

Coastal Change Pathfinder Project Officer (18 month Fixed term post)

Dorchester

Ref: 61001024

£22,221 - £26,276

Change on the Jurassic Coast is a dynamic process, and has produced spectacular landforms and features whose importance was recognised in 2001 with the inscription of the Dorset and East Devon coast as a World Heritage Site. Far from 'destroying' the Jurassic Coast, erosion and landslides actually created and maintain it, and the site would be unlikely to retain its World Heritage Site status if these natural processes were impeded. The natural beauty produced by coastal change also supports many jobs and economic activity in tourism and related sectors.

Communities along the Jurassic Coast have lived with this dynamism for generations, but as patterns of development have become more extensive and less flexible, demand for defences to protect communities has increased. At the same time the natural forces driving erosion are increasing, with climate change impacts such as increased storminess and rising sea levels increasing the pace and extent of change. As demand rises, public money available to deliver defences is unlikely to be able to keep pace. In some places it may also prove technically impossible or environmentally unacceptable to build or maintain defences. The result of these pressures is that, sooner or later, some parts of some communities may have to consider relocating as they become increasingly difficult to defend.

The overall purpose of the Dorset-led Coastal Change Pathfinder is 'to ensure through meaningful engagement and participation that coastal communities are well-equipped to understand, debate and take part in decisions about coastal change, adapting and becoming more resilient to those changes as a result, based on sound science and local knowledge'. The Pathfinder funding will be used to support a range of activities aimed at helping coastal communities along the Jurassic Coast to better understand and adapt to the impacts of coastal change.

Candidates should have a background in coastal management or a related field and have a good understanding of coastal change issues, and recent policy developments in this area of coastal management. Familiarity with the Dorset coast would be advantageous.

The successful applicant will work closely with the Pathfinder Project Coordinator to deliver the Coastal Pathfinder work programme.

You will be expected to travel regularly to coastal communities along the Dorset coast and consequently must be able to fulfil all the travel requirements of the post. It may be necessary on occasion to organise and attend evening or weekend meetings.

Closing Date: 3 March 2010

To view the relevant details and apply online please visit www.dorsetforyou.com/jobs

We value diversity and welcome applications from all parts of the community.