

Job Description

Heathland Mitigation Ranger

Role Profile	Operational - BCP Band F
Service/Team	Environment (Countryside)
Reports to	Countryside Area Manager
Responsible for	Volunteers/Placements
Number of posts	Multiple
Post number	
Career Grade	F

My job improves the quality of life for the people of Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole by delivering Heathland Mitigation objectives across BCP Countryside sites. This includes engaging with people and communities to proactively manage the heathlands and to deliver conservation work for the Countryside team, enhancing nature and the environment.

Job Overview

To encourage interest, understanding and responsible use of heathlands and countryside sites by visitors of all ages and abilities. Undertaken through the facilitation of volunteering groups, supporting practical improvements to access, information points and overall site quality, managing education activity and liaising with partners and stakeholders.

Work to avoid harm to heathland and countryside sites caused by illegal or inappropriate behaviour by visitors, such as fire and disturbance.

Assist other team members in the countryside team and contribute to the overall quality of BCP's green spaces, promoting an increase in species diversity to combat the ecological emergency.

Key Responsibilities

- Engage with the public and undertake day-to-day patrols of BCP Heathlands, Countryside sites and other green spaces such as Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) to educate and engage users. Prevent misuse of our Heathlands by ensuring that activity is within byelaws or other legislation and using enforcement where necessary to stop inappropriate activity.
- Perform routine landscape, habitat conservation and maintenance activities, in line with site management to support the appropriate management of heathlands and ensure a safe environment for the public. Use a wide range of hand and power tools and machinery (such as chainsaws and brush cutters).
- Support the day-to-day management of livestock, undertaking daily checks, responding to emergencies to ensure healthy and well-managed livestock.
- Conduct surveys of flora and fauna and of site users and behaviour, to collect data that will support the management and conservation of heathlands.
- Lead engagement with volunteers, allocate work, to support the management of our heathland sites and other nature reserves, creating a positive reputation of the Countryside team and our management.
- Operate in close collaboration within the countryside team by ensuring information and management of the heathlands is up to date and well communicated.
- Work within the wider Dorset Heaths Partnership, collaborate and liaise effectively with colleagues across different services to manage our heathlands.
- Drive and operate departmental vehicles, specialist equipment and plant as and when required and be responsible for basic checks, safety, cleanliness and safe keeping of equipment whilst in use.
- Assist with mentoring and coaching placements and work experience.
- Communicate effectively with the public, councillors and partners on all enquiries or complaints

Specific Qualifications and Experience

- Qualification in countryside or environment NVQ Level 3 or equivalent and/or relevant experience in conservation land management with proven experience of practical delivery.
- Experience of face to face public engagement, including the ability to enforce byelaws and other rules and speak to people in an even-handed manner
- High level of agricultural and conservation land management knowledge.
- High level of knowledge of environmental and cross compliance regulations.
- Proven capability to keep accurate and compliant records and accounts.
- This role will involve the requirement to travel on a regular basis including towing of trailers, a full driving licence will be required including trailer towing category or willingness to undertake appropriate training to obtain trailer towing category on licence.

Personal Qualities & Attributes

- Interpersonal skills to be able to deal effectively with members of the public and groups in an enforcement capacity when required.
- Well organised with good attention to detail
- Outgoing and self-motivated
- Good communication and a keen interest in the natural environment are key to the success of the role.

Job Requirements

- Working as part of the Countryside team on a rota to ensure 364 days a year are covered effectively by each area team. Able to work flexible hours including some evenings to monitor/patrol our sites when required.
- Able to carry out outdoor lone working in all weather conditions
- Able to carry out physically demanding work
- Able to support with livestock checking and movements.
- Able to supervise volunteers and work placements
- Able to purchase and procure goods and services, following Council policies and systems.
- Be aware of the Council's Equality & Diversity Policy, avoid discrimination and be inclusive when dealing with members of the public and work colleagues.
- Contribute to initiatives that encourage 'joined up working' with other Sections/Service Units and external agencies/organisations.
- May be required to undertake additional duties and responsibilities commensurate with the post.

This job description is not exhaustive and reflects the type and range of tasks, responsibilities and outcomes associated with this post.