

Path maintenance insurance fact sheet

The Ramblers provide liability and personal accident insurance to cover path maintenance teams and footpath wardens.

To be covered by Ramblers insurance, you'll need to follow these conditions.

Activities covered:

- Clearing vegetation from the line of the path – or immediately to the side if it's likely to block the path as it grows.
- Constructing, repairing, or removing:
 - Gates
 - Steps
 - Boardwalks
 - Simple bridges
 - Stiles
- Work on path surfaces or drainage
- Putting up signposts and waymarks

Power tools covered:

- Strimmers and brush cutters
- Lawnmowers
- Power secateurs
- Hedge trimmers
- Hand-held drills, impact drivers and electric screwdrivers
- Chainsaws (only if you hold a current relevant qualification and wear appropriate protective clothing).

Path wardens:

Path wardens are covered for light vegetation clearance and installing waymarkers.



Remember – in order to volunteer, your role needs to be recorded on our system. Check your volunteer roles here:

<https://ramblers.goassemble.com>

What do I need to do?

Before you start

- ✔ **You must get permission from the person or organisation responsible for the path before you start work.**

This is usually the local highway authority (for public rights of way in England and Wales), or landowner (for other paths, including most paths in Scotland).

In some cases, responsibility for maintenance may be delegated to another organisation such as a parish or community council, or countryside trust.

- ✔ **Make sure everyone is recorded on our system** as a path maintenance volunteer or footpath warden.
- ✔ **Check the work you're planning to do is covered by the insurance** (see Activities and Power tools covered).
- ✔ **Make sure anyone under 18 is supervised** by a parent, guardian or nominated adult at all times. This person can't be the team leader.
- ✔ **Make sure the activity can be carried out safely**, by assessing the risks and taking any steps you need to take to manage them. This includes:

- Checking the work site for potential hazards
- Making sure that everyone has the right protective gear, skills & training
- Checking that tools are in good condition



Your local authority may provide a risk assessment template – or you can use our [health & safety checklist](#)



Please also let us know about your work, so we can share your success with other Ramblers members and supporters!

Send reports and photos to volunteersupport@ramblers.zendesk.com

While you're working

- ✔ **You must take steps to ensure that the activity is carried out safely.** This means taking any necessary actions to minimise the risks you identify beforehand – for example, wearing protective clothing and high-vis vests.
- ✔ More than one person must be present for any activity involving **heavy lifting, sawing or power tools.**

When you've finished

You need to show that you have carried out the work safely and completed it to a good standard.

- ✔ **Get your work signed off** by the local authority (for public rights of way in England and Wales) or landowner (for other paths, including those in Scotland).
Use the [path maintenance sign-off sheet](#) – or the local authority's own form if they have one.
If the local authority officer or landowner isn't with you – fill in the sign-off form and return it to them with dated photos of the work.
- ✔ **Keep good records of your health and safety checklists and sign-off sheets.** Our insurers request that all activity is risk assessed – one person should be responsible for filing everything.

Related guidance:

- **Guide to Ramblers Insurance**
This guide explains in more detail who and what is covered by our insurance.
- **Path maintenance sign-off form**
Use this form to get your work signed off by the local authority if they don't have their own form.
- **Path maintenance health & safety checklist**
Go through this checklist before starting work, to make sure that you and your team are working safely.