

Role Description

Role Title: Countryside Ranger

Location: Chard Reservoir Local Nature Reserve

Job Family: Leisure and Recreation

Grade: 5

Main purpose

To manage Chard Reservoir LNR as an award winning Green Flag nature reserve. Working predominantly alone to carry out daily site maintenance and habitat management, manage the water levels and dam in line with Environment Agency guidelines and deliver volunteer participation schemes. Develop new opportunities for the public's enjoyment of the site and ensure access is safe and inclusive. Deliver a wide ranging annual programme of public events and develop wildlife protection and enhancement schemes.

Key tasks

Leadership Responsibilities

Organising and supervising the practical work delivery of the volunteers and train volunteers in appropriate management techniques where relevant and supervise contractors and work experience students when required.

Core Tasks

- Carry out maintenance and development at the nature reserve in line with the management plan.
- Regularly undertake physically demanding tasks in all weathers.
- Litter picking and emptying of dog waste bins throughout the site.
- Reporting and clearing up of fly tips and anti-social behaviour like graffiti.
- Lead in the delivery of weekly practical conservation volunteer task days.
- Supervise, lead and support work experience students in placements at the nature reserve.
- Lead in the delivery of public events like the Crafty Chard days.
- Assist the Community Heritage Officer in the delivery of educational and community group sessions.
- To support the Chard Volunteer Group to deliver projects and complete grant applications to raise vital funding for the nature reserve.
- Maintain a good relationship with Chard Angling club to ensure that angling is

promoted and well managed at the reservoir.

- Liaise with the Police and members of the public to deal with ASB and other Police issues arising in the Nature Reserve.
- Attend South Somerset Steering Group meetings as required by the Countryside Manager.
- Provide a point of contact face to face in the country park for the visiting public and to answer enquiries via telephone, email and letter.
- Carry out practical habitat management work, in line with the management plan, such as tree safety works, hedge laying, woodland management and reed bed management.
- Ensure site safety works including safety inspections on trees and structures, footpath maintenance and maintenance of all structures is carried out at intervals determined by the countryside policy.
- Lead in the promotion of the nature reserve and events through posters and administration of the Chard Reservoir social media platforms.
- Help the other site lead rangers to ensure that additional countryside sites (Ham Hill, Yeovil Country Park, Moldrams Ground LNR, Eastfield LNR and Sampsons Wood) are managed effectively by ensuring team days are delivered and participate in team days throughout the year.
- Help to ensure that the containers and any additional work spaces and buildings are kept in a good state of repair and any faults are reported to the manager. Also ensure that any outside areas around buildings are kept safe & presentable.
- Organise financial estimates and produce relevant specifications, purchase materials and services, monitor and certify expenditure within agreed budgetary limits in strict accordance with the District Councils Procurement Regulations.
- Liaise with the Countryside Manager to employ suitable contractors for works in the nature reserve, adhering to SSSC's Health and Safety Policy & employment of contractor's guidelines.
- Ensure all tools and machinery are kept in full working order and a log of maintenance is kept in line with PUWER.
- Undertake training as required to ensure that H&S policies are adhered to & for appropriate machinery i.e. chainsaw refresher training, ATV driver training.
- Develop wildlife monitoring schemes at the nature reserve to ensure species lists are kept up to date and to ensure that the appropriate habitat management work is delivered.
- Adhere to the guidelines and policies as laid out in the Countryside Staff Handbook and Countryside Policies document.
- Assist the Countryside Manager with external funding applications as required.
- Contribute towards the service planning and development of relevant work areas,

including your own continual professional development, and assist with the collation of performance management information and user surveys to ensure a high standard of customer care is maintained.

- Collaborate with other internal council units and councilors, parish and town councils, local groups, surrounding residents, statutory and voluntary agencies and other relevant bodies to support local countryside management.
- Ensure risk assessments are in place for all tasks performed in the nature reserve and assist the countryside manager with annual updates.
- Ensure the eco toilet is clean, fully operational and that the resultant compost is emptied each year.
- Ensure that the reservoir dam is in good working order and liaise with external specialist engineers to carry out annual dam inspections and ensure that any works required are carried out in line with dates specified to the
- Manage the reservoir water levels seasonally and at times of high rainfall, in line with Environment Agency recommendations and the site management plan to prevent a flooding event downstream.
- Monitor the water quality of the reservoir, reporting to the Environment Agency as required.

Personal Specification

Professional and educational qualifications

Essential	Desirable
1. Relevant NVQ or equivalent qualification	2. First aid trained
3. Chainsaw trained (NPTC or LANTRA)	
4. Brushcutter trained (NPTC or LANTRA)	

Experience

Essential	Desirable
5. Experience of working on a busy countryside site	
6. Experience of working with the public and user groups	
7. Experience of working with volunteer groups	
8. Experience of tool maintenance	
9. Experience of lone working	

Key Skills

Essential	Desirable
10. Confident and competent practical skills	
11. Ability to stay motivated if problems arise	
12. Driving licence	
13. Ability to comply with all SSDC Health and Safety policies and procedures	
14. Good customer care skills	
15. Good verbal communication skills	
16. Good written communication skills	
17. Ability to problem solve and prioritise work tasks.	

Knowledge

Essential	Desirable
18. Knowledge of countryside management	19. Chard Reservoir LNR
20. Knowledge of safe working practices	21. Management of a large water body