

Group Footpath Secretary

Role type:

Campaign

Weekly Commitment:

Approximately 4.5 hours

Duration:

Ongoing

Report lines:

Area Footpath Secretary, Group Committee, Central Office and Area Committee.

Main contacts:

Area Footpath Secretary, Group Walking Environment Officer, Group Access Officer, Walking Environment Team, Group Committee, Local Authority, other volunteers, Parish/Town Councils, Local Access Forum (LAF), other user groups and individuals from the Lower Wharfedale Area.

Role Outline:

As a Group Footpath Secretary you will contribute to the development of opportunities and facilities for walking in your Area by working to protect and enhance the local rights of way network.

What's in it for you?

As a Group Footpath Secretary you will have the opportunity to make a real difference to the local walking environment. This will be done by using the skills you already have as well as taking part in relevant training to help you increase your skills 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. You will also have the opportunity to work collaboratively with the local authority and other volunteers within the role.

What can you be doing?

As a Group Footpath Secretary you will be working locally on rights of way issues. You will be one of the Ramblers key contacts with the local authority, obtaining new information as well as representing the organisation. Additionally, you will be working with your Area Footpath Secretary and Central Office to ensure that all relevant information is distributed correctly to local volunteers, keeping everyone in your Group team up-to-date and enabling them to perform their roles successfully and safely.

Role Responsibilities

- Keep 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 local authorities and local parishes.
- Report footpath problems to the 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, both pre-order and through the legal process. Ensure this work is followed through to its conclusion.
- Report footpath successes to Central Office.

- Comment on local authority plans or strategies where they refer to rights of way and other linear access (e.g. Rights of Way Improvement Plans). Monitor such plans to ensure that rights of way are included/considered in such plans.
- Collect evidence for the addition of paths to the definitive map and defend the status of existing recorded paths. Support other groups endeavouring to collect evidence for the addition of paths to the definitive map.
- Continue to develop the skills necessary for gathering the above evidence.
- Where a group is involved in practical path work, to work closely with the path work coordinator or to coordinate the work to ensure that the path work can be completed.
- Encourage and support as many members as possible to participate in practical path work.
- Liaise with colleagues in neighbouring Groups and Areas to exchange ideas and experiences.
- Respond to enquiries from members of the public about path problems and seek a resolution to any reported problems.
- Exert pressure and influence – when necessary and appropriate – on local authorities (and others) to fulfil their obligations and statutory duties in relation to path problems.
- Support the continued development of the Group through participation in its committee and other activities.