



THE LANGHOLM INITIATIVE
PROJECT OFFICER (Inspiring Engagement in Nature)
Job Description and Application Process

Salary: £25,000 pa

Pension: 3% employer's contribution.

Office: The Langholm Initiative, Buccleuch Mill, Glenesk Rd, Langholm DG13 0ES

Overview

The Langholm Initiative is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation based in Langholm in the South of Scotland. It has operated for over 25 years and is one of south Scotland's earliest development trusts. It is managed by a Board of Trustees who oversee a number of community projects (<https://www.langholminitiative.org.uk/>).

Langholm Initiative recently purchased just over 5,000 acres of land and 6 residential properties from Buccleuch Estates in what is the south of Scotland's first large scale community purchase. The organisation's ambition for the land is one where the environment and the local economy work together to provide the catalyst for community regeneration in Langholm through the creation of the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve.

Langholm Initiative aims to demonstrate that ecological restoration and sustainable development can be achieved to provide an example of green recovery in a post Covid world.

Our vision for this land can be seen here [Creating the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve](#).

Langholm Initiative also believes the work can create new opportunities for young people to remain and work in the area. The land has huge cultural and natural heritage significance for both the local community and for naturalists across the country.

The Role

Langholm Initiative is seeking to employ a person with experience of delivering nature-based education and community engagement in order to help inspire and support community involvement in the development of the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve.

This fantastic opportunity is a fixed term 2-year contract. The successful candidate will be required to work closely with the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve Estate and Development Managers as well as be part of a team, which work with schools, youth groups and other partner organisations within the community.

The person will be required to recruit and co-ordinate a group of volunteers who are willing to contribute to conservation work on the estate.

The postholder must be mindful of the community's involvement in the work that has gone on to date to fully realise the community ownership of the land and of the cultural significance of the land to the people of our community.

Purpose of the Role

The postholder will play an important role in establishing and developing youth and community engagement in the development of the nature reserve. Langholm Initiative believe that by engaging young people in nature-based education as well as by creating a group of volunteers within the community the nature reserve will have a sustainable foundation.

It is vital that the Langholm Initiative ensure that the estate is sustainable and delivers benefits for the local community. By promoting increased engagement of a wide range of people within the community in the creation of the nature reserve and through passing nature-based knowledge and skills onto young people and volunteers we believe that this can happen. We hope that the project can give people a greater appreciation of what's on their doorstep.

We also anticipate that volunteers from other parts of the country might wish to be involved in the work and the postholder would be expected to find ways of encouraging and supporting that. Also students and or interns may wish to carry out research here or gain work experience and this postholder would help facilitate that.

Responsibilities

The post will require you to join the team of staff of Langholm Initiative, build relationships with partners and be able to develop and deliver a programme of nature-based education with schools, youth groups and families. You will be involved in developing packs for families to use when exploring the nature reserve and which can facilitate learning.

You will be expected to recruit and create a group of volunteers that can assist with conservation work on the estate. You will support them in their role and build a team spirit within the group and enable them to take pride in the role that they play.

You should be willing to be adaptable and flexible in the way you deliver the project objectives and be open to new ideas.

Partnership working

The job will require the person to work with a number of partner organisations.

Langholm Initiative has a good network of partners and the postholder will be expected to work and build /retain relationships with these organisations. This includes organisations such as schools, local and elsewhere, youth groups, OutPost Arts, the South of Scotland Golden Eagle project, the Dumfries and Galloway Raptor Study Group, colleges and universities, the Woodland Trust and the John Muir Trust and other third sector organisations.

Are you the Right Person for the Job?

This exciting role requires an experienced and dedicated individual that can provide evidence of successful delivery of similar work. The right candidate is likely to have a background in environmental or ecological studies and have experience of working with young people and volunteers.

People skills will be vital to the delivery of the work and the person should enjoy building relationships with people of all ages. The person will enjoy managing their own workload to achieve agreed objectives.

You will have a healthy respect for the environment and conservation and factor this into planning and delivery of the role.

We would expect applicants to be able to demonstrate the following:

Qualifications/Experience	Essential/desirable
Educated to degree level in a relevant subject area such as environmental studies, ecology or biology OR with relevant experience and a proven track record of project delivery.	Essential
Excellent interpersonal and communication skills	Essential
Experience of working with young people, schools and/or youth groups	Desirable
Experience and evidence of delivering project outputs	Essential
Experience of partnership working with statutory organisations and local communities	Essential
Experience of recruiting, supporting and working with volunteers	Desirable
Experience of managing a budget and delivering objectives to a timescale	Desirable
Ability to work alone and as part of a team	Essential
Experience of report writing and social media	Essential
Experience of reporting to a Board of Trustees	Desirable
Experience of developing training or educational materials	Desirable

Other

Full UK drivers' licence and access to a vehicle.

The postholder will have to undergo PVG checks as they will be working with young people and others who might be vulnerable.

The person will be expected to familiarise themselves with all policies of the organisation before starting work.

The post is supported and funded by the Ewe Hill Scottish Power Renewables' Ewe Hill 16 Fund and the Holywood Trust.

Application Process

Applicants should submit a CV of not more than two A4 sides and a covering letter to applications@langholminitiative.co.uk by the closing date of Friday 25th June.

Applications will be screened and shortlisted candidates invited to interview – subject to Covid rules initial interviews will take place via Zoom.