Garnock Connections Volunteer Engagement Assistant

What the job is about

Background to Garnock Connections

The Vision of the Garnock Connections Landscape Partnership (GCLP) is of a landscape with the River Garnock at its heart, forming a connection from the Muirshiel hills to Irvine Bay and around which the natural, cultural and historical wealth of the valley is enhanced, revealed and made accessible for the benefit of communities now and in the future.

The Garnock Connections area has many, largely unknown, sites of natural and historical significance. Hen harriers can be found on the Muirshiel uplands, and the saltmarshes and mud flats of the unusual double estuary at Irvine provide a vital overwintering refuge for wading birds. The estuary was also once home to the largest dynamite factory in the world. Further inland, the master craftsmen of Beith supplied furniture to ocean liners such as the RMS Queen Mary and the RMS Queen Elizabeth II. Any one of these cultural or natural heritage features should be considered nationally significant in their own right. However, it is the combination of all of them, sharing a rich history of adaptation and change, shaped by the landscape, and linked by the river, which makes the Garnock Connections Landscape Partnership area a truly significant and unique place.

The unique heritage of the Garnock Connections area currently faces a range of local, national, and international threats, from economic deprivation to climate change. However, the various forces for change acting on the area also provide a range of opportunities for people to engage with their heritage and help ensure its survival long into the future.

The 25 projects within the Garnock Connections Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) are divided into four delivery Themes, linked to the four Garnock Connections Objectives. Through delivering the Community Network theme, people will develop strong connections with their heritage. Through delivering the Knowledge Network theme, heritage will be better understood and valued. Through delivering the Access Network theme, people and place within the landscape will be better connected. Through delivering the Habitat Network theme, habitats and species networks will be enhanced.

Garnock Connections will be delivered by a small team of staff supporting Project Leads from a range of organisations and community groups. Strategic oversight will be provided by the GCLP Board and operational support will be provided by the GCLP Steering Group and specialist Working Groups. The people and communities of the Garnock Connections area are at the core of the programme, and the scheme includes a range of opportunities for training, volunteering, learning and other forms of engagement.

The GCLP has recently secured funding from the HLF Landscape Partnership grant programme to deliver Garnock Connections over a four-year period, from April 2018 – March 2022. www.garnockconnections.org.uk
Heritage Volunteers Project

The Heritage Volunteers project is one of the 25 projects within the Garnock connections landscape partnership. This project will improve the scale and effectiveness of heritage volunteering, bringing lasting benefits to the heritage, people and communities of the Garnock Connections area. This will be achieved through increasing awareness of opportunities, improving access to volunteering, tackling barriers to volunteering and promoting best practice.

Specifically, the project will engage with heritage organisations, existing volunteers and potential volunteers to understand current constraints and identify opportunities for improvement. This will include the creation of an internet-based volunteering hub; volunteer engagement events; and supported volunteering events to help overcome specific participation barriers. The project will also help to promote and share best practice in volunteering across the area.

Main Duties

Your role as Garnock Connections Volunteer Engagement Assistant will be to support the delivery of a volunteer engagement project, which will improve the scale and effectiveness of heritage volunteering across the Garnock Connections area.

In particular, you will:

- Liaise with community groups and NGO’s in the area to make a comprehensive record of heritage volunteering opportunities.
- Promote volunteering opportunities via the website, social media, press releases, events and activities.
- Collate information about people interested in heritage volunteering.
- Coordinate volunteering events.
- Share volunteering best practice within the Garnock Connections area.
- Support the Project Officer and consultants in developing an online volunteering hub.
- Take part in personal development and training activities, as directed by the Project Officer.

You will be well supported by the Garnock Connections Project Officer, but you will need to be able to demonstrate the ability to work independently, to bring creative solutions to community engagement and be comfortable working to deadlines and with a wide range of partners and stakeholders. You should have some experience of wildlife recording and natural heritage projects.

Garnock Connections is a partnership comprising RSPB Scotland (lead), the Scottish Wildlife Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, North Ayrshire Council and Historic Environment Scotland. It is a Landscape Partnership Scheme supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, with additional match funding from various sources, including Garnock Connections partner organisations. This post is also funded by the Green Infrastructure Community Engagement Fund.
Who we are and what we do

The RSPB exists to give nature a home. We help our birds, other wildlife and natural places survive and thrive.

On our doorstep are woods and farmland, moors and marshes, cliffs and mountains. They are home to an astonishing array of precious but threatened wildlife. Every species is unique, but they are all connected to one another. And every one of them needs a home to survive.

Sadly, many of our best loved and most iconic species can’t find a welcome home here any more. It’s our job to change this. A country that’s not home to skylarks and puffins, red squirrels and hedgehogs is not a country any of us want to live in.

To protect our threatened birds and other wildlife, we need to protect the places where they live. If we are taking care of nature, we are taking care of ourselves and future generations.

The RSPB in a nutshell

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB):

- Was formed in 1889 to counter the barbaric trade in bird plumes for women’s hats
- Has since grown into a world-leading wildlife conservation organization and now speak out for all birds and wildlife, tackling the problems which threaten our environment
- Has over a million members, including more than 200,000 youth members
- Has more than 2,000 active staff members and almost 18,000 volunteers, who donate more than a million hours of their time – that’s the equivalent of 600 full-time staff
- Has a NET income available for charitable purposes of £89.3 million
- Has more than 200 nature reserves covering 143,7800 hectares and home to 80% of our rarest or most threatened bird species
- Has a UK headquarters, three national offices and eight regional offices
- Has a network of over 150 local groups and more than 150 youth groups
- Has an impressive global reach, with active projects and capacity building programmes in 26 countries and 10 UK Overseas Territories
- Is the UK partner and leading player, in Birdlife International
- Has the largest charity mail order operation in the UK, and also has the UK’s most successful charity credit card

Volunteers

Volunteers founded the RSPB 125 years ago and remain a vitally important part of the organization today; there are approximately nine volunteers for every paid member of staff. Our volunteers bring a unique range of skills and qualities to the RSPB, help stretch our scarce resources and keep us in touch with grass roots.
Our Strategy, Mission and Cultural Values

Our Strategy

Our vision: a world richer in nature
Imagine this. Wild birds and other wildlife will no longer be declining. Nature is restored, enriching and sustaining the lives of people as a result. Such a world would guarantee that future generations have clean air and water, a stable climate, abundant and diverse wildlife, and a robust, diverse and sustainable economy.

Our long-term purpose: saving nature
We believe that:
- There is a moral imperative to save nature
- Nature is crucial for peoples quality of life and the planet’s life support systems
- Birds are an integral part of the web of life
- We are well placed to stand up for birds and all nature
- The challenge is great, we must work with others to succeed
- We need growing popular support

Our Mission

By 2020…
Our work is both urgent and important and we need to act now to make a difference. The world’s governments have committed to halting biodiversity loss by 2020 and we will challenge them, as well as businesses, civil society and ourselves, to take the steps necessary to reach this goal, and then go further.

Our Cultural Values

Our cultural values are the way we work with each other and partners:

Bold
We speak out honestly for what we believe in, aiming higher and pushing further for growth. We seek to provide innovative, fun and sociable ways for people to get involved

Focused
We identify where birds and wildlife are most under threat, then act decisively and with commitment to save them and deliver tangible results

Supportive
We support each other and our sector partners in order to flourish, and make sure our supporters receive reward and recognition for their contribution

Together
We work together for the biggest possible impact across the RSPB and with partners across the UK and globally

May 2017
What we offer

The RSPB offer some great benefits to reward and support you while working with us.

**Pay**
We offer a competitive salary to attract and retain great people.

**Flexible Working**
We pride ourselves on being a flexible and supportive employer. We realise that our staff have demands on their time outside of work, and are open to requests to work flexibly. There are a range of options to support you such as flexitime, TOIL and parental leave. Depending on the circumstances, up to five paid days a year is offered for unexpected family emergencies, elective medical procedures and compassionate leave.

**Annual leave**
Our leave year runs from 1 April to 31 March. When you start you will receive 26 days’ holiday, excluding public holidays (four days are taken during the RSPB’s Christmas shutdown). This will increase to 28 days after three years' continuous service and 30 days after seven years' continuous service. Leave will be pro-rata for part time staff and where you start part way through the year.

**Pension**
The RSPB offers a defined contribution pension scheme to all uk based staff, with a matching employer contribution of up to 7%.

**Life Assurance**
All employees age 18 or over and under 75 are automatically covered for death in service benefit. A lump sum of five times basic salary at the date of the employee’s death is paid to their beneficiaries or estate.

**Maternity, paternity and adoption leave**
To support your family life we have enhanced our legal obligations towards employees. We offer up to 12 weeks full salary to employees going on maternity or adoption leave, and up to two weeks on full salary to employees taking paternity leave.

**Sickness Pay**
If you become ill, you are supported by our enhanced Occupational Sick Pay Scheme. Your entitlement is determined by length of service, but can be up to a maximum of 36 weeks for full-time staff. We also work closely with one of the UK’s leading occupational health providers, to help you in returning to work.

**Employee Assistance Scheme**
All RSPB employees have free access to an Employee Assistance Programme provided by The Validium Group. This service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

**Staff Association**
All employees are eligible to join our staff association. The RSPB set up the Staff Association to independently protect and promote the interests of staff. It is officially recognised by the Management Board and Council and is consulted on many key decisions. The Staff Association also negotiate member discounts on a wide variety of goods and services.

**Learning and Development**
The RSPB is committed to supporting all RSPB employees with quality learning and development opportunities. We offer a wide range of learning and development opportunities including our induction process, on-going training and e-learning. We prioritise leadership and management which is key to people motivation and success. Our recent
leadership programmes have received the Institute of Leadership and Management accreditation. The Learning and Development team's focus and aim is to help both you and the organisation to succeed.

**Volunteering**
All employees are entitled to one extra day of paid leave each year to spend volunteering. This can be for any charity or voluntary organisation - not just the RSPB.

**Sabbaticals**
After five years' continuous service, and each five years thereafter, all employees are entitled to a 4 week sabbatical. This is a chance to take time out of your busy day-to-day job to do research, volunteer, learn a new skill or travel. Sabbaticals should have specific goals and objectives designed to benefit both you and the RSPB.

**Childcare Vouchers**
The Childcare Voucher Scheme is open to all employees who are parents or guardians and currently use childcare facilities. Employees can opt to receive part of their salary in childcare vouchers up to a maximum of £243 per month to use with a wide range of childcare providers. The amount received in vouchers is tax free.

**Green loans**
Employees can apply for an interest-free loan to buy a bicycle or a season ticket.

**RSPB Nature Reserves and RSPB retail**
Employees can visit any RSPB reserve free and can receive up to 20% off retail items in the RSPB’s shops.

**Relocation**
We are able to offer a limited amount of financial help towards relocation costs for employees, depending on the circumstances. We need the right people in the right place so offer financial help towards relocation costs for employees, depending on the circumstances. Whether you are a home owner or renting, we may be able to offer you assistance.

---

### How we expect you to work

The RSPB has seven key competencies that are important to our organisation’s success. We expect all employees to demonstrate the following behaviours in everything that they do:

**Direction:**
You ensure you have a clear direction and sense of common purpose that guides what you do and how you approach your work.

**Energy:**
You bring energy and urgency to the RSPB to motivate people to do the best they can.

**Capability:**
You build your own and other people’s capabilities, directly and indirectly.

**Relationships:**
You communicate effectively and build productive internal and external relationships.

**Change:**
You support continuous improvement and change and constantly look for way to do things better.

**Advocacy:**
You act as an advocate for the RSPB.

**Performance:**
You get things done achieve ambitious goals and the RSPB’s aims.
Environmental Statement

We have a role to play in protecting our environment by being as ‘green’ as possible. As a conservation organisation, we know a healthy environment is critical for nature and that we need to lead by example. Through our environmental management system (EMAS), we have an Environmental Policy, objectives and targets which prioritises where we can do most. All staff members are asked to respect and adhere to our green principles.

Equality and Diversity at the RSPB

The RSPB is part of a global network that incorporates a diversity of traditions and cultures, and which represents different inheritances, backgrounds, influences, perspectives and experiences. A better understanding of people’s differences will help us to appreciate and value everyone’s contribution, and recognise that we are all an integral and invaluable part of the RSPB.

Everyone has the right to be treated with consideration and respect. The RSPB is committed to achieving a truly inclusive environment for all, by developing better working relationships that release the full potential, creativity and productivity of each individual, and an atmosphere where everyone can learn, work and live free from prejudice, discrimination, harassment and violence.

The RSPB aims to ensure that all staff, volunteers, partners, clients, contractors, members and the general public are treated fairly. Unless it can be shown to be justified, this will be regardless of sex, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment, marital or civil partnership status, race (including colour, nationality, ethnicity, or national origin), disability, medical status, age, religion or belief, political opinion, social or economic status, or ex-offender status.

Employment Checks

All offers of employment are made subject to the following criteria:

**Proof of eligibility to work in the UK, Satisfactory Employment Health Check, Two references satisfactory to the RSPB and where required a Satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Check.**

Applications from candidates requiring a certificate of sponsorship under the UK points-based immigration system will not be considered if there are suitable candidates who do not require sponsorship. This is because employers need to demonstrate that they are unable to recruit a resident worker, before they can recruit a non-resident worker*

The resident worker rule does not prevent applicants requiring sponsorship from applying for our vacancies, but such applications should be made on the understanding that they can only be considered subject to the restrictions above.

For further information, please visit the Home Office UK Border Agency website.

*This rule does not apply to those applying for roles that require a bachelor, postgraduate degree or postgraduate certificate in education qualification. It is necessary for the qualification to be an essential requirement for the role and the applicant to prove that they possess such a qualification (or have completed a minimum of 12 months study in the UK towards a UK PhD), which is recognised in the UK.*

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales No. 207076 Scotland No. SC037654