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<b>Directorate:</b>	Growth, Environment & Transport
<b>Unit/Section:</b>	Kent Downs AONB Unit
<b>Grade:</b>	KR9
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager

### **Purpose of the Job:**

The visionary Victorian landscape artist, Samuel Palmer, described the Darent Valley as an 'earthly paradise'. Today, it remains a beautiful rural landscape located mostly within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Yours will be a pivotal role contributing to the delivery of the £4.1m funded Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme. You will develop, coordinate and deliver the projects that enhance the qualities that made the landscape an earthly paradise and to ensure that it continues to benefit people and communities today. Your work will focus on conserving biodiversity, landscape and the natural environment and will deliver projects enabling people to access, enjoy and explore the natural and cultural heritage of the Darent Valley.

Working closely with colleagues in a highly skilled, multi-disciplinary team of five, part of the wider Kent Downs AONB Unit, this role will ensure the successful integrated delivery of the DVLPS Landscape Conservation Action Plan. You will have overall responsibility for the 'Exploration' and 'Natural & Historic Landscapes' themes of the Scheme. Under the 'Exploration' theme you will deliver a range of projects that will provide sustainable access for walkers, cyclists and other users to enable the public's enjoyment of the landscape and heritage. Under the 'Natural & Historic Landscapes' theme you will be responsible for projects that will result in landscape-scale conservation of habitats such as chalk grassland, wetland and historic parkland, as well as realizing a landscape approach to water management that includes natural flood management techniques.

The role will involve working with team members and colleagues that have archaeology, art, culture, interpretation and education specialisms to ensure the successful delivery of all five of the DVLPS themes. This will be achieved through advocacy, development of partnerships, coordination of delivery partners and direct delivery using contractors.

The DVLPS is led by the Kent Downs AONB Unit and this role is part of that wider team. It is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Interreg 2 Seas Programme, and other scheme partners.

## **Main duties and responsibilities:**

- Managing the successful delivery of the targets, objectives and projects within the 'Exploration' and 'Natural & Historic Landscape' themes within the Landscape Conservation Action Plan.
- Co-ordinating and chairing the 'Exploration' and 'Landscapes' theme groups to enable partners and stakeholders to have a direct and focused input to DVLPS activity.
- Developing strong partnerships with communities, landowners, conservation organisations and the public and private sectors to deliver scheme objectives of protecting and enhancing the natural heritage, biodiversity and historical landscapes of the Darent Valley.
- Advising, promoting and assisting landowners achieve sustainable long-term management of landscapes and natural areas, including the use of current or future agri-environment schemes.
- Working with landowners, local authorities and the Environment Agency to increase public access to the River Darent along the Darent Valley Path and to all parts of the valley, working closely with the Kent Countryside Access Improvement Plan.
- Delivering projects that support climate change adaptability of the Darent Valley landscape with an emphasis on water management through a landscape-led approach and the use of natural flood management techniques.
- Developing briefs, tendering and managing work for contractors and consultants to deliver projects on time and to budget.
- Co-ordinating, overseeing and supporting delivery partners in the delivery of the scheme's outputs and outcomes.
- Integrating work with other programmes across the scheme and supporting the Community Archaeologist, Interpretation & Community Learning Manager and Finance & Reporting Officer in their work.
- Supporting the DVLPS Manager to report to the Partnership Board of scheme progress and activity; and preparation of reporting, claims and evaluation to NLHF and other funding partners.
- Ensuring that all activities are carried out in a proper and accountable manner according to the financial and health and safety requirements of the Kent County Council as well as other funding partners such as the NLHF and ERDF. Providing delivery information to the Scheme Manager to allow regular reporting to these funders and the Partnership Board.
- Review and evaluate each theme on an annual basis to develop initiatives to enhance delivery and effectiveness.
- Supporting other members of the DVLPS team, delivery partners and others to develop a sustainable legacy for the scheme.
- Ongoing identification of project development opportunities to achieve DVLPS aims and objectives.
- Any other duties that may be identified by the DVLPS Manager to support the delivery of DVLPS aims and objectives.

Footnote: This job description is provided to assist the job holder to know what his/her main duties are. It may be amended from time to time without change to the level of responsibility appropriate to the grade of post.

# Kent County Council

## Person Specification: Countryside Manager

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The following outlines the criteria for this post. Applicants who have a disability and who meet the criteria will be shortlisted.

Applicants should describe in their application how they meet these criteria.

	<b>CRITERIA</b>
<b>QUALIFICATIONS</b>	Degree or equivalent qualification in an environmental or demonstrable experience in a landscape or countryside management related subject.
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>	<p>Successfully work with a wide range of communities and partnerships to deliver innovative landscape, biodiversity management and access management projects.</p> <p>Habitat, biodiversity and access management, preferably in a chalk landscape.</p> <p>Tender preparation and assessment.</p> <p>Managing volunteers, partner organisations, contractors and consultants effectively to deliver project outputs.</p> <p>Collating information, report writing and making recommendations for action, and reporting back on work progress.</p> <p>Providing accurate financial forecasts, budgets and accounts, and ensuring project expenditure delivers on time and to budget.</p>
<b>SKILLS AND ABILITIES</b>	<p>A self-starting and motivated individual, able to take the initiative, organise and manage multiple complex projects, and work autonomously.</p> <p>Proven ability and confidence to build networks and work with partners from a wide variety of backgrounds, including communities and landowners.</p> <p>Excellent communicator willing to work in an integrated way to achieve beyond immediate programme responsibilities.</p> <p>Innovation and adaptability – looking for alternative solutions to problems.</p> <p>Computer literacy (DVLPS uses Microsoft Office 365).</p>

<b>KNOWLEDGE</b>	<p>Landscape-scale conservation principles and approaches.</p> <p>Countryside access management, including 'Access for All' principles.</p> <p>Basic understanding and interest in heritage management.</p> <p>Role of communities in supporting and delivering conservation and enhancement projects.</p> <p>Basic understanding of the use and applications of GIS software.</p>
<b>BEHAVIOURS AND KENT VALUES</b>	<p><b>Kent Values:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We are brave. We do the right thing, we accept and offer challenge</li><li>• We are curious to innovate and improve</li><li>• We are compassionate, understanding and respectful to all</li><li>• We are strong together by sharing knowledge</li><li>• We are all responsible for the difference we make</li></ul>