Develop Coding: Assignment

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For each question which includes ‘describe’ or ‘review’, write at least a paragraph worth of content to explain your answers. Include any other relevant evidence where appropriate, i.e. links or images.

Q1. Describe the purpose of using IT in creating your website and how you will use IT to plan and carry out the necessary tasks. (How will you plan your website, what audience is it aimed at? How will your use of IT achieve the required outcomes in your plan?) ANSWER: The overall design of the website was planned using the Trello/Kanban card system, with categories for design, planned, current and completed tasks, and testing. The coding used was HTML to construct the basic website, and CSS for the graphics.

The website focuses on an area of natural and scientific interest within Greater Manchester, which might appeal to local residents or visitors, and includes some personal experiences of the web developer with respect to the Mersey Valley.

Q2. Describe methods, skills and resources needed to complete your website - explain what IT systems and software applications you need to be successful in your website project, and how you will use them (Describe at least one method, skill and resource needed to complete your website) RESOUCES: KANBAN/TRELLO for design, VSC to compose the coding, which is in HTML and CSS. Assistance with coding principally from Code Nation, and web resources such as youtube, and w3schools.

An example would be using CSS to make text, titles and links standout from the field background by use of shading. CSS text-shadow was employed with a semi-transparent additional background beneath the text, linking with the corresponding HTML code, and establishing classes for those object categories, enabling them to be used throughout the site.

Q3. Describe the legal guidelines and risks that might impact your website project - how does GDPR and copyright affect website development? ANSWER: The website as currently built should not suffer from major issues of GDPR or copyright, as it retains no user data, and uses only public domain pictures (not covered by copyright). Should it do so in future, then there are strict UK guidelines on how others' personal data can be retained and used. Generally the info must be stored securely, only kept as long as necessary, kept up to date if appropriate, and checked for accuracy. You should also inform users how you would use their information, and if it would be shared with third parties. As far as copyright is concerned, it applies to the internet in the same way i.e. you cannot use someone else's work without their permission. However there are many practical enforcement difficulties, especially due to matters of jurisdiction.

Q4. Review the ongoing use of IT tools you have used for your website and describe whether they are appropriate - what are the benefits and drawbacks of IT tools and systems used? (Are you happy with the tools you used?) ANSWER: I believe CSS is a powerful tool to be used alongside HTML, as it allows great flexibility, and use of experimentation with styles. I also became more positive towards the Kanban system, as a means of planning the site. Generally the system does help to keep one's thoughts in order. Similarly with experience, VSC becomes a useful de-bugging tool, particularly in its use of colours as a means of flagging up errors.

HTML on the other hand could be described as a necessary evil, considering its age, but CSS does mitigate its limitations. I was perhaps less endeared to the moving card system in TRELLO, as I often felt that was rather superfluous, and I made no use of its timing system either (perhaps with hindsight an oversight, although I didn't feel I could set time limits with confidence, given my current inexperience at coding.)

Q5. Describe how you would test your website to make sure it looks as intended. Describe what kind of files you used in your website and explain why you have chosen those filetypes. How can you test your website to ensure it is accessible to people with disabilities? Describe how you can overcome potential accessibility issues with your website. ANSWER: testing would involve checking links work normally, and everything displays on the web as expected. Obviously I used several HTML files for the index and pages, foldered with and linked to a .CSS file, for styling.

Accessibility issues would involve making sure the site can be used with a keyboard as well as a mouse, that text displays are large enough (which I had aimed to make large anyway) or can be enlarged by the user. There were no accessibility issues with display (flashing text is not an problem on my site, and I've tried to put a helpful background to my text, as explained above. I've also made sure to use meaningful ALT text with my images. There are no sound issues at the moment. Links are very obvious and underlined, and can be accessed with tabs, scrolling is achieved with keyboard arrows.

Q6. Describe ways to improve your productivity and efficiency throughout this project (how can you make sure you are using IT tools and systems in the most effective way?) If you could have been more productive or efficient, how would you implement this for a future project? ANSWER: I am fairly certain that the main limitation on my productivity was a lack of experience in using HTML and CSS, which is likely not to be repeated in future products. However its also possible that I could have collaborated better with colleagues, and tutors to overcome blocks. I might also have used online resources more effectively.

Q7. Describe the final version of your website (what is the content and layout for each page?), assess the strengths and weaknesses and describe further improvements you can make to your website. Is the website fit for purpose? (did you achieve what you set out to do in your plan?) ANSWER: I wanted the site to have a certain simplicity, and even 'old fashioned' feel, which I felt was achieved. On the whole, I believe that a complicated linking system wasn't really appropriate to the website, as is. The site does cover the main subjects, which were Chorlton Ees (and Waterpark) and my personal experiences of them, which was the main objective.

I think to improve things I would like more external links, and could perhaps have a better system to link with them. Furthermore I would like to make each page have a more individual style. In terms of content, perhaps greater detail on the bird life would be welcome.

Q8. Take a screenshot of your website homepage working in two different browsers. (Make sure the GitHub Pages link is visible in the screenshot).