

CONSERVATION AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE DIRECTORATE

CONSERVATION OFFICER

(Fixed term for 12 months (maternity cover), Full Time, Band D)

Overall Purpose

To secure the conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage of the National Park by developing and delivering conservation projects through working with partners, land managers and communities and to provide advice on natural heritage matters to CNPA staff and Board Members, in particular on planning case work.

Responsibilities

- Develop and manage individual biodiversity projects and their budgets; working with local communities, land managers and partners to deliver Cairngorms Nature priorities on the ground
- Work closely with partners and other organisations to co-ordinate, monitor and review delivery of the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan
- To provide advice on natural heritage matters to CNPA staff and Board Members, in particular for planning casework.
- Deliver statutory processes and advise on the requirements of legislation for natural heritage in planning case work and corporate matters. This includes meeting statutory requirements relating to Habitats Regulations, European Protected Species and nationally protected species and habitats
- Develop, deliver and monitor the effectiveness of a proactive approach to conserving and enhancing natural heritage through the planning and development management system
- Raise awareness and understanding of conservation in the Cairngorms National Park, developing Cairngorms Nature communications and engagement activity to showcase projects, people and places
- Work with communities, residents and interest groups in the Park to increase engagement with nature and involvement in volunteering and citizen science
- Support the collation and analysis of habitat and species information and data, ensuring it is freely available and accessible for use in land management and conservation decision making
- Respond to consultations from other bodies and requests for advice with respect to nature conservation, including local authorities, Scottish Government and other agencies;
- To line manage CNPA staff or project officers to ensure efficient and effective delivery of the relevant parts of the Corporate and Operational Plans. Ensure their effective performance and prepare appraisal reports, identify and help to meet training and development needs and implement Health and Safety procedures;
- Contribute to the development, delivery and monitoring of the Local Development Plan

General

- Represent the CNPA in appropriate conservation and natural heritage matters at local and national level;
- To develop effective working relations at officer level with partner organisations and other interested parties, including the Scottish Government;
- Contribute to the work of the Conservation and Visitor Experience Directorate and CNPA as a whole and ensuring compliance with financial procedures;
- Contribute to the development and implementation of the National Park Plan and the CNPA corporate and operational plans and participate in CNPA organisation activity as required;
- To conduct other work, as necessary. All post holders are required to be flexible with regards their job description so that the organisation can adapt to new opportunities and priorities over time.

Person Specification - Knowledge, experience and training

ESSENTIAL

- Recognised qualification at least degree level or equivalent in an appropriate land use, countryside or ecological discipline;
- Excellent knowledge of biodiversity and conservation gained from demonstrable relevant experience;
- Good experience of project and budget management; must be able to design and manage projects and budgets from conception through to completion;
- Good knowledge and understanding of relevant national and international legislation for Natural Heritage, conservation and planning,
- Good communication skills and interpersonal skills and ability to work constructively with a wide range of partners;
- Able to demonstrate positive and effective team working
- Computer literate and IT literate - able to use Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Outlook; and,
- Full UK driving licence or access to a driver if disability prevents driving.

DESIRABLE

- Experience of working within planning and development management systems including the Habitats Regulations Assessment process and EPS;
- Expertise of species and habitat management and a good understanding land management issues within the Cairngorms;
- Good appreciation of public, private and community based interests within the Cairngorms
- Experience of line managing or supervising staff
- Membership of CIEEM or other appropriate professional body.