

Community Art Project Officer

Greensand Country Landscape Partnership

3 days a week. 5 month fixed term contract.

£26,999 pa (for full-time equivalent -SCP23) per annum pro rata, plus
travel expenses.

Introduction

We are seeking a passionate, highly motivated person who is experienced in delivering Community Art projects. You will help us set up and deliver three Community Engagement art projects. The projects are part of an exciting array of projects being delivered by a Landscape Partnership for Greensand Country, a distinctive landscape area consisting of the Greensand Ridge and associated river valleys, located principally in Central Bedfordshire (see map on page 5).

We are thrilled to have funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to run a programme of exciting projects which will help us raise awareness of the heritage value of this landscape and to reverse the gradual decline in the distinct landscape character.

We have also had the exciting opportunity to create and deliver a destination brand for the Greensand Country.

As the Community Art Project Officer you will be expected to:

- Deliver a Stories in the Landscape Project;
 - Capture stories from within the Greensand Country with the help of volunteers if necessary.
 - Facilitate training for volunteers to give them the skills required to deliver the project.
 - Manage artists to interpret the stories
 - Ensure the stories are archived for the future.
- Plan and set up a project which shows how people emotionally connect with the landscape of the Greensand Country today, through photography, creative writing,



- Deliver a talks and debates programme.
- Work as part of the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership team and assist and work collaboratively with other members to take forward the aims and objectives of the Scheme.

You will be busy and will be part of a supportive and friendly team, where you will have a willingness to roll up your sleeves and ‘muck in’. You will also have autonomy and will be encouraged to use your own initiative. You will have a passion for landscape heritage, great communication and project management skills, and the capability to bring together, engage and enthuse a range of people in the activities and objectives of these community projects.

This is an important role for this Landscape Partnership. Greensand Country is located in a relatively densely populated area of central England, with around one million people living within 20km of the area. Our research shows that not many people know about the Greensand Country and **the area is not well promoted**. It is too ‘secret’ and people do not have a strong sense of place. Yet there is a strong landscape character and compelling heritage, with some major threats but distinct opportunities. If we want people to cherish this landscape and protect it for the future, we need to engage them in the spirit of this beautiful space and its rich natural and cultural heritage.

What is the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership?

‘Greensand Country’ is an island of distinctive, beautiful and loved countryside, based on a band of higher ground stretching from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay, rising out of the surrounding clay vales. It contains all of Bedfordshire’s remaining heathland, more than half of its woodland, and more surviving historic parkland than any other landscape in the country, often surrounding notable manor houses. This landscape character is a legacy of its underlying Greensand geology, which led to much of it being regarded as ‘marginal land’ not suitable for agriculture, as well as its management over centuries by major estates.

However, the area’s distinctiveness has been weakening over decades due to modern development and the changing economics of land use. Key habitats are becoming fragmented and unsustainable in the longer term; views both of and from the area are being lost or impaired; houses are being built of the wrong vernacular; and traditional heritage skills are dying out. Just as significantly, there is a low level of awareness locally of the significance of the area’s



The Greensand Country Landscape Partnership has been formed by bringing together a diverse range of local bodies, to raise awareness of the heritage value of this landscape and to reverse the gradual decline in its distinctiveness.

Our vision is for the Greensand Country to be a living and working landscape that is cherished by present and future generations.

By 2021 we will have reversed the gradual decline in the area's landscape character, and created a strong, community led partnership and strategic framework to promote the area's interests and secure the necessary long-term financial and community investment to sustain the area's distinctive natural and built heritage.

Outline terms and conditions

1. *Employer:* Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity
2. *Period:* 3 days a week (7 hour days). 5 month fixed term contract.
3. *Working hours:* 21 hour week.
4. *Place of work:* As this project is jointly hosted your place of work may be at BRCC's offices at Cardington, Bedford or The Greensand Trust Offices at Maulden Wood, Bedfordshire or Rushmere Country Park, Heath and Reach or you may work remotely.
5. *Salary:* £26,999 pa (SCP23) pro rata based on a 35 hour week.
6. *Expenses:* Mileage is paid at 45p/mile for car users
7. *Holidays:* 175 hours (25 days for full-time equivalent) holiday per annum pro rata, and 56 hours (8 days) bank / Public holidays. Total 231 hours (33 days) leave including all bank holidays.



To apply

Please send:

1. A CV which shows us how your knowledge, skills and experience fit the role as described in the person specification and job description.
2. A supporting statement which describes:
 - a. The experience and knowledge you have which would enable you to carry out the role as described in the job description.
 - b. How you fit with the selection criteria as set out in the person specification.
 - c. Why you would like this role.
3. The monitoring form

Please email these to Claire Poulton at claire@greensandcountry.com

An information pack, the Job Description and Person Specification for the role and more information including our Landscape Conservation Action Plan can be found on www.greensandcountry.com

The application deadline is 25th September 2020. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview on 12th October 2020.

For an informal chat about the post, please contact Claire on 07534484971.



