

Area Footpath Secretary

Role type:
Campaign/coordination

Weekly Commitment:
Approximately 4.5 hours

Duration:
Ongoing

Report lines:
Area Committee



Main contacts:

Group Footpath Secretaries, Area Access officer, Area Walking Environment Officer, Walking Environment Team, Central Office, Area Committee, Highway Authority, other volunteers, Parish/Town Councils, Local Access Forums (LAF)

Role Outline:

Area Footpath Secretaries contribute to the development of opportunities and facilities for walking in their Area by working to protect and enhance the local rights of way network.

What's in it for you?

As an Area Footpath Secretary you will have the opportunity to make a real difference to the local walking environment. This will be done through using the skills you already have as well as taking part in relevant training to help you increase your expertise and knowledge. Whilst doing this you will work as part of a team and have the opportunity to make new friends and work with lots of different people. Full training is offered to all role holders.

What will you can be doing?

As an Area Footpath Secretary you will be coordinating other Ramblers volunteers who work locally on rights of way issues, in particular the Group Footpath Secretaries. You will be one of the Ramblers key contacts with the local highway authority, obtaining new information about local footpath conditions as well as representing the organisation at meetings and public-facing events. Additionally, you will be working with Central Office to ensure that all relevant information is distributed to the appropriate volunteers, keeping everyone in the area up-to-date and enabling them to play their roles successfully and safely. By monitoring local footpath conditions, liaising directly with local authority officers, supporting practical path work and coordinating other local Ramblers volunteers, you will help to maintain and improve local footpaths, as well as further your leadership and communication skills.

Role Responsibilities



- Manage the Area's interaction with its local authorities on all matters relating to rights of way.
- Co-ordinate the rights of way work across the Area, for instance through contact with local Ramblers Groups, or the establishment of an Area Footpath Committee.
- Keep yourself informed of matters relating to rights of way in your Area through information sent from Central Office, from local Group networks, local access forums and from local highway authority or from other relevant authority.
- Report footpath problems to the highway authority and monitor progress and any action taken. Look for opportunities to extend the footpath network.
- Assess and respond to proposals to change the path network.
- Comment on local authority plans or strategies where they refer to rights of way (e.g. Rights of Way Improvement Plans).
- Collect evidence for the addition of paths to the definitive map and defend the status of existing recorded paths.
- Organise footpath surveys and liaise with the Area Publicity Officer to publicise the results, and report footpath successes to Central Office.
- Coordinate relevant campaigns, and provide local examples to Central Office for use in national campaigns.
- Liaise with Footpath Secretaries in neighboring Groups and Areas to exchange ideas and experiences.

