

Job Description

Countryside Ranger

Role Profile	Operational - BCP Band F
Service/Team	Countryside
Reports to	Countryside Area Manager
Responsible for	Volunteers/Placements
Number of posts	
Post number	5369/5401
Career Grade	F

This job improves the quality of life for the people of Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole by assisting with all areas of management on our Countryside sites. This includes practical work, engaging with stakeholders about our local environment and delivering sustainable habitat management and improving the biodiversity of our Countryside sites.

This role will also work to educate visitors to our sites, work with volunteers and promote an increase in species diversity to combat the ecological emergency.

Job Overview

To deliver and supervise countryside management activities, providing a highly skilled practical service to deliver well maintained and managed countryside sites, using a range of specialist plant and machinery.

Work as part of a team, including supervision of volunteers and contractors, to provide a professional and efficient skilled Countryside service to improve site condition and biodiversity, working to conservation designations.

This role will also work to educate visitors to our sites and promote an increase in species diversity to combat the ecological emergency.

Key Responsibilities

- Work as part of a team delivering agri-environmental schemes and management of countryside sites to preserve them for future generations.
- Perform practical works for habitat management, including projects, planned and reactive site maintenance (fencing, gates, access etc) and supporting livestock management such as carrying out daily checks and response to emergencies to enable safe access for the public and high-quality conservation management.
- Use a wide range of specialist hand and powered tools and machinery (such as chainsaws, brush cutters, chemical sprayers etc) as necessary in a safe and suitable manner. To include basic day to day maintenance and pre-work checks of the equipment.
- Encourage joint working with other area teams and volunteers and provide supervision of trainee rangers, placements, and volunteers.
- Assist with and carry out site user, botanical and conservation surveys.
- Help to educate and encourage the public to comply with relevant Acts and Byelaws and using enforcement, where necessary. Lead engagement with and allocate work to volunteers and engage members of the public on site.
- Assist with the coaching and mentoring of work experience students and placements.

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

- Give appropriate responses to enquiries and complaints from Service Users and report any issues to Line Managers as necessary. Liaise with colleagues in other operational areas to ensure joined up service delivery, e.g. parks, seafront, waste, and leisure and provide advice on countryside matters, such as vegetation management, invasive species, biodiversity etc.
- Assist with planning and deliver events and activities to volunteers, the public and stakeholders, including walks, talks and environmental education; including advice and guidance where required.
- Adhere to the health and safety requirements whilst carrying out the duties of the post including carrying out risk assessments.
- May be required to undertake additional duties and responsibilities commensurate with the post.
- Deputise for colleagues as appropriate, managing reactive maintenance trackers, work planning, providing advice and covering health and safety responsibilities.

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.
- High level of conservation and land management knowledge including environmental regulations.
- Operational experience and certificates in specialist plant and machinery, the application of pesticides, powered hand tools (such as brush cutters and chainsaw).
- This role will involve the requirement to travel on a regular basis and a full driving licence will be required, category C and recognised training in the use of tractors is desirable with a willingness to undertake appropriate training.
- Good knowledge of work practices, processes, and procedures, including legal and regulatory requirements and risk of non-compliance.

Personal Qualities & Attributes

- Professional attitude and behaviours that support coaching of others and enable appropriate and effective engagement with members of the public, stakeholders, and volunteers.
- A team player who is well organised with good attention to detail and able to communicate effectively.
- Outgoing and self-motivated with a can-do attitude
- Passion for the natural environment is key to the success of the role.
- Make evidence based and outcome focussed decisions using proactive risk management and within set procedures, referring complex decisions to the area manager.

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 when required.
- Able to carry out physically demanding work in all weathers, sometimes alone.
- Able to supervise contractors, volunteers and work placements.
- Able to plan and organise own workload and support other operational areas when required.

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- Able to purchase and procure goods and services, following Council policies and systems.
- Wear the regulation uniform and personal protective equipment provided and keep it clean and tidy.
- Comply with all decisions, policies and standing orders of the Council and any relevant statutory requirements, including the Equality Act, the Health and Safety at Work Act and Data Protection Act.
- Undertake such other duties as may be required from time to time commensurate with the level of the post.

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