



The purpose of Path Wardens

To assist in keeping Oxfordshire's PRow network open for easy use.

What is this task about?

- Walking the paths in a parish and noting the state of the paths and any issues (problems) that you see.
- Doing light maintenance work involving hand tools, e.g. clipping/snipping away any vegetation encroaching on the PRow, particularly at stiles, bridges or gates and finger posts.
- Discussing any problems with others and trying to resolve them.
- Reporting any serious problems immediately, see Paragraph 11 B of the Main Guidelines
- Working within the Oxfordshire Ramblers Parish Path Warden Guidelines which have been agreed by the OCC Countryside Access Service, (CAS) www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/countryside

How will I know if an issue or problem has already been reported?

- The CAS publishes twice yearly reports of outstanding 'unresolved' issues/problems for each parish in Oxfordshire, normally in April and October. Your Local Coordinator will email a list which contains your parish to you. Scroll down to your parish and just print off the relevant page(s). You can then check your parish list to see if, in fact, the problem has been resolved.
See Paragraph 11 C of the Main Guidelines.

How will wardens be organised?

- Groups of wardens will have a volunteer Local Coordinator who will offer guidance and advice as necessary. The coordinator will aim to keep you up to date with any changes or developments requested by the CAS or Ramblers. He or she will also have a supply of waymark discs, and have a copy of the OCC unresolved path issues.
- The coordinator is invited to attend the local forum meetings with the Countryside Access Officers (CAOs) which occur twice a year, in the Spring and Autumn.
- It is up to the coordinator how many parishes he/she wishes to support.
- It is hoped that the coordinator would try to fill all the vacancies for his/her set of parishes.
- Each year there is usually a one-day training course available to all PPWs.

Will I be insured?

All PPWs are insured by the Ramblers Insurance provided they comply with the Guidelines agreed by the CAS. This includes non-members of the Ramblers. PPWs are insured against civil liability claims made by Third Parties and personal accident cover is included.

Countryside Access Officers (CAOs)

NE Oxfordshire	Tracy Sutton Tracy.sutton@oxfordshire.gov.uk
South East Oxfordshire	Jacqueline (Jackie) Smith 07584 581200 Jacqueline.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk
SW Oxon & Vale of White Horse	Arthur McEwan-James 07827 979205 arthur.mcewan-james@oxfordshire.gov.uk
West Oxfordshire	Katie Walther katie.walther@oxfordshire.gov.uk 0345 310 1111
Oxford City	Sarah Aldous sarah.aldous@oxfordshire.gov.uk 07860 330370

Principal Countryside Access Officer

Steve Tabbitt steve.tabbitt@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Countryside Access Team – current priority system

1. **Public Safety Incident** - where an accident has occurred resulting in injury to a person.
Public Safety Issue – with high likelihood of imminent accident resulting in serious injury.
- 2a. **Lesser Safety Issue** - with possibility of accident resulting in less severe injury.
- 2b. **Priority Repeat Process** – Higher priority maintenance tasks such as key vegetation clearance that comes up each year or more regularly.
- 2c. **Non-hazardous but significant or time-limited issue** – likely to completely obstruct access very soon or a major planning issue.
3. **Lesser hazard/lesser significance issue** – affects a PRow but does not completely obstruct it or may not be time-limited.
- 4a. **Area or bulk processing** – lower hazard or lower priority issue such as signing or furniture that can be packaged together with others.
- 4b. **Repeat process** – lower priority maintenance task such as less frequent vegetation clearance that comes up regularly.
- 4c. **Opportunity** – standalone improvement project or request.
5. **No Action intended/Record may be updated** – minor issues.

Recommended dimensions of Public Rights of Way

Codes	FP	BW	Byway	Note
Description	Footpath	Bridleway	BOAT Byways Open to All Traffic RB Restricted Byway	
access for	pedestrians (not cycles)	horses and cycles	(BOAT)All vehicles (RB) Restrictions can by seasonal and/or by vehicle type	Regardless of the access, Public rights of way are usually not surfaced
Min. height	2.5m	3.5m	3.5m	
Cross field width (*)	1m	2m	3m	
Field edge width (*)	1.5m	3m	3m	
Enclosed width (*)	2.5m	3,5m	3.5m	Right of way extends between boundary fences
Gate or gap width	1.2m	1.5m (+)	3m	
clear space to side of gate	1m	1m (pref. 1.8m)		No unguarded barbed wire or electric fence.
Notes (*) The width of certain rights of way are given in the Definitive Statement stiles = lower step max 1ft (300mm), stile max height 3ft (900mm) ditches = Are adjacent ditches clear so that surface water will drain away (+) Gates and posts on Bridleways. Clearance next to a gate should to allow rider to turn the horse when opening the gate (minimum is 9ft diameter). Posts should be rounded off All these dimensions are to be referred to when clipping back vegetation or if stiles are deteriorating or are newly installed by a landowner. OCC do not need to be told about width restrictions on existing rights of way.				

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