

Context statement

To accompany job description and person specification when required

Job title: Dorset Dogs Area Project Officer

Directorate/Service/Team: Place/Coast & Countryside/Environmental Advice/UHP

Reports to: Senior Dorset Dogs Officer

Location

The post will carry out public engagement activities on sites across south east Dorset, based at the Urban Wildlife Centre at Corfe Mullen with flexibility to work from home and a range of partner locations as well when not on site.

Background

The Dorset Heaths Partnership (DHP) was formed in 2001 as the Urban Heaths Partnership and delivers heathland mitigation on behalf of its 10 partners in line with the Dorset Heathlands Supplementary Planning Document, across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP) and Dorset Council (DC) areas.

Dorset Council is the host partner employing the DHP core team which sits in the Environment Policy and Partnerships Team within the Place Directorate. The DHP team is multidisciplinary with each member delivering their own element of the Heathland Mitigation Delivery Plan, [Microsoft Word - Dorset Heaths Delivery Plan 2024 - 2025](#) while working as a team to promote partnership messages and deliver larger projects.

Main purpose of the role:

The objectives of the DHP Dorset Dogs project are to:

- Provide support and advice to land managers on positive access management for people with dogs alongside effective engagement and education discouraging management that will displace problems elsewhere.
- Raise awareness amongst dog owners and others of the important management issues and opportunities in relation to heathlands with consistent information on and off site to support and promote responsible ownership and behaviour. Through targeted events, signs, leaflets, and online information.
- Promote existing non-sensitive sites such as SANGs and areas where dogs are allowed off-lead.
- Support the development of new safe areas and SANGs for off-lead exercise, with involvement from the planning stage.
- Pioneer new and innovative ways to work and lead the way in advocating a positive balance between dogs and wildlife in Dorset and sharing good practice nationally.
- Provide a broad and balanced coverage of dog owner-related issues, both positive and negative; avoiding a narrow focus to maintain the widest engagement.



Core Duties and responsibilities

1. **On site Presence** - Working in close cooperation with the wardens, rangers and land managers from partner organisations to lead, co-ordinate and deliver on site presence for heathland and SANGs where necessary.
2. **Communication** - To liaise with wardens, rangers and land managers and other organisations as appropriate acting as a hub for partnership communication for dog related information across the BCP and Dorset Council areas. Work with and maintain relationships with the dog community including owners, businesses (Professional Dog Walkers) and charities.
3. **Website** – Assist with provision of effective and consistent information for dog owners to support and promote responsible ownership and behaviour through online information. This includes promotion of less-sensitive sites such as SANGs and areas where dogs are allowed off-lead.
4. **Social Media** – Support online presence by developing content for social media platforms to help spread the messages. E.g., Facebook and Instagram.
5. **Local and National Liaison** – Support work with Southern Counties Canine Access Management Partnership (SCCAMP) and other organisations, working to provide consistent messages on the local and national platform.
6. **Campaigns and Projects** – Assist with delivery of existing campaigns including K9 Firewise Patrol and Summer Campaign and new campaigns as required.
7. **Reporting** - Assist with monthly engagement and volunteer statistics fed into DC reporting system, annual reporting of all work undertaken and other reporting as required by partners.

The successful candidate will require:

- A qualification or experience in working in the natural environment or a related field
- Excellent communication skill showing diplomacy and tact – verbal and written
- Experience of community engagement with dealing with different user groups, ages and backgrounds.
- The ability to working outdoors in all weathers
- Experience in potential conflict situations
- IT skills in basic software such as Word and Excel
- Knowledge and experience of social media
- The ability to fulfil physical requirements of the roles
- The ability to converse at ease with customers and provide advice in accurate spoken English.

Travel requirement

This position has a significant travel requirement. This means that there is a requirement for a vehicle (or transport deemed to be suitable by council) to be available on most working days in order to carry out normal duties. A shared vehicle will also be available.

Other information

Evening and weekend work required as part of this role for which Time Off In Lieu (TOIL) will be taken.

The successful candidate will be subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Context statement prepared by:			
DHP Manager	Paul Attwell	Date	25 th July 2022

