



Countryside Access:
Effective Volunteer Management
APSE Parks and Open Spaces Seminar
30th November 2017





“Through interpretation, understanding...

Through understanding, appreciation...

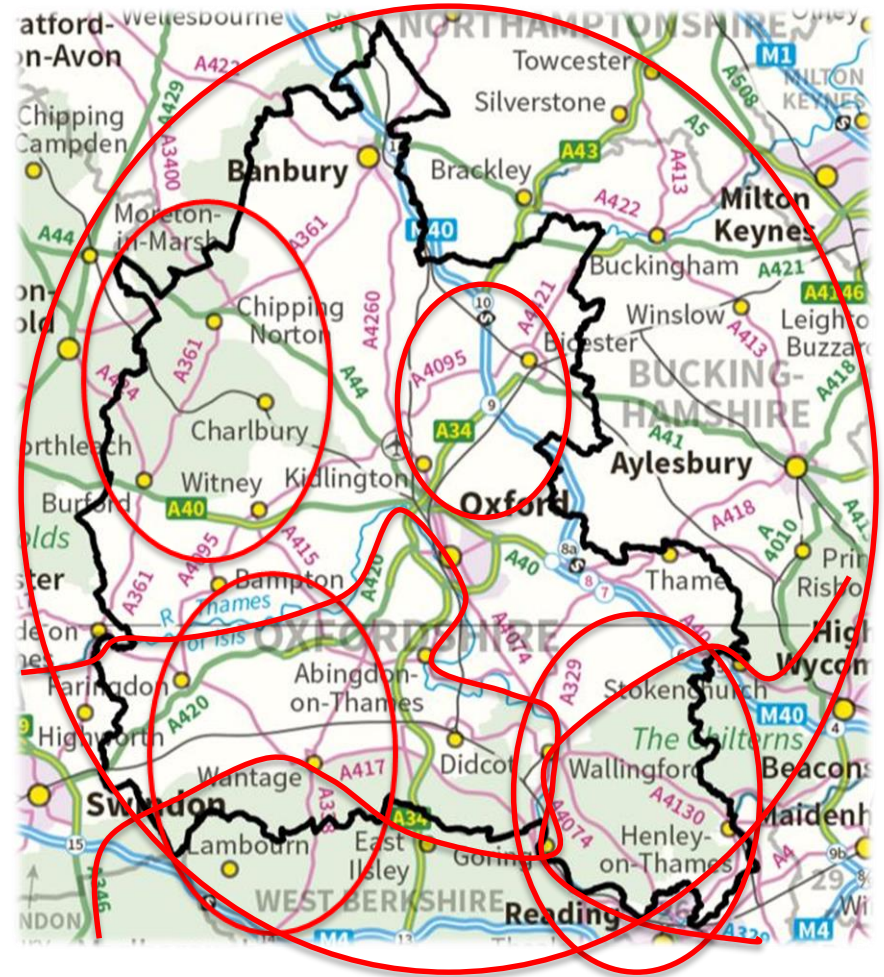
Through appreciation, protection.”

Anon, US National Park manual

As quoted in ‘Interpreting Our Heritage’, Freeman Tilden, 1957

Who are Oxfordshire's path volunteers?

- South Chilterns Path Maintenance Volunteers
- Cotswold Wardens
- Vale Path Volunteers
- Blitz 'n' Clean
- Thames Path National Trail
- Ridgeway National Trail
- Parish Path Wardens
- **Over 600 and counting...**





What do they do?

- Workparties
- Patrolling and reporting
- Guided walks
- Interpretation
- Eyes and ears
- Back office
- Statistics...

Summary of SCPMV work completed for the eight years 2009 to 2016

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Volunteer hours worked onsite *	1898	2166	1931	1994	1745	1890	1479	1801
Hours spent on gate work **					883	750	584	893
Hours on path mowing/clearance					460	786	397	451
Wooden kissing gates installed	11	13	14	25	17	13	14	16
Metal kissing gates installed	14	11	8	4	8	2	1	5
Non-kissing gates installed	5	8	6	3	8	5	4	6
Total gates installed	30	32	28	32	34	20	19	27
Waymark posts installed	32	19	55	35	16	28	24	56
Paths mown/cleared (km)	7.86	30.46	14.79	11.48	23.03	19.65	11.83	11.06
Fallen trees cleared						16	20	15

* Includes a nominal time for the Tools Quartermaster duties (tool maintenance; transport to worksites, etc.).

** In addition to gate installations, this includes gate maintenance and repairs. In addition, from the start of 2016 this total also includes off-site Postsaver sleeving work.



How do they do it?

- Staff input
- Importance of stats
- Recruitment
- Succession planning
- Volunteers aren't free!





Why do they do it?

- Countryside
- Working together
- Involvement
- Protection
- Thanks?





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Through appreciation, protection.”

Any questions?

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