

Title: **How Areas and Groups relate**



Reference: GOV002

Introduction

Every Ramblers Group belongs to an Area. In total there are 57 Areas across England, Scotland and Wales. In England, the Areas correspond broadly to county boundaries. In Wales and Scotland, some Areas can cover larger territories.

Each Area is responsible for its Groups

Below is a list of some of the responsibilities that Areas holds over their Groups

- The Area approves the constitutions of its Groups
- The Area authorises the establishment of a new Group
- The Area can recommend the closure of an existing Group
- The Area co-ordinates the funds available to Groups
- The Area makes decisions in any disputed interpretations of Ramblers policy

The Area is a representation of all the local Groups together. This relationship demands a certain accountability of groups to their Area. Some Areas like to encourage closer contacts, for instance, by encouraging Groups to copy the minutes of their meetings to an Area contact. Groups should keep their Areas informed of their activities. Areas require a short report of activities and financial accounts from each Group each year.

A Ramblers Area is governed by an Area Council. This body is made up predominantly of representatives from each Group. In some larger Areas, where the Council is particularly large, the Area Council will elect a smaller committee to run the Area. This is usually called the Area Executive Committee. The structure is such, therefore, that the management of the Area is in the hands of the constituent Groups.

Every year the Area is required to hold an AGM open to all members. It is here that the committee members are elected and an account is given of the Area activities that year.

