

Role Information

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Trail Watchers

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Working Together

In the past, Somerset's Rights of Way Team has received a huge amount of help from people who have informally kept an eye on their local rights of way network. Local people know their rights of way network intimately and our Trail Water role offers you an opportunity to get actively involved and work in partnership with us to help keep Somerset's some 6000km rights of way network easy to use for everyone to enjoy. We appreciate you are volunteering to help us look after your local rights of way network and we understand that some volunteers will be able to spare more time than others. Any help you can offer will be greatly appreciated. However, it's important to highlight the tasks that will be the most valuable contribution to the scheme to enable you to make the most of your role.

Role Title Trail Watcher volunteer

Main Activity

Willing to commit to:

- Regularly (3-4 times per year) walk your adopted path(s)
- Carry out regular light cutting back vegetation from around gates, stiles, bridges, way mark posts and signposts etc.
- Promote responsible use of the public rights of way network through observing the Countryside Code
- Via Explore Somerset report to Somerset's Rights of Way Team any problems encountered on local rights of way
- Record the hours you spend volunteering

In addition, you may also wish to:

- Liaise with other volunteers in your local area
- Also become an Adopt a Path volunteer

What we don't expect Adopt a Path volunteers to:

- Put yourself in danger
- Be a rights of way expert
- Cut back plants or vegetation in private gardens. If a path suffers from vegetation encroachment in a private garden please contact us.
- Enter into discussion or correspondence with landowners, farmers or rights of way users in matters involving rights of way legislation. We will give you the contacts you may need to refer those who have interest.

Location

County wide, look at our interactive map Explore Somerset and find what path(s) you would like to adopt. You don't have to live near by the path(s) you choose – just remember you need to be able to walk them regularly.

Time Commitment

The role has been designed to be flexible for you. When choosing path(s) you want to adopt you must think about what time you can commit on a regular basis. Maybe build up your adopted paths over time with capability and fitness or keep the same paths – up to you.

Duration

Ongoing, you can increase or decrease your adopted path(s) as you wish to suit your time commitment.

Skills/Ability needed

- A love of the outdoors and a keen eye
- Willing to work outdoors
- Enthusiasm and ability to use secateurs!

What's in it for you?

- Being able to help people to continue to enjoy using rights of way
- Getting out and about, being active in the Somerset countryside or on urban paths
- There may be the opportunity to join other volunteers depending on existing volunteer coverage in your area
- Full support and guidance from the Volunteer and Trails Officer or Area Warden as appropriate
- A volunteer newsletter issued three times a year