

The Southern Uplands Partnership

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| Post Title: | Natural Heritage Officer for “Building Opportunity in the Biosphere” | |
| Location: | RSPB Scotland’s Crossmichael Office. This one-year post will liaise closely with the two existing Biosphere Officers covering Galloway and Southern Ayrshire | |
| Responsible To: | Project Manager, the Southern Uplands Partnership | |
| Salary: | Up to £24k | Starting date: September 2011 |

Main Purpose

You will work with local agencies and organisations to identify potential prescriptions and actions for the maintenance and enhancement of priority natural heritage, together with logistical opportunities and barriers and how these might be addressed. You will do this by collating, digitising and recording information on key natural heritage within the Core and Buffer Zones of the proposed Biosphere Reserve. This work would also be expected to identify any gaps in knowledge and suggest research to address these.

Logistics

The postholder would be employed by Southern Upland Partnership on behalf of the Biosphere Partnership and would be line managed and hosted by RSPB Scotland at their Crossmichael Office. Work programme and outputs will be agreed and monitored by a steering group comprising these organisations, plus SNH and FCS, and progress would be reported to the Biosphere Partnership Coordinator, the Biosphere Working Group and Biosphere Partnership Board.

Principal Duties

These fall into two main categories: **collation of information** and formulation of an **advisory management plan** for enhancement, interpretation and promotion of key natural heritage in the Biosphere.

Collation of information to include:

- GIS maps of key habitats and species in Core and Buffer Zones.
- GIS maps of current grazing and other management relating to open ground.
- Inventory of key natural heritage biodiversity and relevant status (EU, UK/ScotBAP, LBAP, BoCC etc).
- Priority recommended actions for maintenance and enhancement of key biodiversity.
- Inventory of local people’s spiritual and emotional attachment to the natural heritage, including landscape.
- Inventory of key geology and geomorphology.
- GIS maps of geology and geomorphology.
- GIS maps of potential management areas.
- Identification of key access points and routes.
- Inventory of research papers relating to the Core and immediate Buffer Zones.

Production of an Advisory Management Plan to include:

- Priority recommended actions for maintenance and enhancement of key biodiversity.
- Identification of corridors of potential high biodiversity between Core and Buffer Zones, eg with Cree Valley Woodland Initiative.
- Identification of final recommended Core and Buffer Zones.
- Identification of potential barriers to delivery of desired management.
- Identification of means of overcoming barriers to delivery of desired management.
- Identification of current threats to biodiversity and means of addressing these.
- Report on opportunities for interpretation and promotion of biosphere natural heritage.
- Inventory of research papers relating to the core and immediate buffer zones.
- Research needs to address gaps in current knowledge.

Terms and conditions

You will have access to your own transport and will reclaim work mileage at a rate of 45p per mile.

Leave is accrued at 2.5 days per full month worked.

The Southern Uplands Partnership is an equal opportunities employer and we will consider all applications including from those interested in working part time.

Contract and notice

This is a fixed term contract for one year. Four weeks notice in writing is required.

Application

Please write explaining the skills and experience you would bring to this post and send it with a copy of your CV and the names of two referees by email to piptabor@sup.org.uk to reach us by midday on 12th August. We will acknowledge receipt of all applications.

Interviews will take place on the 23rd August 2011.

Person Specification for Natural Heritage Officer

Knowledge, Skills and Aptitude

Essential

- A relevant degree or significant appropriate experience
- Excellent communication skills, both written and oral
- Ability to use databases to manage, collate and map data
- Understanding of importance of sustainability
- Highly motivated and able to work alone and under pressure
- Ability to prioritise work and meet deadlines
- Excellent organisational skills
- Good presentational skills
- Willing to work some unsocial hours

Desirable

- Experience of using GIS systems
- Good knowledge of the region and its biodiversity
- Commitment to environmental sustainability
- Energetic and enthusiastic

Experience

Essential

- Collation of data and use of maps to display information.

Desirable

- Knowledge of working in the rural sector

Other requirements

Current UK Driving license and access to a vehicle