

Volunteer Warden – River Warden (Mink Raft)

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) needs Volunteer River Wardens to undertake practical work within the Western Downs area on the River Meon and River Rother.

Volunteer River Wardens will learn practical skills in managing the mink rafts located at a number of sites on the River Meon and Rother as well as the safe and appropriate use of equipment, tools and their maintenance. Opportunities are available as part of an area-based programme delivered by ranger staff across a variety of sites and habitats.

All volunteers are expected to adhere to South Downs National Park Authority volunteer policies and procedures. Our volunteers play an important role in fulfilling our purposes and volunteers are key ambassadors for the work of the Authority.

Compulsory Training:

Volunteers will undertake an SDNPA induction, this will provide an overview of SDNPA volunteer policies and procedures, risk assessments, and safe working practices which must be adhered to at all times. In addition, water safety training, vehicle driver training (on/off road), lone working training will be provided. Any other specific training requirements will be met.

Equipment Provided:

Clothing and relevant personal protective equipment (PPE) are provided in this role.

All tools and equipment required for tasks will be provided.

Transport:

The ability to access a designated site either through public transport or in your own vehicle will be necessary in this role. A SDNPA vehicle will be provided to complete site visits. On occasions the use of personal vehicles maybe required if a SDNPA vehicle is not available, (on these occasions, travel expenses will be paid).

Responsible to:

Volunteer Activity Coordinator: Assistant Ranger/Ranger/Lead Ranger
Volunteer Support Officer: Chloe Beckerson

Preferred/Est. Hours:

This is a flexible role.

Role Description:

- Site visits to check a number of mink rafts located on the River Meon and River Rother
- Take appropriate action when mink prints are identified
- Maintenance and repairs of mink rafts as required
- Site visits to other raft operators and landowners who operate their own rafts
- Keep records for the mink raft site visits and maintenance
- Check Water Vole (WV) latrine floats on a number of sites, where mink rafts are located, during the WV monitoring season
- Keep records for the WV latrine float survey
- Set a trap, check and dispatch mink as required and if happy to do so. Training will be Provided. Alternatively, work with trained Rangers and/or volunteers to organise the setting of a trap, checks and dispatching of mink, as required
- Annual review of location and number of the mink rafts, materials and maintenance required
- Act as an ambassador for the SDNPA



Key Skills & Qualities:

- Friendly, reliable and self-sufficient
- Willing to accept direction/guidance
- Ability to work with people from all backgrounds
- Ability to communicate with staff
- Ability to adhere to all SDNPA volunteering policies and procedures

No previous knowledge or experience is required, just an enthusiasm to learn new skills & a commitment to improving nature within the National Park.

