

Dear potential applicant,

If you are thinking of applying for the post of Cairngorms National Park Landscape Officer, I would just like to tell you a little about the environment in which you would work should you be successful.

The Cairngorms National Park is one of the country's most loved landscapes. Renowned for its mountains, it has at its centre a montane plateau higher than 1000m, it also has extensive native pine forests, broad moorland and a rich and diverse cultural landscape along the main straths and glens. **Does this landscape inspire you?**

The Cairngorms National Park was created in 2003. The National Park Authority is a relatively small organisation of about 60 people based in Grantown-on-Spey. Our colleagues cover a wide range of disciplines from conservation, land management and planning, to economic development, tourism and outdoor learning. We also work closely with colleagues in other agencies. Integrated working is definitely the norm here. **Are you a team player?**

The landscape officer post is within the Heritage Team. There are 5 posts in the Heritage Team. Matthew Hawkins, a landscape architect by profession, is the team manager. Sally MacKenzie and Hayley Wiswell are the team's ecologists and Frances Thin is the landscape adviser. The new post of landscape officer will be line managed by Matthew and mentored by Frances. Together Matthew and Frances have more than 50 years of landscape practice experience.

The Heritage Team provides advice to planning and other colleagues on all landscape and natural heritage matters from the landscape scale to the minute, from road, housing and tourist developments to the protection of habitats and species many of which are only found in the Cairngorms National Park. To do this job you will, amongst other things, need to understand how a highland estate is managed, how a hydro scheme functions, how a road is built and who the key stakeholders are. We don't expect you to know all this at the outset but learning on the job is essential. **Do you have the energy and enthusiasm to get up that learning curve?**

The Cairngorms National Park may be in the north of Scotland but it is at the centre of landscape planning and conservation. We are required to not just conserve but enhance the landscapes of the National Park and we aim to do this in everything we do, whether it is advising on a windfarm development, a forest management plan or a dual carriageway. Planning cases can sometimes be contentious, site visits in all weathers can be difficult and getting around the UK's largest national Park can be challenging. **Are you up for this challenge?**

The team's work is not just about advising on case work and we have always sought to develop innovative new approaches to landscape conservation. We have undertaken some ground-breaking work such as a landscape character assessment that combines landscape information with geological and historical data, the first of its kind. We have developed online access to our landscape information via the CNP Landscape Toolkit*. We initiated the mapping of wildness which led to the first policy on wildness in the UK and has been influential in Scottish Natural Heritage's work on Scotland's Wild Land Areas. In 2015 we set up the Cairngorms Scenic Photo Posts* project to monitor landscape change. The new landscape officer will work on new projects such as assessing the impact of infrastructure on the landscape and mapping the setting of the National Park, as well as developing further our online resource. **Are you a creative thinker and do you like to challenge convention?**

This is a unique opportunity where you will learn and develop your skills in a small team environment, where team members are happy to support each other and share their knowledge and experience. If you want to work in an integrated way, in a creative environment and where landscape, conservation, land use and planning overlap, then this could be the job for you!

If you would like to know more or just discuss the post then feel free to contact either Matthew Hawkins, Landscape and Ecology Manager on 01479 87057 or Frances Thin, Landscape Adviser, on 01479 870526.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Matthew Hawkins

Landscapes and Ecology Manager

Cairngorms National Park Authority

*The toolkit and photo post project can be seen online at:

www.cairngorms.co.uk/landscapetoolkit

www.cairngorms.co.uk/photo-posts