Volunteer Role Profile
Both National Landscapes

Promoted Route Volunteer

Role description

The **Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley** (DVSV) promote several circular walks in the Stour Valley as well as the 60-mile Stour Valley Path, a long-distance footpath which runs between Newmarket in the West and Cattawade (near Manningtree) in the East.

The **Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape** (CH) team promote and waymark several circular 'Explorer' walks as well as 3 long distance routes, The Suffolk Coast Path (Lowestoft to Felixstowe), The Stour and Orwell Walk (Felixstowe to Cattawade) and The Sandlings Walk (Ipswich to Southwold).

Promoted Route Volunteers check sections of the above walks/routes (twice a year in DVSV and annually in CH), looking out for obstructions, vandalism, erosion etc. They may undertake some simple maintenance, such as cutting back overhanging vegetation, replacing missing waymark discs etc. Depending on the nature of the problems found, these are reported by the volunteer to the relevant local authority or to colleagues within the National Landscapes, who will arrange for the problem to be sorted out or.

Key Responsibilities and Attitudes

- Walk a circular route or allocated section of the Stour Valley Path, Suffolk Coast Path, Stour & Orwell Walk or Sandlings Walk on a regular basis (at least twice a year for DVSV; annually for CH).
- Check the walk/route for obstructions, vandalism, erosion etc.
- Report problems to colleagues within the AONB's, who will arrange for the problem to be rectified **or** send to the relevant local authority via internet/e mail/phone.
- Photograph any problems and add to your report.
- Be willing to solve small problems there and then e.g. cutting back minimal amounts of vegetation from around signage and along the route. Replacing waymark discs (and posts if willing!).
- Be a positive ambassador for the National Landscapes and Stour Valley.
- Be aware of and responsible for own health and safety whilst out walking.
- Work constructively with other volunteers, staff and landowners.

Volunteer Requirements

- Ability to walk up to 10 miles/16km over rough ground in all weathers.
- Ability to read and interpret OS Explorer and Landranger Maps and complete survey forms.
- Ability to reach the start and finish point of the allocated route.

Time Commitment and practical requirements
The requirement of this role is that the volunteer assigned to each circular route or section of a longer linear route checks that section at least 2 times per year (DVSV) or once a year (CH). It would also be beneficial if the volunteer took a reactive approach to their role – for example walking the path/route after a period of windy weather to check for fallen branches.

As circular routes and sections of the longer linear routes are approximately 4-7 miles it could take 4-5 hours to undertake the route check.