



Exmoor National Park Authority
Recruitment Pack
Ranger Apprentice
(L2 Countryside Worker)



Working
together
for **Exmoor**

Welcome Message

Thank you for your interest in this apprenticeship with Exmoor National Park Authority. We are looking for an Apprentice to join our Ranger Team working alongside staff from across the organisation.

What makes Exmoor National Park such a special place? A unique landscape of moorland, woodland, valleys, and farmland, shaped by people and nature over thousands of years. Where high cliffs plunge into the Bristol Channel. On Exmoor, it is still possible to find tranquillity and peace as well as rediscover your sense of adventure, to catch a glimpse of wild red deer, be amazed by dark skies full of stars, and explore villages full of character.

Our vision is to ensure Exmoor National Park has a thriving living landscape and is a place where people can enjoy and benefit from Exmoor's special qualities and sustainable communities. Our Access and Recreation team play a key role in the achievement of this by ensuring our Rights of Way network and estate, nature recovery and heritage are well-managed.

We have a fantastic staff team who are skilled and committed to the best outcomes for Exmoor. If you can demonstrate a practical aptitude, a willingness to learn and to work hard, and have an interest in the countryside and the National Park, then I hope you will explore these pages further and apply for this post.

If you would like an informal discussion about the position, please contact Dan Barnett, Access and Recreation Manager, on 01398 322256.

We look forward to hearing from you.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bryan', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Bryan
Chief Executive

Background Information



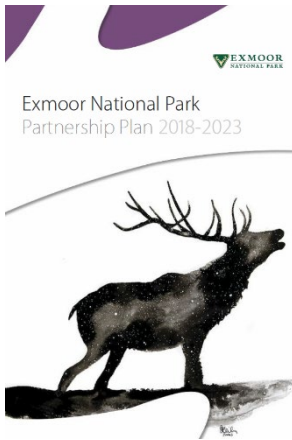
Exmoor is one of 15 National Parks in the UK. They are areas of protected countryside that everyone can visit and where people live, work and shape their landscapes.

Exmoor was designated as a National Park in 1954. Since then, the co-ordination of work to achieve National Park purposes in the area has been undertaken by local government, and since 1997 by a free-standing Exmoor National Park Authority.

Exmoor National Park Authority works to achieve the two National Park purposes:

"To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park"

"To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public"



In delivering National Park purposes, the Authority has a duty to help to foster the social and economic wellbeing of local communities.

There are 22 Members on the Authority Committee which meets up to 12 times a year – 5 parish members, 2 district council members, 8 unitary members, 2 county council members, and 5 Secretary of State appointed members.



For further information about the National Park Authority:

Go to our website www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Our Staff

We employ a staff team of around 80 undertaking a range of functions that support owners and managers of land and heritage assets; people who live, work, and run businesses in the National Park; and people who make use of the opportunities for learning and enjoyment, both residents and visitors alike.

Our support staff within Finance, Corporate support, IT, HR, and Member support help provide the infrastructure and support that is essential to delivering our priorities for Exmoor. In addition, we have staff engaged in partnership projects and seasonal work.



The Ranger Apprentice sits within the wider Access, Engagement and Estates section, and will support a range of activities across the organisation.

As a small organisation, we work across all Sections and Teams drawing on the skills, knowledge, experience, and professionalism of our colleagues, to deliver our purposes and the aims of our current Corporate Strategy:

1. A clear response to the nature and climate crises.
2. A welcoming place for all, improving people's health and well-being.
3. A cared for landscape and heritage.
4. A place of flourishing, vibrant communities, and businesses.
5. A highly performing estate, delivering National Park purposes.
6. A great organisation to work for.

As part of the National Park family, we also benefit from a wider network of professionals.

Working for us

Our head office is based in the town of Dulverton, set in a beautiful, wooded valley, beside the river Barle. Other sites include the Exford Depot based in the rural village of Exford, our Pinkery Centre for Outdoor Education based on a wild and open moorland near Simonsbath, and our National Park Centres – one in Dulverton, one in the historic village of Dunster, and one in the seaside town of Lynmouth.

We provide an annual leave allowance plus a pro rata entitlement to bank holidays, a pension scheme, paid sickness leave, parental leave, time off for dependents, time off to attend dentist, doctor and hospital appointments, and compassionate leave opportunities.



We are a Mindful Employer that is 'Positive about Mental Health' and raises awareness of mental health in the workplace. We have trained Mental Health First Aiders and a 24/7 independent and confidential employee helpline. Managers and staff will also attend training opportunities to increase their awareness of mental health in the workplace.

You will have an induction to help you to learn more about the organisation, your area of work and the work undertaken by other sections. We also try and arrange for you to spend time with a colleague which is an opportunity for Exmoor to be explored. Your manager will support you in developing your skills and you are encouraged to feedback on your progress.

This support continues through regular reviews.

We try to hold two staff study days a year and this is an opportunity to get together with your colleagues across the Authority to learn and see something new about Exmoor.



The Society for National Parks Staff (SNPS) is a group that all National Parks employees can join for only £5 a year. There are opportunities to take part in activities to develop your knowledge of National Parks, whilst having fun and building new friendships.

Role details

JOB TITLE: Ranger Apprentice (Countryside Worker)

REPORTS TO: Access and Recreation Manager

SECTION: Access, Engagement and Estates

Placement base:

Exmoor House, Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9HL

Duration:

Up to 16 months

Hours:

Hours of work can be variable:

37 hours per week: 9.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday (includes one day per week of study time).

When working at the Field Services Depot, Exford, Minehead, TA24 7PP, hours of work will be Monday to Thursday, 7.30am to 4.00pm

Pay and other benefits:

- £8.50 per hour in the 12 months, rising to £10.00 per hour thereafter.
- Support to build a portfolio of nationally recognised certification and gain practical training and experience. The L2 Countryside Worker Apprenticeship is delivered through Bridgwater and Taunton College.
- You will automatically be enrolled in the Local Government Pension Scheme (if eligible), but you may choose to opt out.
- An annual leave allowance plus bank holidays.

Outline of the apprenticeship:

- The successful applicant will join the National Park Authority's Ranger Team and be involved in estate maintenance and inspections, public access management, public engagement activities, nature recovery and heritage conservation project work.
- The apprenticeship will provide a learning opportunity for those seeking their first paid position within practical estate/countryside management.
- It is anticipated that the post holder will normally work 4 days per week and have 1 day per week on average to complete their college-based studies (remote). Arrangements will be agreed on starting. Time off will also be given for two separate blocks of one-week to attend training at the college.

Requirements

- Willingness to learn and develop new skills, knowledge and qualifications.
- A strong work ethic – a natural desire to achieve a good output of work to a high standard.
- Willingness to suggest new ideas and ways of working to improve efficiency and quality of service.
- Able to find practical solutions to problems.
- A sufficient level of literacy and numeracy to follow written instructions, understand maps and plans and to keep necessary records.
- Able to work as part of a team and willing to assist colleagues and work flexibly across the whole of the service.

- Able to carry out a physically demanding role, working outdoors on all types of terrain and in all weathers, often in remote locations.
- Able to assess risks and carefully follow agreed procedures.
- An interest in the countryside and the National Park.
- Ideally, the post holder will have a full manual driving licence.
- You will be required to work one weekend in four and occasional late or early hours.

All staff working outdoors are reminded of the necessity to protect themselves from the risk of tetanus infection. Staff are advised to check whether they are currently protected and seek preventative measures from their own doctor before taking up this or similar roles.

How to apply

Please download the application form from our website and email your completed form to hr@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Please note that we do not accept CVs.

If you want to apply in a different way, please email hr@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk or telephone Dan Barnett, details given on page 2 of this document.

[Note: the offices are closed from midday on 24 December 2024 and re-open on 2 January 2025]

The closing date for applications is midnight on 15 January 2025.