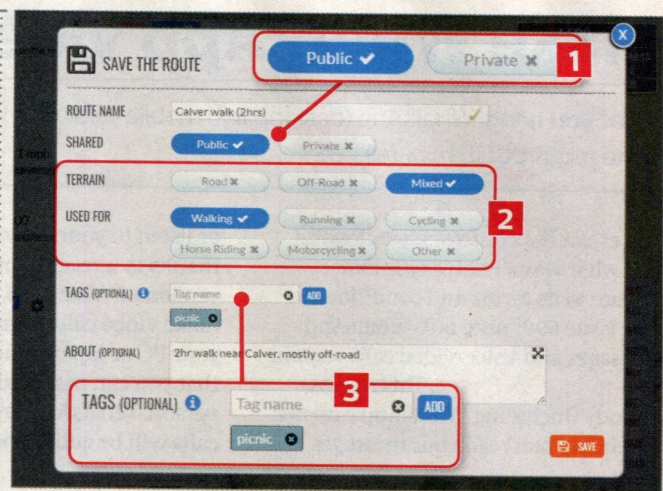
STEP 2 Click the map to set your starting point (marked A **1**), then continue clicking to plot your route – the free version lets you plot up to 2,500 points per route. If you make a mistake, you can click and drag the last point you plotted (marked B **2**). Alternatively, click Undo **3** to roll back through previous points. By default, Plotaroute uses metric measurements – to switch to imperial (as well as change other settings, such as date formats), click your name **4**, My Settings, then change the Units setting to Miles.



STEP 3 As you plot your route, the distance counter **1** will update accordingly. You can also keep an eye on the altitude **2** and the time it will take to walk **3** (click each icon to enable these). The Avg Flat Speed slider **4** lets you adjust the time taken based on your walking speed. Plotaroute will adjust this depending on the severity of the inclines on your route – if you tend to power up hills, you can disable this feature by unticking 'Adjust for Hills' **5**.



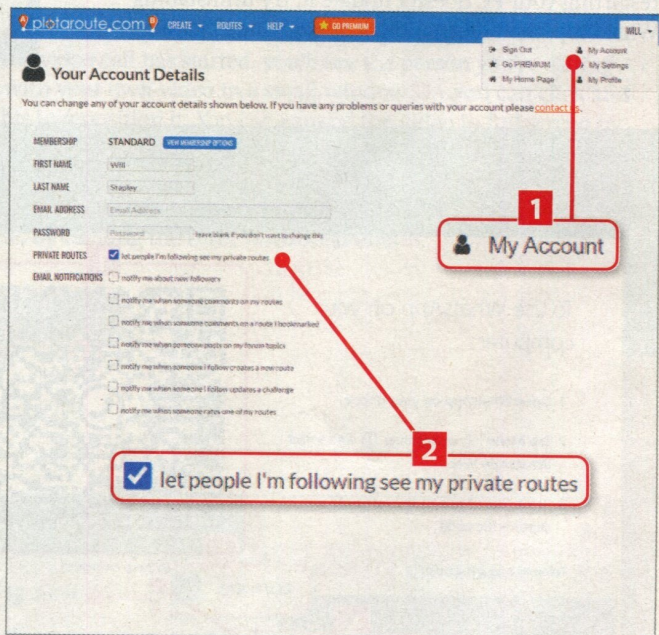
STEP 4 If your route goes through areas of interest or has sections that require more detailed instructions, you can add these by opening the Tools menu **1**, then select Annotate Map. Enter a label for your annotation **2**, choose the text size and colour **3**, then (optionally) click the Symbol button **4** to give it a suitable icon. When you've finished, select Place On Map, then click the appropriate point on your route to add the annotation. You can edit or delete annotations by clicking them.



STEP 5 Once you've plotted your map, click Save (bottom right), give it a name, then choose whether it's public or private **1**. Public maps can be viewed by anyone and will appear in search results on Plotaroute; while private maps are only viewable by Plotaroute users that you follow (more on this in a moment). You can create up to five private maps with a free Plotaroute account. Select the type of route in the Terrain and Used For sections **2**, then add any relevant tags **3** (keywords that help your map show up in search results, if it's public) along with a brief description. Click Save when you've finished.



STEP 6 You can access all your saved maps by clicking Routes **1**, My Routes, then selecting a route to open it. For routes in rural areas with limited mobile-network reception, it's best to download the map before you set off. Scroll down and you'll see several download options - PDF **2** is the best as it includes extra information such as annotations (use the options at the top to choose what you want to include, along with other settings such as page orientation). To share your route with others, click the menu button in the map, Share **3**, then copy the link.



STEP 7 To share private routes, click your name (top right), select My Account **1**, then tick the 'let people I'm following see my private routes' box **2**. Next, search for the person you want to share with (they'll need to have a Plotaroute account) in the search box at the top of the home page, select their name in the results, then click the 'Follow...' button. People you follow will be able to access your routes using the Share link created in Step 6 or by clicking Followers on their Plotaroute home page, selecting your name, then clicking Routes.

Thank you to Computeractive for their kind permission to reproduce this article.

Future news letters

Any thoughts or proposed contributions for the next news letter should be sent to Alan at ;

alan@c-i-t.co.uk

The Committee

Chairman : Stewart Ramsden

Email : chairman@tamesideramblers.org.uk

Group & Membership Secretary : Prue Ramsden

Email : secretary@tamesideramblers.org.uk

Treasurer : Jo Manning

Email : treasurer@tamesideramblers.org.uk

Walks Coordinator : Christine Harrison

Email : walks@tamesideramblers.org.uk

Walks Coordinator : Lynda Chandler

Email : walks@tamesideramblers.org.uk

Committee Member : John Harrison

Social Secretaries : Ruth & Pete Summers

Email : social@tamesideramblers.org.uk

Web Master & IT Support : Alan P James

Email : webmaster@tamesideramblers.org.uk

Foot Note : If you have received this News letter by Post and to comply with GDPR ;

You are receiving this communication because we believe that it would be of interest to you . If you'd rather not receive similar information in future, please let us know. You can email ramblers@ramblers.org.uk, change your preferences online at ramblers.org.uk/myaccount or call (0)20 3961 3300.