**** ****

**Circuit of Bath Ranger**

Bathscape is a 6-year landscape partnership project which aims to restore and reconnect people with the natural landscape around Bath. The Circuit of Bath (CoB) is a long-distance way marked route which circumnavigates the City of Bath over 21.5 miles. The route is based on a walk Julian House have been running as a sponsored walk since 2001.

The Cotswolds Conservation Board have taken this path a stage further by working with Bathscape to permanently way mark the route in both directions as well as create walking guides so it can be walked at any time of year, and in sections. CoB Rangers will play a vital role in looking after this route by looking after a section 3-5miles long to enable people to walk it safely. However, there is more to the role than that, you are the eyes and ears of the route and great ambassadors for walking and accessing the countryside.

The Cotswolds Conservation Board looks after the Cotswolds National Landscape, more information can be found here: [www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/). The small staff team is supported by over 400 Cotswold Voluntary Wardens. You will be joining this team as a CoB Ranger.

Volunteers need no prior experience but a minimum commitment is required. All tools and equipment will be provided. Volunteers are asked to wear appropriate clothing and footwear for walking outdoors.

**Purpose of the role**

While walking the paths you establish a relationship with the locals, and you help visitors on the ground. You don’t just bash brambles and put-up waymarks. The human aspects of the job are as important as the environmental care.

**Activities and timescale**

Depending on your patch requirements will vary but the role is likely to include elements of:

* Path clearance (particularly in the summer)– cutting back vegetation with secateurs, removing minor obstacles such as fallen branches, litter picking
* Keeping an eye out for floods, fallen trees, mud, crops, barbed wire and even gas guns.
* Monitoring bridges, stiles and gates - report immediately any dangerous bridge over a stream or river, as this will be a priority for the Rights of Way teams. Clear undergrowth and overgrowth regularly, and report any tree that is blocking the path.
* Replace damaged or missing waymarks
* Report damaged or missing fingerposts.
* Look out for diversion orders and notices.
* Take photos of any larger projects that would require a work party

We are looking for volunteers who are able to commit to the role on a medium to long term basis as learning your patch takes time, especially if you live some distance away. We require you to walk your part of the CoB a minimum of once every two months, though ideally in the summer it would be more regularly than this. You can walk on any day or time that suits you and with or without company. If you would like to apply as a household or with a friend you are welcome to.

Before taking on a section of your own you should join an experienced parish warden on his/her rounds.

**This role will suit someone who**

* Has a passion for walking in the countryside
* Is a self-starter, happy to do the role in hand without too much external input
* Confident in the countryside, or looking to gain confidence in the countryside
* Likes talking to fellow walkers
* Likes being outdoors in all types of weather

**Benefits of the role**

* Make a real difference to improving the walking network around Bath
* Explore or discover a section of Bath countryside and gain an in-depth knowledge of that space through all seasons
* Develop knowledge and experience of Public Right of Way maintenance
* Gain practical hands-on skills including using hand tools
* Have access to training sessions and informal skill sharing. There will also be opportunities for formal training for regular volunteers looking to up-skill
* Be part of a friendly and dedicated team
* Have a regular excuse to head out for a walk and get some gentle exercise in the fresh air and meet new people

**How to apply**

Please complete the volunteer application form found online here <https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/looking-after/volunteering/> specifying that you are interested in the Circuit of Bath Ranger Role, and if possible which section (see below) you would like to be assigned. Alternatively, you can email nicole.daw@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk to request a volunteer application, or telephone Nicole (Tues-Thurs) on 07725 601943.

This role is entirely voluntary and therefore unpaid. Any offer of a volunteer placement is not intended to create a contract between us and any agreement can be cancelled at any time at the discretion of either party. Neither of us intends any employment contract to be created either now or any time in the future.

Circuit of Bath Sections (some flexibility is possible)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Section number | Start | Finish | Length (miles) | Length (km) |
| 1 | Newbridge Park and ride | Lansdown Park and ride | 3 | 4.9 |
| 2 | Granville Road, Lansdown | The George Inn, Bathampton | 5 | 8.1 |
| 3 | The George Inn, Bathampton | Brassknocker Basin car park, Limpley Stoke | 3.5 | 5.7 |
| 4 | Brassknocker Basin car park, Limpley Stoke | Southstoke | 3.9 | 6.3 |
| 5 | Southstoke | Englishcombe | 3.2 | 5.3 |
| 6 | Englishcombe | Newbridge Park and ride | 3 | 4.9 |