

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR WEBSITE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

Terms of Employment:

- Fixed term for 18 months (in the first instance) on a contract basis
- Salary: £28,000 pro rata on a 37.5 hrs working week
- Hours of Work: 30 hours per week (inc. weekends/evenings as appropriate)
- Hybrid Working: flexibility of remote and office-based working
- Holidays: 25 days per annum pro rata

Accountable to:

Trustees of the Sandstone Ridge Trust

Area Covered:

The Cheshire Sandstone Ridge and its peripheral zone (incorporating parts of both Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East administrative areas)

About the Post:

An excellent opportunity exists to help shape the future of the Cheshire Sandstone Ridge.

The Trust is at a decisive turning point whereby we need to build our capacity and organisational resilience, engage and participate fully with the wider community, and prepare ourselves for an exciting future (with or without AONB designation). The links, relationships, goodwill and community engagement that we have established over many years have undoubtedly contributed toward our shortlisting, but we must continue to nurture these relationships and keep stakeholders and individuals actively engaged and updated as we progress through the designation assessment process, and similarly as we move into implementing the assessment outcomes.

As our work progresses, we wish to expand both the 'scope' and 'inclusivity', reaching out to include sections of society that typically have had limited access to, and experience of, the natural environment. In particular, we are seeking to engage with schools and young people; to promote accessibility to those that live in relatively more deprived areas, and to raise awareness regarding the benefits of health and well-being.

Purpose of Post:

This role provides an exciting opportunity for a person with experience of community and stakeholder engagement to develop and progress the work of the Sandstone Ridge Trust.

You will be an effective communicator with excellent organisational skills and be able to demonstrate proven experience in delivering community engagement with a series of grant funded projects. The ability to develop and manage diverse education and community engagement activities and volunteer training in a challenging environment is essential.

Possession of a qualification in teaching, adult education, training or related discipline would be advantageous as would be an appreciation and experience of the heritage and nature conservation environment.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

- promote the positive work of the Sandstone Ridge Trust and its partners
- foster wider, inclusive, community and stakeholder engagement in the delivery of outcomes
- develop high quality resources and activities to engage people in their understanding and learning about the Cheshire Sandstone
- organise, co-ordinate and deliver presentations to communities and schools throughout the Ridge; for individuals of all ages, abilities and ethnicities
- promote, advertise and raise awareness of the Trust's activities through high quality communication platforms
- keep accurate records of services provided, including evaluations, and contact details of participating organisations and individuals
- gather feedback from participants to monitor and evaluate activities
- implement rigorous safeguarding and health and safety procedures
- make creative and decisive changes that promote visual recognition of the grant in public areas throughout the project development
- you may be required to carry out other duties and tasks as required from time to time for the efficient operation of the Trust

About the Sandstone Ridge Trust:

The Sandstone Ridge was incorporated in 2011 (following the completion of the Heritage Lottery funded Habitats and Hillforts Landscape Partnership Scheme). Our vision is to secure the long-term future of Cheshire's Sandstone Ridge for the enjoyment and benefit of present and future generations.

Our Mission:

- To **Conserve** the natural beauty, special qualities and natural resources of the Sandstone Ridge.
- To **Connect** people with nature, heritage and the rural way of life.
- To **Inspire** current and future generations to better understand and look after this unique area.

Our Objectives:

- Enhancing the Sandstone Ridge landscape through habitat conservation and restoration.
- Improving understanding of the archaeological, historical and cultural heritage of the landscape.
- Raising awareness of the area's natural beauty and special qualities.
- Educating all users in the protection, conservation and improvement of the physical and natural environment.
- Working with others to ensure the continuation of the public benefits the Sandstone Ridge provides for our environment, our health and well-being, and our rural economy.

In June 2021 and as part of the 'Levelling Up Agenda', the Cheshire Sandstone Ridge was identified by UK Government as a candidate Area of Outstanding Natural

Beauty (AONB). The Trust, together with Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East Councils, was invited by Natural England to join the Management Advisory Group involved in the designation assessment process. This work, if successful, will be completed by 2025 when the Cheshire Sandstone Ridge will be designated as an AONB and become the first nationally protected landscape wholly in Cheshire.