



Pioneering Skills

An insight into a skills programme for Exmoor



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Exmoor Pioneers: past, present and future

A four-year landscape programme which aims to connect people with the natural and cultural heritage of the Royal Forest of Exmoor

- Restoring and enriching nature
- Conserving our heritage
- Telling the stories of this amazing place
- Ensuring that we have the skills to look after Exmoor

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The challenge

- Declining and ageing population
- Lack of available labour for some businesses
- Limited uptake of heritage skills needed to look after the landscapes we love
- Limited awareness of the careers on the moor, or of how to get the experience needed to land a job
- Young people with special educational needs and disabilities face even greater challenges
- Many young people do not see a future for themselves on Exmoor

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Exmoor Pioneers Skills Programme



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Funded Traineeships

- Entry level jobs
- Focus on emerging skills gaps in areas critical to caring for Exmoor or preserving its heritage
- Prioritising young people aged 18-25
- 6-12 months long
- Paid at 21+ National Living Wage
- Currently looking for employers specialised in heritage skills who would like to host a trainee
- e.g. dry-stone walling, Devon hedging, traditional plastering, blacksmithing, thatching, cob building etc.



Exmoor Supported Internships

- Study programme for young people aged 18-25 with special educational needs and disabilities, vulnerabilities, or experiencing disadvantage
- Focus on helping young people achieve their employment goals while meeting real business needs
- Enrolled on a full-time course and supported by an educational provider
- Work placement for approx. 4 days a week
- Assigned an expert job coach who provides personalised support
- Unpaid
- Additional funding support (e.g. for transport) may be available through Access to Work
- Currently looking for employers in any sector (tourism, farming, manufacturing etc) who would like to host an intern

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Exmoor Pioneers Skills Programme



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Photo by Sarah Halstone



How you can be part of this journey?

- **Heritage construction and craft firms** – looking for hosts for **funded trainees**
- All employers – could you host a **supported intern?**
- Consider your business' role in **careers education**
- Understand the **support** available



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Exmoor Pioneers

Past
Present
Future

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Useful resources and contacts

Opportunities for young people: if you know of a young person aged approx. 14-25 who'd be interested in hearing about opportunities (including volunteering, training, events, newsletter and early career jobs) from Exmoor National Park, please invite them to sign up using this form <https://forms.office.com/e/84VV5pkpCn6>

Supported internships: if you are interested in hearing more and potentially hosting a young person as part of the Exmoor Supported Internship programme, please contact Deanne Mahony Supported Employment Lead Somerset Council deanne.mahony@somerset.gov.uk and Philippa Hill Exmoor Pioneers Coordinator ENPA phill@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Funded traineeships: if you are a heritage construction or craft firm interested in hosting a trainee, please contact Philippa phill@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

For advice on anything related to skills: visit <https://skillupsomerset.org.uk/> or email Marie Howard Apprenticeship & Skills Adviser m.howard@skillupsomerset.org.uk

To learn more about opportunities for your business to engage in careers education: visit the Careers and Employment Company's national website to explore opportunities and access resources <https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/employers/engage-with-education/> and then visit either the Somerset Careers Hub <https://www.somersetcareershubs.co.uk/> (email: careershubs@somerset.gov.uk) or the Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Careers Hub <https://www.dptcareershubs.co.uk/> (email: careershubs@devon.gov.uk) for county-specific advice and opportunities.