

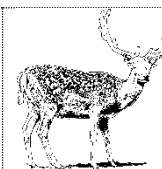
THE CONSERVATORS OF THE ASHDOWN FOREST

Assistant Grazing Ranger

Job Evaluation: EXT386

Hours per week: 37 hours per week, flexible working

Reports to: The Countryside Manager



CONTEXT

Originally a deer hunting forest, Ashdown Forest is now one of the largest public access spaces in the South East.

The responsibility for managing Ashdown Forest on behalf of the Owner, who since 1988 has been the Ashdown Forest Charitable Trust, lies with an independent body, The Board of Conservators of Ashdown Forest. The Board, created in 1885, has been regulated under a series of Acts of Parliament, the most recent being the Ashdown Forest Act 1974. Subsequent relevant legislation includes The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the 1992 EC Habitats Directive, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000, and Commons Act 2006 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC)2006. This extensive legislation relates mostly to the protection of wildlife but also to the duties of local authorities regarding biodiversity and the status of Common Land in the modern age.

OVERALL PURPOSE OF THE POST

Under the direction of the Countryside Manager and with the support of the Specialist Rangers (Grazing) to implement a grazing programme to manage the important heathland habitats of Ashdown Forest in accordance with the Countryside Stewardship agreement and wider SSSI objectives. The role will require some supervision of volunteers and public engagement and they will provide all elements of the husbandry of the Forest's livestock.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Key Duties

1. *Livestock Management*

- Undertake all stock husbandry tasks for the Ashdown Forest livestock to comply with the appropriate animal welfare regulations and other relevant legislation. This will include all practical aspects of keeping livestock, including stock checking, rounding up, handling and transport
- Ensure appropriate checks of all livestock are undertaken, working with other staff and volunteers as appropriate
- Respond to emergency call outs as required, to deal with escaped livestock or animals requiring attention
- Erect, maintain, dismantle and move electric fence enclosures
- Engage the assistance of veterinary professionals and specialist contractors when appropriate. This includes pony hoof trimming, sheep shearing and dealing with fallen stock
- Supervise volunteers in delivery of these works

- Work within the wider Countryside team to deliver works from the Ashdown Forest Management Plan, including fencing, tractor work and tree safety.

2. *Planning and Monitoring*

- Assist with the monitoring of grazed habitats as directed
- Provide written information as required. This may include receipts and updates to the Countryside Manager
- Manage the inventory of livestock equipment such as hurdles, handling equipment and fence energisers
- Maintain pool vehicles, equipment and workshops
- Understand and follow Health and Safety at Work procedures and Ashdown Forest policies, especially with regard to lone working and working with large animals
- Undertake training as required

3. External Relations

- Assist in the communication with Forest visitors, local residents and Commoners as directed by the Countryside Manager
- Support the Forest's communication work by identifying and producing website, social media and report stories
- Act as an ambassador for the Ashdown Forest in all interactions with members of the public, and in dealing with the media
- Support education and information events
- Report breaches of Forest byelaws and encroachments

To carry out all other duties as may from time to time be determined by the Countryside Manger and CEO.

PERSON SPECIFICATION:

Qualifications/Education/Training:

Essential

1. Qualification in livestock management/conservation grazing/estate management or equivalent.
2. First Aid Certificate

Desirable

1. Veterinary medicine administration qualification
2. HND in Ecology or Countryside Management
3. Driving license to include B & E trailer test
4. LANTRA Tractor Driving, or equivalent experience
5. NPTC Chainsaw Certificate CS30 &31 (or equivalent)
6. ATV certificate
7. Pesticide use NPTC PA6A

Experience:

Essential

1. Practical experience in livestock management with a full understanding of the legal and welfare requirements, risk assessments and health and safety
2. Operating relevant agricultural machinery including brushcutters and strimmers.
3. Experience of routine estate work and/or practical conservation work

Desirable

1. Proven experience of public engagement
2. Experience of coordinating and working with volunteers

Knowledge:

Essential

1. Familiarity with the care and welfare of cattle, sheep and horses on conservation sites
2. Understanding Health and Safety at Work in relation to caring for livestock and working outdoors

Desirable

1. Knowledge of the Ashdown Forest and local area
2. Species identification and vegetation monitoring

Skills & Competencies:

Essential

1. Good interpersonal skills
2. Analytical skills, ability to plan and co-ordinate
3. Ability to act as a confident advocate for the Ashdown Forest in public situations
4. Effective communication including excellent written, verbal and listening skills

Desirable

1. Fully competent with the use of ICT including GIS

Personal Attributes:

Essential

1. Highly motivated and interested in conservation grazing and heathland management
2. Ability to work outside in rough terrain, in all weathers throughout the year
3. Ability to work both on own and as part of a dedicated team
4. Ability to plan and manage own workload
5. Good communication skills

Other:

Essential

1. Hold a valid full driving licence, include towing of trailer
2. Ability to work weekends if required
3. Ability to work out of hours if required