

# Role Information

## Somerset Strimmer Scheme



### ***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 Somerset Strimmer 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. Our partners in this scheme are the respective parish council as they part fund your training for this role. 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** Somerset Strimmer volunteer

### **Main Activity**

Willing to commit to:

- Attending and passing a recognised competent persons training course for brush cutter and trimmer operation and maintenance
- Carrying out regular vegetation clearance works with a brush cutter or trimmer on public rights of way with the intention of reducing the need for your Area Warden to spend resources on contractors for vegetation clearance
- Liaising with the Area Warden and Parish Council on vegetation clearance
- Following control measures to comply with safety precautions
- Sharing machinery and kit with other parishes as necessary
- Promote responsible use of the public rights of way network through observing the Countryside Code
- Record the hours you spend volunteering

In addition, you may also wish to:

- Liaise with members of the public for vegetation reports
- Liaise with other volunteers in your local area

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 which is not usual seasonal growth or 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

### **Time Commitment**

The role has been designed to be flexible for you but please consider that one of the main activities is to reduce the amount of resources Area Wardens spend on vegetation clearance with contractors.

### **Duration**

Ongoing

### **Skills/Ability needed**

- The capability to use and maintain a brush cutter / trimmer
- A love of the outdoors and a keen eye
- Willing to work outdoors and on difficult terrain

### **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
- Insurance cover Third Party Liability and also Personal Accident Cover for persons up to the age of 75 years old. Any person over 75 will receive Third Party Liability only.
- Full training in partnership with the Parish Council, kit and equipment provided.
- Reimbursement for fuel costs from the SCC is available if it is not available from the Parish Council
- 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