

Somersetshire Coal Canal Society

Role Description – Public Rights of Way Secretary

One of the Society's key objectives is to open the full length of the historic canal towpath as a long-distance path for walkers. Some sections of the towpath are already designated as public rights of way but other sections have been lost to the public. The Society has prepared and published a document called the 'Coal Canal Way' describing a walking route along those sections of the towpath where public access is currently allowed, utilising other public paths to form a continuous route where necessary.

The duties of the Public Rights of Way Secretary are to manage and promote the Coal Canal Way to the general public with the aim of increasing its use as a long-distance path. Duties include the following:

- To maintain the Coal Canal Way printed document, reflecting any changes to structures or topography that occur along its route
- To maintain stocks of the printed document, arranging for revisions and reprints whenever necessary. The potential for continuous improvement to the format and presentation should be considered at each reprint
- To publicise the Coal Canal Way in Social Media and other outlets to increase the public's awareness of its benefits
- To walk the route at intervals checking waymarks and replacing any that have been damaged or lost.
- To act as the Society's representative to the BANES Public Rights of Way Officers in regard of the footpaths used to access and to follow the Coal Canal Way, working with the officers to initiate footpath repairs or improvements where required
- To liaise with the Ordnance Survey to ensure that relevant public rights of way are accurately recorded.
- To liaise with Parish Councils for the area covered by the Coal Canal Way to gain access to the Definitive Maps for footpaths in that area and to ensure that relevant public rights of way are maintained.
- To pursue opportunities to create permissive paths along sections of the canal towpath which are not already designated as public rights of way.
- To act as the Society's representative with other interested bodies such as the Ramblers Association and organisations promoting walks such as the Limestone Link.