

RIGHTS OF WAY Work Experience Scheme

discover
experience
explore

co-ordinators guide



Somerset County Council's Rights of Way Team is able to offer your students an exciting work experience placement with a difference. By joining our team they will be encouraged to:-

Discover...

Their potential by being part of Somerset's award winning County Council.

The County Council is one of the county's major employers. Over 17,000 work in County Hall and in other local offices, schools and libraries across Somerset.

Somerset County Council is regarded as one of the best County Councils in the country. In recognition of our commitment to build a Somerset that everyone can share and enjoy, we've won various awards including the national "Best Achieving Council of the Year" award.

Experience...

What it's like working for Somerset's Rights of Way Team.

Somerset's Rights of Way Team is able to offer your students a varied and challenging work placement. They will experience for real what it's like to be a Rights of Way Officer. One day they could be out with our Rangers installing a new bridleway gate or helping us to update our innovative new website. The next they could be surveying the nationally acclaimed Coleridge Way, or helping to decipher a historical map to see if a public right of way exists over someone's land.



Here's who your students could be working with:-

Rights of Way Rangers - Our Rights of Way Rangers work outside in all weathers maintaining and improving Somerset's network of paths. The work they carry out is varied. They can be out working with volunteers repairing a broken stile or installing a new gate one day, the next they could be installing a new bridge or resurfacing an eroded path.

Maintenance Officers - Our Maintenance Officers work with people who have paths crossing their land. They're often out offering advice how best to keep paths open or resolving problems that may have been caused by someone leaving a gate open, allowing their dog to run loose in a field with sheep, or wandering off a path because it is not easy to follow on the ground. Our Maintenance Officers also work with groups interested in public paths including the Ramblers Association and British Horse Society.

Enforcement Officers - Sometimes we may receive reports that a path is blocked by a locked gate, a new fence or crops like maize and wheat. Our Enforcement Officers investigate all these reports and work with people with paths crossing their land so they can be reopened.

Legal Events Officers - The County Council look after a document called the Definitive Map. If a path is shown on the definitive map, the public have a right to use it. However, we need to make sure the Definitive Map is up to date and so our Legal Events Officers examine historical documents to decide if a path should be added to or removed from it.

Policy and Strategy Officers - We are constantly looking for ways to provide a network of public paths that best meets the current and future needs of the people of Somerset and visitors alike. A key document our Policy and Strategy Officers have been working on is called the Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The Plan explains how we propose to improve the provision of public paths in Somerset for walkers, horse riders, cyclists, and those with mobility difficulties such as wheelchair users.

Explore...

Somerset's beautiful countryside.

Walking, riding and cycling are three of the most popular recreational activities in the county. By making sure Somerset's public paths are open and easy to use, everyone taking part in our Work Experience Scheme will be playing a crucial role helping to make Somerset a healthier and safer place to live, work and visit.

Who can take part in the scheme?

The scheme has been designed to appeal to year 10-12 students looking for up to a week's work experience. However, anyone over 14 years old can take part. All we ask is they're enthusiastic about working in the great outdoors and are considering a career in countryside management.

The Rights Of Way team is involved in a variety of activities. Some are office based, but we do spend a lot of time outdoors carrying out physical tasks, often in remote rural locations. If you know any of your students have any disability or medical condition that we need to take into account, please ensure they let us know when they fill out their application form. Wherever possible, we will make reasonable adjustments so they can take an active part in our Work Experience Scheme.

Has the scheme been risk assessed?

Yes. A copy of the Risk Assessment is included in your Information Pack. The Risk Assessment has been prepared in consultation with Somerset County Council's Health and Safety Team and endorsed by Somerset's Education Business Partnership. All staff accompanying placements out on site are CRB checked to an enhanced level and suitably first aid trained.

How do students apply to take part?

Students can apply by completing a short and simple application form. Forms are provided in this pack or can be downloaded from www.somerset.gov.uk/rightsofway The application form can be returned either by post or by email.

how to find out more

You can find out more about Somerset County Council's Rights of Way Work Experience Scheme or get hold of application forms by:-



Telephoning 01823 358250. Ask to speak to our Rights of Way Volunteer and Trails Officer, Andy Stevenson



Emailing Andy astevenson@somerset.gov.uk



Visiting our website. www.somerset.gov.uk/rightsofway

Completed application forms can be emailed online or posted to:-

Andy Stevenson
Rights of Way Volunteer &
Trails Officer
Rights of Way Team
Somerset County Council
County Hall
Taunton
TA1 4DY



This document is also available in Braille, large print, on tape and on disc.



Explore...
Somerset's beautiful countryside.