

Appendix

Notes from meeting on 30 August 2006, held between MCP Senior Ranger and COWA Head of Land-based Management and Head of Countryside-management Course.

1. The meeting centred on use of the park by the countryside management course student's only, usage by other courses was not discussed. A walk around part of the park gave the COWA staff an idea of the current types and level of management.
2. Informal discussions took place about the countryside course itself to provide an overview of how things are currently carried out. The BTEC countryside management course takes two years to complete with students on year one or two every year. The total expected combined number for the academic year 2006/7 is 20 although the number has yet to be confirmed.
3. Students have a number of modules to complete during their course; these modules cover areas such as estate management and maintenance, countryside management and business skills. These modules are scheduled into the academic year by the course tutor to make best use of the facilities and staff the college has and the likely prevailing weather and day length.
4. The discussions broadly covered the following areas:
 - (i) What work students could carry out on the site and how many might be involved. It was thought that scrub and tree management together with estate skills and other practical skills by numbers from 6 to 20 dependent on numbers in academic years.
 - (ii) The level of supervision that would be required for students. It was suggested that with small groups this would be accomplished by COWA staff however if larger groups were brought in MCP staff would be needed as assistants.
 - (iii) How much time students could spend on the site, either as a class or individually. It was thought that one day a week would be spent on site if relevant tasks were identified in advance and as appropriate for their curricular needs at the time. In addition there may be a need for individual students to volunteer at the park to build up their practical experience.
 - (iv) Which month's work could take place? Students would only work in the park during academic term time. The college course runs from late September to the end of June with breaks for the standard breaks at Easter and Christmas etc.
 - (v) What tool and PPE provision would be required from SCDC and COWA. COWA would provide the hand tools and PPE required although some park equipment may be required. With regard to materials required for fencing etc, it would be up to the park to provide these.
5. The meeting finished with the senior ranger and COWA head of countryside management agreeing to meet at a time to be determined by the COWA after they have finalised student numbers and the programme of activities for the forthcoming academic year.