

Wild Places Protection Officer

JOHN
MUIR
TRUST

Introduction

Are you a talented individual looking to develop your career in a progressive conservation organisation? The reason the John Muir Trust exists - to conserve, protect and repair wild places for the benefit of everyone - has never been more important.

The John Muir Trust is recruiting a Wild Places Protection Officer to lead on planning casework. This is a unique opportunity to join our Policy team as it looks to develop its resources and expand its capacity to influence.

The role reports directly to the Senior Policy Officer and will collaborate with Trust staff teams working across Scotland and the wider UK. In this role you will lead on monitoring planning proposals for development that could adversely impact wild places, researching and presenting recommendations to senior management team on how the John Muir Trust should respond to proposed development, meeting with stakeholders to discuss development proposals, visiting wild places where development is being proposed, submitting written responses to planning applications. You will also be involved with and have the opportunity to support other aspects of the Policy team's work.

In applying you are able to demonstrate your ability to understand and summarise technical information and your ability to make a coherent case to defend a wild place.

The John Muir Trust is committed to working together to promote a more inclusive environment and we need a diverse team to realise this. Applicants are welcome from all walks of life with diverse backgrounds, cultures, perspectives, and experiences to support our work on behalf of wild places.

Main responsibilities

Key duties

- Monitor, research and record planning applications in accordance with the John Muir Trust casework process.
- Manage enquires and alerts about new planning applications, responding as appropriate.
- Coordinate, draft and submit responses to planning applications on behalf of John Muir Trust.
- Pro-actively engage with local communities, landowners and developers to learn more about proposed developments and understand the views of others.
- Attend public (online or in person) information events about new developments.
- Plan and undertake, where practical, site visits to areas where developments are proposed or being planned which the John Muir Trust has decided to object to.
- Draft and contribute to content about planning decisions and/or The John Muir Trust responses.
- Contribute or lead on John Muir Trust responses to government policy consultations.
- Represent the John Muir Trust at meetings with environmental organisations, MSPs, Scottish government, developers, John Muir Trust Members and supporters.
- Support various tasks and priorities as agreed with the John Muir Trust's Director of Policy.

Person specification

Essential skills, knowledge and aptitude

- Experience analysing technical and detailed information from a breadth of sources and reaching reasoned conclusions.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills with ability to structure a coherent case and present reasoned opinion.
- Organised with a pro-active approach to tasks, ability to prioritise workload and work to deadlines.
- Qualification in planning or similar field of study, experience and knowledge of planning policy, legislation and democratic processes in the UK.
- An interest in planning democracy and experience of community engagement.
- Willingness to travel and to work flexible hours if required.
- Highly self-motivated, keen to take initiative and take on responsibility.
- Ability to remain organised and work to deadlines.
- Energy, enthusiasm in your approach to work.
- Excellent interpersonal skills able to work well with others as part of a team.
- Strong work ethic, able to work remotely needing little supervision.
- ability to adapt and adjust work priorities to support colleagues as part of team.
- Ability to work flexible hours.
- A commitment to the John Muir Trust's aims and objectives.

Qualifications

- Educated to degree level or equivalent.
- Qualifications and or significant evidence of continued professional development relevant to the role purpose and level.

Other details

Type of contract:	Permanent
Hours:	21 hours per week
Salary:	£27,000-£30,000 (depending on experience)
Pension:	5% contributory to group auto-enrolment scheme
Reporting to:	Senior Policy Officer
Location:	home or in the Edinburgh office
Holidays:	34 days per year plus 2 'wild days'

John Muir Trust standard terms and conditions of employment apply.

johnmuirtrust.org