

The post of Staff Naturalist at Aigas Field Centre



The Staff Naturalist is a pivotal, senior post with a seat on the Management Team. It is essential to the smooth and effective running of the field centre.

The function of the Staff Naturalist is to be the 'go to' person for natural history on site and the places we visit around the Highlands. Because we employ new rangers on an annual basis, and take on APs every September, there has to be a permanent member of staff they can turn to for site knowledge and general wildlife information.

Required qualifications are as follows:

1. A natural science degree.
2. A clean driving licence.
3. A sound working knowledge of British natural history.
4. Some Scottish Highland experience.
5. A commitment to nature conservation and environmental education.
6. An ability to manage rangers and organise shifts and rotas.
7. Good organisation and communication skills.
8. Proficient computer skills.

Responsibilities of the post:

- a) To develop a sound working knowledge of the Aigas Estate and its wildlife.
- b) To share that knowledge with Rangers and the Education Team.
- c) To keep relevant biological records.
- d) To participate in the Aigas Ranger Training Scheme (ARTS) and the induction of APs.
- e) To be the lead on nature conservation projects such as the wildcat breeding programme and the beaver project, and to train support staff.
- f) To be responsible for the hides and feeders and their maintenance (with the rangers and the maintenance team).
- g) To perform full ranger duties as required.
- h) To participate in fundraising and communicate with sponsors, donors and other important supporters.
- i) To attend management meetings.
- j) To produce reports for, and to attend, Aigas Trust meetings (twice yearly).

The Staff Naturalist is a full-time, live in post on a three year term contract renewable by appraisal at the end of the second year.

Starting salary is £23,000 per annum.

Hours averaged over the year are assessed at approximately 42 per week during the operative season and 40 per week during the closed months.

Annual leave is 30 days including a two week mandatory shutdown at Christmas and New Year.

Aigas Field Centre Ltd operates a statutory pension scheme.

Accommodation is provided by Grange Estate Company in a staff house shared with other field centre staff.

Rent of £8.46 (statutory amount as at 2021) per day and an equal share of the house's Council tax is charged monthly.

A packed lunch is provided free of charge for every working day during the operative season (not the winter months).

Uniform and Swarovski binoculars are provided as needed.

The Staff Naturalist desk and a networked computer will be in the Estate Office.

It is the responsibility of all Aigas Field Centre staff to uphold the high standards of courtesy and professionalism for which the centre is renowned.

Application for the role of Staff Naturalist:

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|---|---|
| Name* | |
| Email* | |
| Telephone no.* | |
| Date of birth (optional) | |
| Professional qualifications* | |
| Details of experience* | |
| Availability* | |
| Referees* (one professional, one character) | (Professional) Name: Contact email: Detail of association: (Character) Name: Contact email: Detail of association: |
| How did you hear about Aigas? | |
| Other details | |

* required field.

Please also include a project proposal.

On no more than one side of A4 paper, please outline a proposal for a new conservation project at Aigas. This should include:

1. Project name
2. Brief summary
3. Benefits of the project / objectives
4. Projected budget and fundraising ideas
5. Timeline and eventual outcome.

Please attach a full CV and Project Proposal.

Signature..... Date.....

