

Area Footpath Secretary



Role type:	Campaign/management
Main purpose of the role:	To contribute to the development of the opportunities and facilities for walking in the Area by working to protect and improve the local rights of way network.
What we need from you:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A passion for walking and an affinity with the charitable aims of the Ramblers• An understanding of, or interest in learning about the basics of rights of way law• An understanding, or interest in learning about local authority consultation and planning processes• Good communication skills to represent the concerns of the Ramblers to a range of audiences, including statutory bodies.• Initiative and a joy of finding out information that can be hidden away or hard to find.• An ability to develop close contact with Ramblers Groups actively involved in footpath work and to take a lead to co-ordinate this where necessary.• Ability to work with a computer and to correspond by email.
What's in it for you:	This is an opportunity to use your organisation skills to help the Area achieve its goals. You will be working as part of a team and meeting lots of new faces.
Why you are needed:	To find out about developments that affect local rights of way, through local information sources such as the local highway authority rights of way team, and the planning authority, and through communications received from central office, and contact with local groups (both Ramblers and other highway users). To be aware of the footpath work of the various Groups and ensure that it is co-ordinated
What you could be doing:	Time, enthusiasm and local priorities will determine the way the work is undertaken, but examples are likely to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report footpath problems to local authority and monitor progress and any action taken. Look for opportunities to extend the footpath network.• Comment on local authority plans / strategies where they refer to walking (e.g. Rights of Way Improvement Plans) and comment on consultations which relate to changes to the network.• Collect evidence for the addition of paths to the definitive map and defend the status of existing recorded paths. Check proofs of OS Explorer maps.• Organise footpath surveys and liaise with Area Publicity Officer to publicise the results.
Resources:	Resources are available on the volunteer section of the Ramblers website www.ramblers.org.uk/volunteer . Extensive support is available from the Walking Environment Team at central office, on the phone or email and sometimes through staff visits. A detailed handbook is provided. Occasional training workshops are run.
Contact:	Walking Environment Team walking.environment@ramblers.org.uk / 020 7339 8584