



# ERNEST COOK TRUST

*learning from the land since 1952*

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF... KEN DAVEY, WATER BAILIFF

The Ernest Cook Trust's water bailiff Ken Davey attends to the two-and-a-half mile stretch of trout fishing which is let by the Trust on the River Coln and its tributaries as it runs through the Fairford Estate in Gloucestershire.

He is also responsible for the maintenance of the permissive and public footpath network on the estate, and the estate water system in Eastleach together with areas around Fairford Mill which are visited regularly by tourists.

His job keeps him busy all year round. The fishing season starts at the beginning of April with restocking, and during the summer months the banks are mown and the weed cleared in the river with help from local students.

At the same time, Ken has to fit in all the other maintenance of the river banks and mowing on the estate. Later in the year he moves on to the end-of-season and winter jobs fixing stiles, fences and gates along the river as well as ensuring that the spawning areas (known as redds) have been cleared in early October. He will also deal with any fallen trees or branches which could hinder the flow of the river.

Ken joined the Ernest Cook Trust in 1966 and has lived in Fairford for over 45 years. He started with the Trust straight from school as a 16-year-old trainee woodman and estate maintenance worker, and during his time here he has worked in all the outdoor estate departments.

He has learned his skills through practical, hands-on experience, as generations of those who work on the land have before him. "I learned my skills from the old estate workers Bill Handy, Sam Nelson and Bill Winters. I just love the outdoor life," he says.

To find out more about how the Ernest Cook Trust looks after its estates, visit [www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk/estates](http://www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk/estates)

