

LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

APPOINTMENT OF PROJECT OFFICER

Background

The Lawton Report and subsequent Government's 25-Year Environment Plan articulate the need for 'more, bigger, better and joined' areas for wildlife, that nature needs to be recovered and our natural capital assets need to be more greatly recognised for the societal benefits they deliver.

We are at a tipping point, as we face the biodiversity and climate change crises. Peatlands have been recognised as being critical in addressing these two issues. Lowland peatlands have previously been side-stepped in regards to restoration due to many complexities but this is now being addressed and we must succeed in securing the remaining lowland peat soils.

The Humberhead Levels National Character Area (NCA39) is shared between the counties of Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire. Covering the former pro-glacial Lake Humber, including Humberhead Peatlands NNR, the largest lowland raised mire system in the UK, much of which is protected as a Natura site including Thorne Moor SAC. The Humberhead Levels Partnership formed in the 2000s, and has successfully delivered various externally funded programmes of works to continue to create an internationally renowned, unique wetland landscape, supporting thriving communities, economy and wildlife. The partnership is now working together to create and restore Nature Recovery Networks (NRN) including with a focus on peatlands.

With Natural England, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has secured EU Life funding for a project called Moor Space. This seeks to restore the peatlands further within Lincolnshire at our nature reserve, Crowle Moor, and Natural England's site at Thorne Moor including through working with landowners and managers in the area and the IUCN on applying the peatland code. Further to this, the whole partnership has secured a project supported by the Nature for Climate Fund Peatland Discovery Grant Scheme. This project looks to establish the condition of the peat on existing nature reserves to inform a restoration management plan and to provide support to private landowners with peatlands. Ultimately, the project is looking to gather the evidence to inform a full restoration grant for all of our peatland sites in the Humberhead Levels. This post will be focussed on helping deliver the outputs and outcomes of these two projects and potentially others as required, working with their counterparts within partner organisations.

This truly is an exciting opportunity to make a real difference in regards to lowland peatlands for people and wildlife.

General Duties

Primarily the Project Officer will work with existing staff within the Humberhead Levels to help manage specialist contractors assessing peat conditions, to support and enable Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's North West Lincolnshire Warden in delivering onsite activities and to engage landowners and managers in the area in a positive conversation about peatland management. The post-holder will work with their counterparts in partner organisations to ensure full audit trail is in place for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of externally funded activities and attend project management meetings and provide secretariat services where appropriate.

The full range of responsibilities is set out in the job description (document J322-016).

Qualifications and Experience

The Project Officer will need to show good knowledge and understanding of nature's recovery particularly with a preference for peatlands, together with benefitting from experience of partnership working, project management and successful advocacy. The ideal candidate will be able to manage and meet multiple and competing deadlines prioritising them as necessary, understand the importance of influencing others and be able to communicate in a clear and concise manner to varying audiences, especially land managers and farmers. Full details can be found in the person specification (document J322-017).

Conditions of Employment

This is a fixed term position. The length of the appointment will be determined by the successful candidate's preference for working either full or part-time. Our full-time hours are 35 hours per week. The minimum part-time hours available are 21 hours per week. The contract length will be 2 years minimum.

The salary offered is circa £25,000 pa (pro-rata if part-time), dependent on qualifications and experience. There is a flexible hours system in operation. Weekend and Bank Holiday work may occasionally be necessary for which time off in lieu is allowed. The annual leave entitlement is 23 days plus Bank Holidays and three privilege days at Christmas. In addition, a generous contributory pension scheme is offered, plus an enhanced sick pay scheme and life assurance. A salary exchange system for childcare vouchers and the cycle to work scheme is also operated, and an independent and confidential staff welfare support service is provided.

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust provides a rewarding and enjoyable working environment, that is friendly and open to all.

Applications

Candidates should complete all sections of the application form provided and return it along with a short covering letter or email explaining their interest in the post. Curriculum Vitae (CVs) will not be accepted as a substitute for the application form.

Completed applications should either be:

- posted to the Chief Executive, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Banovallum House, Manor House Street, Horncastle, LN9 5HF and the envelope marked 'Confidential'; or
- emailed to hr@lincstrust.co.uk with the words "Project Officer" as the subject reference.

Applications should arrive no later than 12.00 mid-day on Wednesday 2 February 2022.

Interviews will be held in person, subject to Government Covid guidance at the time, throughout February 2022. Only those candidates selected for interview will be notified. If you do not hear from us by 28 February, you should assume that your application has been unsuccessful. Approved interview travel expenses of up to £100 will be paid.

January 2022