

Cotswold Voluntary Wardens – Work Parties and Parish Wardening

Dear Chair,

As you know, the situation with coronavirus (COVID-19) is changing rapidly and the government has issued guidance on the social distancing measures we should all take to reduce the risk of getting/passing on this virus.

All Cotswold Voluntary Wardens have been advised that all work parties on footpaths, bridleways and dry-stone walling will continue to be suspended until further notice, even small numbers carrying out minor works. This is also in line with County Council, Highways and other bodies such as the Wildlife Trust, National Trust's and Ramblers advice for volunteer activity.

Although Parish Wardening, checking for problems on Rights of Way, was initially unaffected, the Cotswolds Conservation Board has needed to revise their previous advice to Wardens. Therefore, following the latest Government advice to stay at home and not travel unless necessary, we will not be supporting parish wardening unless it forms part of a Warden's daily walk directly from their home, if the Warden wants to venture out.

Many of the Wardens are disappointed, as we are outgoing individuals who love working in the countryside but, in the circumstances, we must follow government guidelines.

Please remain in contact with me on any Rights of Way issues in the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that are reported to your office, and I will update you when the situation changes. We look forward to when things return to normal.

Parish Warden