

The Sheffield Rambler



Claiming Rights of Way

We need to claim the following two paths as Rights of Way, or we will soon lose them. If you have used them for twenty years or more, we need your evidence of use.

Onesacre, Oughtibridge

This path is from off Wheel Lane, just south of the "Old School House". It enters a wooded area and goes along to Coumes Brook where it meets another public footpath (BRA/30A) coming up Coumes Brook. It then goes into Coumes Vale Plantation. Where it leaves Wheel Lane it is/was sign posted but was not put on the Definitive map. I personally have used it in excess of sixty years.

Wharncliffe Wood near Holmes Farm

Some time ago, we tried to claim a path from More Hall to Forestry Commission Woodland near Holmes Farm near Wharncliffe Wood.

However, this claim was halted because Network Rail closed the crossing and refused to reopen it when we requested them to do so. We have found another way of accessing Wharncliffe Wood nearby but it needs a claim for a footpath.

There is a path that leaves the main A6102 road at More Hall and goes easterly towards Holmes Farm, along the side of the Ewden Beck. If you go over the bridge towards the Forestry Commission woodland, but do not take the track to Holmes Farm, you find yourself on public access land. **This is where we need the claim - from the main road to here.** To eventually gain access to the greater Wharncliffe Wood on the other side of the railway line, there is a track running in a southerly direction that goes over a railway bridge onto Plank Gate and into Wharncliffe Wood. (It can be followed on your OS map.) Any "Private" or "No public right of way" signs can be ignored as the track was used well before any recent signs went up. As with the path in Oughtibridge, I have used this first section from the main road in excess of sixty years.

If you could make a claim to having used either of these paths for at least twenty years, please contact Dave Woodhead or myself for claim forms, or go direct to Sheffield Public Rights of Way Unit.

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THE COMMITTEE

Do you want to join us?

We need you

Read on and think it over

Two of our members have told us that they will stand down at the Annual General Meeting in November – Terry Howard, as Chair, and David Woodhead, as Footpaths Secretary. Both will stay involved in the Group, but we are looking for people to take on these specific roles from after the AGM.

This note is to set out what the jobs are, and what people can expect to get out of them.

Chair

The Chair's job is to chair meetings of the committee and the AGM. There are approximately 6 committee meetings each year, held, at the moment, on Monday afternoons. There is one AGM each year.

The Sheffield Group committee meetings are friendly and informal, and the new Chair will start from a good position, with a supportive, committed and friendly group of people.

The Chair's job involves:

- discussing the agenda with the Group Secretary and deciding the order of agenda items;
- getting the meeting started promptly and keeping the discussions 'on track' throughout the meeting;
- facilitating a culture of open, respectful discussion where all those who are keen to contribute are given the opportunity to do so;
- making sure that decisions are clear, and that everyone knows who will take them forward. (Normally decisions are based on a consensus, but where there is a vote, the Chair oversees the vote and has a casting vote.)

What you will get out of doing this job:

You will get a sense of achievement out of making sure that the wheels of the Group run smoothly, and that the Ramblers is effective in Sheffield and the surrounding area. You will meet and get to know other people involved in walking, whom you wouldn't necessarily otherwise meet.



Footpaths Secretary

The Footpaths Secretary's job involves:

- reviewing path orders and planning applications with the City Council, to protect the path network;
- surveying paths, reporting issues and chasing up the City Council to ensure that problems are addressed;
- providing advice to members of the public on how to report issues and chase them up;
- working with local authorities and other landowners to make sure that when they sell land, path additions are considered, and working on expanding the path network wherever possible and desirable;
- pursuing issues of local interest, such as paths under threat;
- reporting on work and involving the committee as a whole in it.

Work is on-going to seek out 'lost ways' and have them registered before the deadline of 2026. There is a specific group of people in the Sheffield Group working on this. The Footpaths Secretary will need to keep in touch with this work.

What we need in a Footpaths Secretary:

The new Footpaths Secretary will need to develop an understanding of Rights of Way legislation, but we can help with this. There are opportunities for training, a manual specifically for footpath volunteers, and support from people in the Group.

A Footpaths Secretary has to have an eye for detail, but also has to be able to work co-operatively with the Council and landowners, where that is the appropriate way forward.

What you will get out of doing this job:

Maintaining and improving the footpath network for all walkers is a central part of what the Ramblers does. As the Footpaths Secretary you will get a sense of achievement from playing a key role in this work. You will meet and get to know new people – not only other walkers, but also people from a whole range of different backgrounds and interests.

Rights Of Way: A Guide to Law and Practice



'The Blue Book'

