

Business: Talent

Case Study: Exmoor National Park

Student: Jonathan Carter
Biology, University of Exeter

Challenge

To conduct a literature review on control techniques for the amount of Bracken and Gorse growing on the moors. The National Park needed a report on current techniques, views and opinions that would form the basis for suggested solutions to the problem. Using field mapping techniques, desk research and interviewing land owners, Jonathan had to collect information about the current understanding and methods for combating the continual growth of the Gorse and Bracken on vast landscapes.

Project Impact

- Report prepared and distributed to land owners and farmers
- Greater insight into problematic issues and developed a better understanding of scientific solutions

Student Development

- Insight into using biology in a real life setting
- Improvement in compiling in-depth scientific reports
- Building confidence in doing research interviews
- Practise at presenting a range of ideas to a relatively large audience
- Acquisition of scientific methods and ideas from around the world by communicating with scientists from international locations

“ Jonathan looked at how invasive vegetation - especially gorse and bracken - might best be managed and his research report has been shared with farmers and land managers and has been welcomed as a valuable contribution to this topical debate. We get a large number of students seeking placements with us but find that working through the Shell Step scheme is a very effective and efficient way of selecting applicants to work with us. ”

Graham Wills
Head of Park Management

“ The project was highly relevant to climate change and other very topical and interesting issues which made it enjoyable and interesting at the same time. I found communicating with scientists from across the globe an extremely valuable experience that increased my knowledge and awareness of a whole new range of scientific information. ”

Jonathan Carter



Shell Step is designed to help organisations develop their potential by utilising the skills of undergraduates during their summer vacations at an affordable cost. Participating organisations benefit from having the skills and enthusiasm of a bright and intelligent undergraduate focused on a specific project. The benefits are twofold: The host organisation gains a fresh perspective from a dedicated, hard working individual; the student gains the experience of putting theory into practise.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact: Jane Gill, Employer Liaison Officer, Careers and Employment Service, The University of Exeter, Kay Building, North Park Road, Exeter EX4 4DF. Telephone 01392 263844 Email j.gill@exeter.ac.uk
View current projects and placements at: www.exeter.ac.uk/business

Contact us for further information

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