

COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Do you enjoy spending time in the countryside? Why not volunteer and help manage your local rights of way.

Is there a footpath or right of way close to your home or have you got a favourite local walk or ride?

Would you like to play an active role in helping us manage Lincolnshire's public rights of way (PRoW) network?

If you answered 'yes' to these questions then you could be just the person we are looking for!

No previous experience or knowledge of rights of way is necessary as we will provide all the training, equipment and information you need.

Why volunteer with us?

- ◆ You will be making a difference to the rights of way network, a valuable asset for both local people and visitors to an area.
- ◆ You will be helping to keep the network open and easy to use.
- ◆ You can use your existing skills and develop new ones.
- ◆ You will gain a sense of achievement and be part of a network of like-minded people.
- ◆ You will explore and discover the Lincolnshire countryside.
- ◆ Walking/cycling and riding are excellent forms of exercise and can help keep you active and well.
- ◆ It's flexible – you can do it when it suits you and for as long as you want.

Why is it important to keep rights of way open and easy to use?

- ◆ They are an important asset for an area, allowing access to the countryside including many important historic and wildlife sites.
- ◆ They provide an opportunity for people to exercise (walk, run, cycle and ride) and spend time in the fresh air which is good for both mental and physical well being.
- ◆ They may attract visitors to area who want to explore the local countryside. In turn they may support local businesses (pubs, shops, cafes etc).
- ◆ They have a role to play in sustainable transport, being used for local journeys such as taking the children to school, visiting local shops and facilities.
- ◆ They are part of our heritage.

What does volunteering involve?

- ◆ Regularly checking local footpaths/bridleways or a promoted route to ensure they are open and easy to use.
- ◆ Replacing damaged waymarkers to ensure routes are easy to follow.
- ◆ Removing vegetation overhanging gates, bridges and stiles.
- ◆ Be the eyes and ears on the ground, reporting any problems you find to us.

Who will provide the equipment necessary?

We will provide you with any tools, materials and safety equipment you need for the time you volunteer with us (for example: maps, high visibility waistcoat, first aid kit, gloves, secateurs)

What about insurance and health & safety?

Lincolnshire county council apply the same standards of health and safety to authorised volunteers as employees.

Authorised volunteers will be covered by the Council's employee liability insurance.

We will provide you with risk assessments for the activities you undertake as a volunteer.

Who can volunteer?

Almost anyone over the age of 18. But please be aware that there may be uneven and muddy ground and stiles on some routes.

Do I need to know about the countryside and rights of way?

No. We can provide training as necessary, for example map reading, and will provide you with all the information you need.

Where will I be volunteering?

We hope that volunteers will survey rights of way and promoted routes close to their home, but there may be opportunities further afield.

How do I apply to become a countryside access volunteer?

If you would like to be a volunteer please complete the application form provided.