



Role Description

Footpath Friends

What do Footpath Friends do?

Footpath Friends help the Countryside Management Service (CMS) maintain safe and accessible promoted routes all over Hertfordshire. Volunteers become Footpath Friends to help monitor routes. For some, it might be that the route is of particular interest if for example the path is part of a regular walk.

Footpath Friends' observations are fed back to the CMS, and we in turn organise the necessary action. There are currently 16 promoted routes across Hertfordshire being looked after in this way, though there are many more opportunities.

When and where?

Volunteers monitor the condition of promoted routes at least twice a year. Wherever possible for convenience, volunteers can be assigned routes close to their home.

Induction process

Prospective volunteers will be sent a starter pack which explains the role, provides guidance on how to monitor routes, and other important information. Those who are interested will be asked to attend an informal office induction to discuss the opportunities available. If this is not possible, individuals can telephone or email the CMS to talk about the role. On completion of the registration forms, a route can be chosen from a selection of leafleted walks in the volunteers' chosen region, and the necessary materials and survey forms will be sent.

Benefits and support

Volunteers receive any necessary training to support their role, and resources such as maps and survey forms. Each volunteer has an allocated member of staff who is available to answer any queries and provide support where it is needed.

The CMS newsletter helps volunteers to keep up to date with projects and to find out about current CMS activity.

Agreed travel costs to and from training days can be claimed if volunteers are using public transport or their own vehicle. To do this, volunteers must fill in an Expenses Claim form (available on the CMS website or from the Area offices) and return it to their appointed member of staff. Valid tickets for public transport or VAT fuel receipts must be attached to the form.