

AONB Team Leader

Grade 11

About the Service

The Cannock Chase AONB Partnership brings together five local authorities, statutory agencies, non-governmental organisations and community bodies. Its role is to conserve and enhance the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, an area of heathland, forest and farmland in the heart of the West Midlands. The AONB team works with partners to develop and deliver the statutory management plan for the AONB, providing input to plans and strategies affecting the area and proactively developing initiatives to conserve and enhance its special qualities into the future. The AONB Partnership is hosted by Staffordshire County Council and is based within the Environment & Countryside Service as part of the Economy, Infrastructure & Skills Directorate.

The AONB Team Leader will play a key role in helping to maintain the quality and distinctiveness of the AONB's landscape character and enhance the setting of the Chase within its wider urban and rural landscape.

Reporting Relationships

Responsible to: Head of Environment & Countryside

Responsible for: AONB Land Management Officer, AONB Landscape Planning Officer, AONB Communications Officer, Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer, Project staff as required

Key Accountabilities:

1. Strategic overview of the AONB programme and AONB business plan; liaison with Defra and working collaboratively with partners and colleagues, and commissioning contracts as required to achieve delivery under the guidance of the Partnership.

2. Line management of AONB staff as required including their performance, development and wellbeing following Council policies and processes. Oversee the work of the team to ensure delivery of the AONB programme, including for planning and development, land management, farming liaison and communications.
3. Enable the Partnership to meet its statutory requirements by coordinating the formal review and implementation of the AONB Management Plan and associated evidence base (State of the AONB report) and assessments, developing and shaping AONB policy and working practice, and advising partners as appropriate.
4. Business planning and operational management of the partnership budget in association with the SCC Treasurer to the AONB Joint Committee, and according to the host authority financial regulations and funder requirements.
5. Lead development work to increase the financial sustainability of the AONB, broadening the funding base (including development for the creation of a charitable body) and securing additional funds to support project delivery.
6. Lead delivery visitor management work for the AONB in collaboration with partners through the Task and Finish Group to enhance the visitor experience and manage visit impacts.
7. Develop positive links and connections with businesses and communities in and around the AONB to further the work of the partnership.
8. Support the work of the AONB Joint Committee and Officers Working Group by co-ordinating meetings and provide updates on reports as required.
9. Ensure Cannock Chase is represented at the national level by contributing to activities as part of the family of AONBs and protected landscapes by attending and inputting into meetings and work programmes. Input to national policy development by developing consultation responses for the partnership and support the sharing of expertise and experience and enable Cannock Chase to learn from other protected landscapes and initiatives.
10. Undertake other duties as required, consistent with the responsibility level of the post.

Person Specification

Qualifications/Professional membership

- A degree level qualification or equivalent in a relevant environmental discipline

Knowledge and Experience

- Significant experience working in the environment/countryside sector with a sound understanding of relevant policy and practice in the UK
- Knowledge and understanding of UK legislation and policy requirements relating to protected landscapes
- Experience of performance management and staff development
- Significant experience and proven track record of success in fundraising in the environment sector
- Understanding and experience of charitable organisations
- Significant experience and proven track record in successful project / programme management
- Experience of financial management, procurement processes and contract management
- Knowledge and experience of using general IT packages and GIS
- Experience of working in a partnership environment
- Knowledge and experience of communications and media liaison
- Knowledge and understanding of visitor management in relation to countryside sites
- Experience of community involvement and working with volunteers
- Willingness to work outside normal office hours, including occasional weekend working

Skills

- Effective interpersonal skills with ability to understand, motivate, persuade and influence people
- Ability to manage complex programmes of work
- Effective verbal and written communication skills with numeracy, literacy and interpretive skills
- Proven ability to plan and prioritise work and to meet deadlines with an organised and flexible approach
- Ability to push forward new ideas and methods of working
- Ability to efficiently access areas out of reach of public transport. NB The post holder will be expected to use their own vehicle on most occasions.



This post is designated as a Casual Car user

**The content of this Job Description and Person Specification
will be reviewed on a regular basis.**