

# Welsh Peatlands Sustainable Management Scheme

## JOB DESCRIPTION

- Job title:** Welsh Peatlands Project Officer (North Wales)  
(2 year contract, 37 hrs per week)  
Post funded by the Welsh Peatlands Sustainable Management Scheme (WPSMS)
- Grade:** Grade 7 Points 25 - 29
- Location:** National Park Office, Penrhyndeudraeth, Gwynedd (x1)
- Responsible to:** Welsh Peatlands Project Manager
- Responsible for:** Nil

### 1. CONTEXT:

The Welsh Peatland Action Group (WPAG) is a coalition of conservation and research organisations and charities, local authorities, Welsh Government and farming unions who have an active interest in the peatlands of Wales and delivering on the Ministerial target to protect and enhance the peatlands of Wales by 2020.

The Welsh Peatlands Sustainable Management Scheme is a pan-Wales project, developed by the WPAG, to safeguard and develop the multiple benefits that can be provided by peat rich soils, and to seek long-term sustainable management and funding mechanisms for these fragile natural resources, iconic landscapes and biodiversity hotspots.

The project is led by Snowdonia National Park Authority, on behalf of the WPAG, in partnership with Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, the International Union for Conservation of Nature's UK Peatland Programme, Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, the National Trust, Natural Resources Wales, and Swansea University.

### 2. FUNDING:

This is a £1.2M costed project, with £925k funded by the Welsh Government's Rural Communities–Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, through the European Union's European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.



### **3. PURPOSE OF THE POST:**

- 3.1 To carry out effective monitoring and site evaluation (e.g. peat depths, vegetation condition, drainage issues) in order to attain accurate and reliable data on Welsh peatland sites.
- 3.2 Develop costed work programmes for the conservation and restoration of degraded peat soils in Wales.
- 3.3 Facilitate and engage with landowners and managers in the development of Peatland Code and/or Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) projects that can be marketed.
- 3.4 Undertake community and specialist groups engagement activities to realise the social, cultural and heritage values of peatlands locally in partnership with local and national organisations.
- 3.5 To actively engage with the academic and research element of the WPSMS project within the context of the project's outcomes.

### **4. PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- 4.1 Plan and undertake site assessment and monitoring of various sites in a safe and scientific manner in remote and difficult to access locations with partnership staff, contractors, volunteers and educational groups.
- 4.2 Process site data and formulate accurate and comprehensive reports on site condition, issues and restoration/management options.
- 4.3 Engage with landowners and land managers on the value of protected and healthy peatland and increase their understanding of the residual value of peat in upcoming market trading opportunities.
- 4.4 Negotiate and develop peat management plans for sites that can be marketed for their carbon value.
- 4.5 Develop strong connections with local schools and education groups and organisations to increase awareness of peat, dispelling fears and myths about peatlands.
- 4.6 Plan capital funded projects for peatland restoration sites including consents, costings, tendering and administration of grants.
- 4.7 Collate site data (peat depth, condition, hydrological data, vegetation analysis, condition survey, ownership and management details); analyse and interpret the data for further usage; assist with the evaluation of the development of the project.
- 4.8 Assist with the development of a peatland research platform being developed by project partners.
- 4.9 Assist with raising the profile of the project with marketing and promotion activities.

**General:**

- 4.10 Attend meetings as representative of the project, as and when required.
- 4.11 To have due regard for the health and safety of self and others.
- 4.12 To ensure that the principles of excellent customer care are applied to all elements of service delivery within the role.
- 4.13 To undertake any other duties commensurate with the grade of the post as required.

**5. WORKING ARRANGEMENTS:**

- 5.1 This is a full time post, 37 hours a week, for a period of 2 years from January 2019 to December 2020.
- 5.2 The work may involve occasional evening and weekend work.
- 5.3 Work will involve frequent site works in difficult, demanding and isolated sites.
- 5.4 Work will involve frequent travelling between sites in order to maintain team contact.

**6. WORKING LINKS:**

To work in liaison with:

- Other staff and members of Snowdonia and Brecon Beacons National Park Authorities
- Local Authorities
- Natural Resources Wales
- National Trust
- The Welsh Government
- International Union for Conservation of Nature
- Wildlife Trusts
- RSPB
- Centre of Ecology and Hydrology, Bangor
- Swansea University
- Community groups
- Farming Unions
- Educational groups and organisations
- Land owners and managers
- Contractors

**KEY PERSONAL SPECIFICATIONS:**

<b>Professional</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
	Degree or equivalent qualification in a relevant subject.	Understanding of peatland environments and their management.
	Experience of dealing with land managers and land owners.	Understanding of the peatland code and PES
	Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.	Experience of GIS and GPS systems
	Experience of working on scientific projects	Negotiation skills
	Computer skills / Microsoft Office.	The ability to undertake the requirements of the post through the medium of English and Welsh.
<b>Personal</b>	An organised, motivated worker	
	Confidence, enthusiasm and maturity to undertake the duties of the post.	
	Willing team worker, but with the ability to work unsupervised for periods of time.	
	Fitness levels commensurate to the roles duties, operating in rough, isolated terrain.	
	Valid driving licence.	