

Context statement

To accompany job description and person specification when required

Job title: Bridge Inspector

Directorate: Place (Economy, Infrastructure and Growth)

Service/Team: Infrastructure and Assets – Bridges and Structures Team

Grade: 9

Generic JD/PS Link: ES 587 e-g Senior Technical Officer Level 1/2/Supervisor

Organisation structure

Reporting to: Bridge Management Engineer

Responsibility for: Working as part of a small team to inspect, monitor and report on the condition of Highway structures assets including bridges, culverts, retaining walls and vehicle restraint systems and some structures belonging to outside bodies.

Place Directorate

The Place Directorate contributes to Dorset Council's Corporate Plan objectives in respect of both people and place, but with a leading role in place-shaping and creating the climate in which communities in Dorset can be strong and successful.

Economic Growth and Infrastructure

Within the Place Directorate, the Economic Growth and Infrastructure Corporate grouping provides front-line services administering a variety of statutory functions and delivering on Dorset Council's key corporate aims. The services within the group are arranged under Heads of Service for Assets and Property, Highways, Planning and Dorset Travel.

Highways Service

The Highways Service provides the management and maintenance of the highway network and its related assets and infrastructure, including promoting and supporting transport related safety issues and healthy lifestyles.

The service develops and delivers transport strategies and plans in line with the authority's direction priorities allocating budget and resources to optimise services.

The service works collaboratively across the Council and with the Council's partners to champion innovation to secure the best outcomes and value for Dorset's citizens and customers.

Service Managers support the Head of Service in the following areas:

- Service Manager for Network Operations
- Service Manager for Infrastructure and Assets
- Service Manager for Parking Services



Infrastructure and Assets

Infrastructure and Assets comprises seven teams:

- Highway Improvements
- Bridges and Structures
- Development
- Street Lighting
- Transportation Modelling
- Transport Planning
- Asset Management

These teams provide a range of professional, technical and administrative highway services primarily related to the technical design and management of new additions and alterations to the highway network. They also manage the highway assets that promote growth and the economy whilst protecting the environment.

Context of work

Bridge and Structures Team

The main purpose of the Bridge and Structures Team is to maintain, renew and design bridges and highway structures in support of Dorset Council's aims for sustainability, safety, quality of life and economic growth. The team undertakes both the traditional client role and the design consultant role in delivering the service.

The client side :

- Inspect and provide asset management for the bridge and highway structures stock.
- Develop a prioritised programme of work.
- Provide financial planning and manage the budget.

The consultant role

- Maintain, refurbish, and upgrade existing bridges and structures.
- Replace bridges and structures at the end of life.
- Design new bridges to support highway, pedestrian and cycle route development.
- Support Highways Improvements and Operation Teams with structural advice and design

Our key customers are:

- Elected members and the local community.

The key priorities for the team are:

- Progressing projects in accordance with standards, regulations, procedures and best practice.
- Ensuring projects are delivered safely, on time and to budget.
- Ensuring fees are robustly managed.
- Maintaining a safe and effective highway structures to serve the wider highway network.

Key people the team work with are:

- Elected members and the local community.
- Construction colleagues.
- Environment Agency, Network Rail, Natural England, Historic England, Marine Management Organisation, Highways England and other stakeholder organisations.
- External design consultants to develop a strategic long-term private sector partnership.
- Adjacent local authorities on cross boundary issues.

Bridge Inspector

The Bridge Inspectors report directly to the Bridge Management Engineer.

The role involves:

Planning and programming inspections from a monthly list of structures.

These structures will include road bridges, foot bridges, culverts, retaining walls and vehicle restraint systems (safety fences)

Preparing for the inspections will include reviewing previous inspection reports and checking and preparing inspection and access equipment. For some structures it will include writing risk assessments for working in confined spaces or for those requiring access by boat or hydraulic platform etc.

Carrying out inspections in a variety of locations and conditions. Some structures are in remote locations or have difficult access, sometimes requiring ladders, a boat or hydraulic platform, and often requiring working in the river. Inspections require a methodical approach and attention to detail.

Lone working. Much of the time inspections are carried out by a single inspector working alone. On larger structures, confined spaces or those with difficult access the inspectors will work as a pair.

Recording inspections on site using a tablet and transferring them to the Confirm database.

Discussing inspections with other members of the Bridge Team to highlight issues found and assist them to prioritise maintenance work or replacements.

Producing written reports for some structures which belong to outside bodies such as the Environment Agency or Swanage Railway.

Travel requirement

This position has a significant travel requirement, and a vehicle is provided by Dorset Council.

Other information

This is primarily an outdoor job. The ability to work outdoors in a variety of weather conditions is essential for the post.

The role requires working in water which can be deep or fast, working at height and working in small, dark or confined spaces. The post holder must be comfortable working in those conditions.

There is physical activity involved with inspections, such as scaling riverbanks, climbing ladders, entering manholes, crawling through culverts or just walking to remote locations across fields or uneven ground.

The post holder must be able to satisfy the physical requirements of the role.

Evening or night-time work is occasionally required in order to utilise traffic management for safety on high speed or traffic sensitive roads.

The ability to converse at ease with customers and the public and to provide advice in accurate spoken English is essential for the post.

The post holder will be required to undertake a Bridge Inspectors course (currently a 6 day online course) and, in time obtain certification under the Bridge Inspector Certification Scheme (BICS)

Context statement prepared by:			
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