



Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Volunteer Role Profile

Constable Country Volunteer Ranger

Introduction

The Dedham Vale Visitor Management Group (VMG) comprises representatives of the main organisations responsible for the conservation and maintenance of properties and countryside within the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Members of the Dedham Vale VMG work closely together to ensure visitors to Constable Country have a good visitor experience and the landscape of the Dedham Vale AONB is protected for future generations to enjoy.

Role Description

With over 220,000 visitors to this area a year this role of the Constable Country Ranger is very important. The Constable Country Ranger will be responsible for walking the footpaths around Constable Country especially between Dedham and Flatford. Whilst doing this they should engage with the public and attempt to answer any questions to do with the area. They should be able to explain aspects of the landscape that relate to John Constable, local history, wildlife and current landscape management.

This role will suit people who ...enjoy variety, like meeting people and talking to groups, have a friendly and helpful nature and like helping others enjoy walking in the countryside.

What's in it for You?

- Becoming part of a friendly and dedicated team
- Meeting people from all walks of life and making new friends
- Enjoying new experiences and learning something new every day
- Great personal satisfaction, since you have the opportunity to make a real difference to our visitors experience
- Getting out and about in the beautiful Dedham Vale

Key Responsibilities and Attitudes

- Walk footpaths between Dedham -Flatford and act as the eyes and ears on the ground for the Dedham Vale VMG
- Engage with visitors informing them about the area, places to go, things to do, how to get there, etc.
- Pick up litter

- Keep a diary of events - wildlife seen, visitor queries, incidents
- Record things that need to be done - broken signage, overgrown branches
- Possibly run a monthly guided walk between Flatford and Dedham
- Be a positive ambassador for the Dedham Vale VMG
- Promote Keep it Special messages
- Encourage responsible dog ownership

Volunteer Requirements

- Ability to walk up to 5 miles over rough ground in all weathers
- Ability to read and interpret OS Explorer and Landranger maps
- Ability to develop and maintain friendly conversation with strangers
- Ability to remain calm and take appropriate action should any unforeseen events occur
- Be prepared to undertake relevant training, familiarisation of the area. The DVVMG will meet the costs of any formal training
- Some interest in and knowledge of art, history, landscape and wildlife
- Ability to work in compliance with the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley's Health and Safety Policy at all times.

Time Commitment and Practical Requirements

Place of work	Constable Country particularly between Dedham and Flatford
Facilities	Use of the facilities at National Trust Flatford and the RSPB Wildlife Garden
Volunteer manager	Emma Black, Countryside Officer, Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley
Time commitment	At least 1 day / month for at least 2 hours
Training/resources	Induction and familiarisation of the area, training and relevant equipment will be provided
Travel expenses	Out of pocket parking and travel costs may be claimed @45p/mile up to £10. Note: This will be reviewed after the pilot scheme is over.

About this Scheme

This scheme is run by the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project on behalf of the Dedham Vale Visitor Management Group. It's part of a range of projects to 'Help Keep Constable Country Special'.