

Ramblers Celebrate the Opening of a Coastal Path that was Blocked for 40 Years

The footpath that runs through the Southern Water works at Telscombe Cliffs, near Peacehaven. This path is now open after 40 years of unauthorised closure.

It means that you can walk along the coast all the way from Brighton to Newhaven. The fences that blocked the path for so many years now have gates to allow the route to be followed. It is now possible to walk along the coast all the way from Brighton to Newhaven.



Dave Brookshaw of the South Downs Society views the former obstruction



The new gate which gives access to the path



Walkers on the path

This is the culmination of what is perhaps the longest campaign by the Sussex Area of the Ramblers

In the 1970s the water company obstructed this path through their works and for many years they denied that there was a right of way. Everyone thought it was a done deal and that they had gone through the formalities, but in the early part of this century and eagle eyed member of the South Downs Society (SDS) spotted that the footpath still legally existed.

The Ramblers, with Peter Seed in the forefront, and the SDS, together with local people, began a long campaign to get the path re-opened. It was more or less the only bit of coastal path between Brighton and Newhaven that was not open to the public. In 2017

their campaign was successful. The pictures show the newly opened path

Ramblers member Chris Smith comments "If you are a Ramblers member this is what you pay your subscription for. If you are not a member, this is why you should join".

You can walk the new path as part of the following walk.

From Lewes to Spain

A grand excursion from the ancient town of Lewes all the way to a microcosm of Spain by the costa, by way of lowland villages and spacious downland vistas. 7.5 miles, 12.5 km