

Footpath Officer and Observer Structure and Organisation



Margaret Milsted-Williamson

WCR Parish Footpath Observers Co-ordinator

Recruits, communicates with and supports Parish Footpath Observers and ensures adequate coverage.

John Shale

WCR Vegetation Clearance Co-ordinator

Liaises with KCC and allocates tasks to the Vegetation Clearance team

Roger King

Local Footpath Officer (LFO) Co-ordinator for East Kent

Lead the regional team of LFO's. Provides general support and technical advice to LFO's and others and circulates pertinent information.

Organises regular meetings of the LFO network, including twice yearly with KCC PROW team. Frequent contact with local Highways Authorities. Recruitment of new LFO's. Monitors proposed footpath changes and significant planning concerns. Advise KCC PROW Manager of serious issues, eg those likely to escalate and require resolution by the Planning Inspectorate.

Andy Hutchinson
East Kent Area PROW Manager

Heather Waller
East Kent Area Officer PROW

Ed Denne
East Kent Area Officer PROW

Parish Footpath Observers

Cover the various Parishes and inspect the PROWs annually, report any issues to KCC and copy any vegetation clearance issues to John Shale. Liaise as appropriate with Ramblers Local Footpath Officer (LFO) for the parish (where appointed), and any other interested parties.

Vegetation Clearance Team

Survey and undertake necessary vegetation clearance when given approval from WCR Vegetation Co-ordinator John Shale.

Local Footpath Officers (LFOs)

Normally cover multiple parishes. LFOs receive information - essentially from KCC - on proposed extinguishments, diversions, creations and changes of status. Investigate their potential impact and make comments to KCC. Liaise with Co-ordinator where proposal seems unacceptable. Check for Planning Applications which may negatively impact on PROW. Walk paths in their parishes as time allows and report problems to KCC. Liaise with PFO's for their parishes, and their host Ramblers group as appropriate.

Countryside Access Wardens (CAWs)

Appointed, trained and formally accredited by KCC.

Not appointed for specific parishes but defined areas known to KCC so only relevant issues will be notified to them. Walk the paths and report problems. Carry out simple tasks to improve the network including minor vegetation clearance, erecting waymarks, adjusting KCC gates, minor repairs to stiles etc. Are able to act immediately on what they find, or choose specific tasks notified by KCC.