

John o' Groats Trail Developer

2 Year Fixed Term Contract (extension dependent on funding)

£31,907-35,000 per annum, depending on experience

Job Description:

Position: A fixed full-time 2-year contract with potential to extend if successful.

Summary: The Association of Northern Trails Scotland (ANTS) require a John o' Groats Trail Developer to develop the next stages of the John o' Groats Trail: a 147-mile walking route from Inverness to John o' Groats. The goal now is to progress the current basic facility to achieve a safe, accessible and welcoming route throughout with wide appeal not only to end-to-enders (Land's End - John o' Groats) and long-distance users but also for week-enders and day trips and for both residents and visitors. This will require some sections with waymarking and interpretation, whilst others will need full build solutions including path construction, bridges, waymarking and interpretation/promotion, and the development of a programme of vegetation control.

Trail Location: East Coast of Caithness, Sutherland, and Easter Ross, plus Inverness. The position is home-based, and will require residence within the trail region.

Responsible to: The Board of Trustees of the Association of Northern Trails Scotland, through the Chairman with regular reporting required.

Job Location: This job will require homeworking, with support from ANTS with virtual and face to face meetings

Vehicle: The post holder will be required to provide a private vehicle for business use and will be reimbursed for work related mileage.

A contributory pension scheme is available for the successful candidate.

Job Purpose:

To implement current Project Plan priorities

- Assist the group in planning the next phases of the John o' Groats Trail development
- Take main responsibility for developing new sources of revenue and capital funding
- Help promote the route to a wider audience
- Improve engagement and joint working building partnerships with land managers, farmers, crofters, communities and other relevant groups

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

- Project management for delivery of trail capital projects that already have funding
- Identify new priority projects and explore possible sources of funding for their delivery, developing strong relationships with key funders and completing grant applications
- Establish sustainable systems for managing and maintaining trail infrastructure
- Update and develop the Project Plan in agreement with the group
- Develop sustainable sources of funding/fundraising for ANTS. Carry out and help with other fundraising activities as required
- Investigate options for maximising the appeal of the route to different user groups as the physical character changes from south to north
- Increase the membership base building on current supporters, taking account of potential benefits to members and the trail
- Carry out administrative functions such as (but not limited to) maintaining risk register, insurance coverage, project tracking and reporting against planned work, and ensuring compliance with OSCR rules and other regulations

Other Duties and Responsibilities:

- Promote the trail through press and media, social media, briefings and articles, and occasional talks
- Walk (and possibly cycle) portions of the trail in order to identify needed

improvements and plan projects

- Organise and/or lead occasional volunteer activities (if qualified)

Skills and Experience:

Essential:

- A self-motivated individual with a strong background in complex project management
- Experience of trail development or comparable, e.g. countryside access or visitor management
- Proven track record in fundraising and good working knowledge of public and private funding sources
- Evidence of successful partnership working and community engagement
- Experience of trail promotion and marketing or comparable work
- Ability to work under own initiative as well as part of a wider team as the sole professional (at least at the outset) working with charity trustees and volunteers
- Excellent verbal and written communication with experience of public speaking
- Fully conversant with MS office with the ability to produce quality reports and spreadsheets and other documentation

Desirable:

- Ideally familiar with the north east of Scotland and with the trail
- Experience of working with volunteers
- Experience of working directly with landowners and community groups
- Experience or knowledge of Scottish access rights and responsibilities under land reform legislation
- Experience of path construction and management or signage and waymarking

Applications should be made to walk@jogt.org.uk, include cover letter and CV, and be returned by the date stated in the job advertisement.