



PEAT POLICY OFFICER

£25,000

Flexible: Home or Office Based

Full Time 35 Hours per week

12 Month Contract

The climate and nature crises require comprehensive, ambitious solutions and urgent action across all sections of society. As a grassroots movement of 46 independent conservation charities working on the ground to recover nature, The Wildlife Trusts have a vital role to play.

Peatlands are critical to our vision to see 30% of land managed for nature by 2030, halting the decline of biodiversity and starting to recover nature across the UK. They are home to rare and threatened species; unique breeding bird assemblages, fascinating invertebrates, and an abundance of mosses, sedges, dwarf shrubs and insectivorous plants. Restoring peatlands on a landscape scale is also essential for tackling climate change and achieving 'net zero' emissions; peatlands are vast carbon stores, yet when in poor condition they are a net emitter of greenhouse gasses.

As Peat Policy Officer, you will advocate for strong policies to prevent damage to peatlands and support their recovery, working with colleagues across the movement and in partner organisations. You will use evidence, stories and resources from across the movement to advocate for:

- Targets for peatland restoration, and mechanisms to support their delivery;
- Reductions in damaging activity including burning, drainage and extraction;
- An end to peat use in compost and wider horticulture;

and will seek to establish the movement as the foremost deliverer of peatland restoration and recovery.

Working with campaign colleagues you will help drive forward our campaign to [ban sales of peat products](#), and will coordinate the movement's response to a forthcoming Government consultation on this topic, as part of a wider push by the environmental sector. You will work alongside Wildlife Trusts and partner organisations to build the case for greater controls on other damaging activities, and draw upon expertise from across the sector to inform the mechanisms needed to reduce or reverse the damage caused to our lowland and upland peatlands.

You will help ensure active communication with and among Trusts on peat policy, to ensure local Trusts help inform central policy work, and are equipped to utilise and amplify policy messages.

Working among and between teams, you will help ensure the central team effectively collaborates to deliver this programme.

We value courage, respect, integrity, trust and responsibility. Whilst we are passionate in promoting our aims, we are not judgemental, and we are inclusive. Our society is divided, and The Wildlife Trusts want to reduce, not increase, that division.

You will be part of a tight and dedicated central team, with a modest budget but an unmatched depth and breadth of human resources to draw on across The Wildlife Trusts. We are looking for an organised and driven character who can thrive in a grassroots movement. We need a team-worker, who will work collaboratively and strategically to deliver agreed priorities, but one who can display a degree of personal responsibility and autonomy too.

Closing Date: 8 August 2021

First Interviews: 18 August 2021



PEAT POLICY OFFICER JOB DESCRIPTION

IDENTIFICATION OF JOB

Team: Public Affairs, Land and Sea
Working Base: Open, current home working
Responsible to: Water Policy Manager

OVERALL PURPOSE OF JOB

To work within The Wildlife Trusts' central team to help establish the movement as a key voice on peat policy, and to build our reputation as a major deliverer of peatland restoration.

Main responsibilities

a) Advocate for targets for peatland restoration and use evidence to inform the development of mechanisms to enable their delivery

- Engage with the Defra team responsible for peatlands
- Seek to influence the Implementation Plan being developed by Natural England in response to the Peat Action Plan published this year
- Support colleagues seeking to influence the development of Environmental Land Management Schemes to ensure that habitat restoration actions are embedded.

b) Call for reductions in damaging activity including burning, drainage and extraction

- Work collaboratively with the eNGO England Peat Policy Group to achieve policy influence and public awareness
- Support partner organisations by providing a stronger Wildlife Trust voice on peatland damage
- Support Wildlife Trust colleagues' engagement with the Lowland Peat Agricultural Taskforce
- Support colleagues seeking to influence the development of Environmental Land Management Schemes to ensure that actions for lowland peat soils are embedded.

c) Contribute to a campaign on ending peat use

- Work with campaigns colleagues and partner organisations to develop and deliver a coordinated campaign on ending peat use, ensuring that strong policy asks are championed
- Lead TWT's response to the Peat in Horticulture consultation
- Support an internal work programme to ensure a peat-free TWT
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d) Help establish the movement as the foremost deliverer of peatland restoration and recovery

- Use stories from across the movement to build our reputation as deliverers of peatland recovery, contributing to publications and websites and responding to media enquiries, consultations and government inquiries.
- Highlight the work of the movement on Paludiculture and support the advocacy needs of this developing area of work.
- Draw proactively on the expertise of local Trusts to develop policy asks and advocacy materials that reflect the needs of deliverers on the ground.
- With colleagues, facilitate internal communication and learning across Trusts so that expertise on peat is more effectively shared.

Job Specification

The officer will undertake a range of complex, technical and professional tasks in differing situations, with a degree of personal responsibility and autonomy. It is important to be able to work both alone and as a member of the team. This includes:

- Providing good communication, advice and support to others across the department and within the movement
- Engaging with, or supporting the team to liaise with, contacts including partner organisations, statutory agencies, and colleagues across The Wildlife Trusts
- Representing the organisation at relevant events

Occasional travel may be required within the UK. This may involve long working days, unsociable hours and overnight stays. A driving licence would be valuable, as public transport is not always available.

In order for the organisation to work effectively, you may be required to assist with other areas of work and, therefore, you should be prepared to undertake other duties appropriate to the post, as delegated by your line manager.

All staff are ambassadors for the organisation both internally and externally and are expected to act in a professional manner at all times. They are required to abide by organisational rules, policies and procedures as laid down in the staff handbook, adopt environmentally friendly working practices, set and maintain high personal standards of efficiency and customer care and foster a 'can do' culture based on ownership, initiative, teamwork and exchange of information.



PEAT POLICY OFFICER PERSON SPECIFICATION

Competencies & Personal Qualities

Essential

- Professional approach with good interpersonal skills
- Ability to demonstrate creativity, enthusiasm, self-motivation and initiative
- Effective communicator
- Ability to work efficiently under pressure and to deadlines

Desirable

- Commitment to wildlife conservation
- Ability to function cooperatively as part of a team
- A tactful and diplomatic disposition
- Takes ownership and responsibility

Experience

Essential

- Experience of policy work
- Experience of team working, advising, influencing and networking with a wide range of people
- Experience of written and spoken communication for a range of audiences

Desirable

- Experience of managing a diverse workload including handling and disseminating information

Knowledge

Essential

- A relevant environmental degree or equivalent, or working towards one.
- Knowledge across a range of subjects relating to peat and peatlands (e.g. burning, extraction, drainage, peatland restoration)

Desirable

- Understanding of the issues and opportunities relating to wildlife conservation in the UK
- Information management, including relevant IT systems
- Knowledge of customer care

Skills

Essential

- Research skills – ability to analyse and interpret complex information
- Communication skills – verbal and written, social media, and presentation skills

Desirable

- The ability to think and act strategically
- Effective negotiation skills
- Project management, organisation and prioritisation of workloads

