**Community Wildlife Officer**

**Location:** Based from the Margrove Heritage Centre and working with communities in Stockton-on-Tees.

**Salary: £21-23K per annum**

**Contract type: Fixed-term end August 2024**

**Working hours: Full time (37.5 hrs p.w.)**

**Closing date: Monday 16 October 2023**

**Are you able to capture the passion, imagination and resources of the people within a community to make positive changes for wildlife? If so, this could be the job for you..**.

In our work for nature’s recovery at scale across the Tees Valley, we know that we need many more people on nature’s side. We are looking for a talented community organiser to work with us to help tackle the nature and climate emergencies with action on the ground in Stockton-on-Tees.

Nextdoor Nature is a nationwide project being delivered by the Wildlife Trusts with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

You will reach out and support a broad spectrum of individuals and groups within Stockton’s communities, connecting and motivating them to take action for nature and making better places to live, learn and work. With your support, people will take care of places that matter to them, in ways that are right for them.

**Information for applicants**

Download job information below for a full job description and role specification.

To apply for the position of Community Wildlife Officer, please complete the Application Form and return it to [info@teeswildlife.org](mailto:info@teeswildlife.org)

Please note, CVs will not be accepted in place of a completed form.

**Closing date: Monday 16 October 2023**

If you require further information regarding any aspect of the application process, please do not hesitate to contact Steve Ashton on 01287 636382

**Interviews will be held on 30th October 2023**

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust is working to facilitate nature’s recovery across the nature reserves we care for and within the communities we work alongside, and we know that if nature is to be restored at scale, we need many more people on nature’s side.

We are looking for a talented community organiser to work with the Trust on a small-scale transformative partnership project to help tackle the nature and climate emergencies, through local, community action.

**About the project**

Nextdoor Nature is a nationwide project being delivered by the Wildlife Trusts with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund that will see thousands of people across the UK empowered to lead action for wildlife within their communities, reclaiming and creating new green spaces for nature in rural and urban places.  We have chosen to focus our project on Stockton-on-Tees where we will inspire and empower some of the UK’s most economically and nature-deprived communities, helping them identify and create new places for wildlife that are important to them.

The project represents a transformational shift in approach across the Wildlife Trust movement as we evolve from a traditional engagement model to a community organising approach. It will build a network of community members who we will empower to take action to achieve common goals, develop leadership skills and form relationships with other community members. We will help increase the knowledge and skills of individuals and enable them to initiate and take the lead on climate and nature-based activities in their area.

Through this shift in approach, we aim to achieve a critical mass of people taking action, so that real, positive change for both nature and the climate becomes increasingly widespread and a normal part of society.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund have supported the project because of the widespread and long-term benefits which will make a lasting celebration of Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee.

**Who we are**

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust is part of the influential UK-wide partnership of 46 Wildlife Trusts. We have worked for more than 40 years to protect wildlife and wild places, and educate, influence and empower people. We manage 15 Nature Reserves and help others to manage their countryside sites. Our work is helping to secure the future of many important habitats and species, which might otherwise be lost.

**About you**

We are looking for someone with an interest in the environment, who is highly personable, passionate, and organised. Someone who is equally comfortable building relationships in communities as they are engaging with local politicians. You are committed to supporting community powered change and facilitating local people to act for nature.

This role will enable you to make a real difference to nature’s recovery and to be part of our vision to protect 30% of land and sea for wildlife by 2030 and to help us reach the objective of 1 in 4 people taking action for wildlife.

We are looking for someone who is willing to take responsibility and show courage and integrity. If you feel this is the role for you then we look forward to hearing from you.

To apply for the position of Community Wildlife Officer, please complete the Application Form at <https://www.teeswildlife.org/who-we-are/jobs/> in full and return it to [info@teeswildlife.org](mailto:info@teeswildlife.org)

Please note, we will not accept a CV instead of a completed application form.

**Closing date: Noon 16th October 2023**

If you require further information regarding any aspect of the application process, please do not hesitate to contact Steve Ashton on 01287 636382

**Interviews to take place Monday 30th October 2023**

**Community Wildlife Officer**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**IDENTIFICATION OF JOB**

**Working base:** Stockton on Tees / Margrove Heritage Centre

**Responsible to:** People and Wildlife Manager

**Responsible for:** Volunteers and trainees

**OVERALL PURPOSE OF THE JOB**

To nurture and empower communities to take action for nature’s recovery in Stockton-on-Tees (and more specifically Bowesfield, Roseworth and Norton). To enable community action through a series of facilitated and sustainable activities leading to a ripple effect of people taking action for nature and the climate.

**MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES**

* Build strong links with communities their leaders and champions and enable communities to deliver actions / projects for nature.
* Scope, develop and facilitate work within identified communities. This will involve overseeing community liaisons, maintaining strong links with community leaders and champions and enabling community leaders to share learning and experiences which promote self-supporting, peer-led networks.
* Support the empowerment of under-represented and disconnected groups within their local communities, working with them to enhance community cohesion and collaborative working through activities linked to environmental improvement.
* Support communities to develop, enabling project growth and training opportunities through both local and national resources.
* Champion the #TeamWilder approach, sharing skills, experience, knowledge and learning about community organising throughout the whole Wildlife Trusts movement.
* Support project monitoring, reporting and evaluation activity as required.
* Promote both local and national campaigns through community networks, liaising with communications contacts to maximise their reach and impact.
* Build positive relationships between the Trust and other similar community-based organisations to support objectives, reach wider and more diverse audiences, and promote effective partnership working.

In the course of delivering this work the postholder will need to: -

* Work with due regard to Health and Safety, the General Data Protection Regulations, the Fundraising Code of Practice, Safeguarding and other policies and procedures and maintain and uphold the good reputation of the Trust.
* Be willing to undertake other tasks as reasonably requested.
* To work flexible hours according to the needs of the communities that are being engaged.

All staff are ambassadors for the organisation both internally and externally and are expected to act in a professional manner at all times. They are required to abide by organisational rules, policies and procedures as laid down in the staff handbook, adopt environmentally friendly working practices, set and maintain high personal standards of efficiency and customer care and foster a ‘can do’ culture based on ownership, initiative, teamwork and exchange of information.

We want our people to be as diverse as nature, so we particularly encourage applications from people who are underrepresented within our sector, including people from minority ethnic backgrounds and people with disabilities. We are committed to creating a movement that recognises and truly values individual differences and identities.

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| **Personal Qualities** |  |  |
| Passion & enthusiasm for work with communities, for inclusion & for wildlife/conservation. | Y |  |
| Positive, creative & resilient – open to new ideas/learning & flexible in approach. | Y |  |
| Knowledge of and commitment to equal opportunities. | Y |  |
| Willingness to work flexible hours when the work requires. | Y |  |
| Warm and approachable with the ability to establish trust and build strong relationships with diverse audiences. | Y |  |
| Excellent public speaker. | Y |  |
| Ability to listen, absorb and allow effective conversation. | Y |  |
| Personal commitment to environmental lifestyle choices behaviours | Y |  |
| **Key competencies** |  |  |
| Excellent communicator with a proven track record in developing strong relationships with key individuals/stakeholders (volunteers community organisations and/or statutory agencies). | Y |  |
| An excellent team builder/player, but also able to work on own initiative & with a high degree of autonomy. | Y |  |
| High level of IT competence & excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office applications. | Y |  |
| Integrity and commitment – honest, with a strong work ethic and a real commitment to the values and aspirations of Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. | Y |  |
| **Experience** |  |  |
| 1 year employment or voluntary work experience in environmental / community activity. |  |  |
| Experience of working with community members to enable change. | Y |  |
| Experience of developing positive relationships with community volunteers and champions. | Y |  |
| Accredited Qualification in Community Organising or Community Development. |  | Y |
| Experience of developing and supporting community environmental activities and projects. | Y |  |
| Experience of working collaboratively. | Y |  |
| Experience of working with voluntary and community groups. |  | Y |
| Demonstrable experience of working with people from socially economic and disadvantage backgrounds. |  | Y |
| **Knowledge and skills** |  |  |
| Knowledge about basic environmental improvement activities. | Y |  |
| Ability to work with a diverse range of people and groups from different backgrounds. | Y |  |
| An understanding of the principles and practices that underpin effective community organising. | Y |  |
| An understanding of safeguarding and vulnerable adults. | Y |  |
| An understanding of the barriers to community involvement and how they may be overcome. |  | Y |
| Understanding of inclusion and issues relating to voice and influence. |  | Y |
| Excellent organisational skills able to prioritise and manage a varied workload. | Y |  |