

Somersetshire Coal Canal Society

Role Description – Landowner Liaison and PRow Secretary

The historic route of the northern arm of the Somersetshire Coal Canal crosses the property of around eighty landowners. Many, but not all, of those landowners welcome and actively support the Society's aims to restore this route to water. The key role of the Landowner Liaison and PRow Secretary is to establish positive connections with as many of those landowners as possible, whether they are supporters of our objectives or not.

An additional objective of the Society is to open the full length of the historic canal towpath as a long-distance path for walkers. Some sections of the towpath are already designated as public rights of way (PRow) but other sections have been lost to the public. The Society has prepared and published a document called the 'Coal Canal Way' describing a walking route along those sections of the towpath where public access is currently allowed, utilising other public paths to form a continuous route where necessary.

The duties of the Landowner Liaison and PRow Secretary are to maintain positive contact with those landowners along the route of the northern arm of the SCC and to manage and promote the Coal Canal Way with the aim of increasing its use as a long-distance path.

Duties include the following:

- To form a positive connection with as many landowners as possible, establishing a productive dialogue with them concerning the Society's objectives and plans.
- To maintain a database of land holdings and landholders along the route, including landowner contact details, and recording their level of support for our objectives.
- To maintain the Coal Canal Way (CCW) printed document, reflecting any changes to structures or topography that occur along its route
- To maintain stocks of the printed document, arranging for revisions and reprints whenever necessary. The potential for continuous improvement to the format and presentation should be considered at each reprint
- To walk the CCW route at intervals checking waymarks and replacing any that have been damaged or lost.
- To act as the Society's representative to the BANES Public Rights of Way Officers in regard of the footpaths used to access and to follow the Coal Canal Way, working with the officers to initiate footpath repairs or improvements where required
- To liaise with the Ordnance Survey to ensure that relevant public rights of way are accurately recorded.
- To liaise with Parish Councils for the area covered by the Coal Canal Way to gain access to the Definitive Maps for footpaths in that area and to ensure that relevant public rights of way are maintained.
- To pursue opportunities to create permissive paths along sections of the canal towpath which are not already designated as public rights of way.
- To act as the Society's representative with other interested bodies such as the Ramblers Association and organisations promoting walks such as the Limestone Link.