

Trustee vacancy with the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust

The East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust is looking to appoint a new Trustee to help guide the strategic development of our organisation. We are seeking experience and enthusiasm to help us secure the future of one of the nation's most important conservation sites. Working with a small team of dedicated staff, the role is unpaid but highly rewarding, with a time commitment in the region of two to three days per year. Reasonable travel and associated expenses will be reimbursed on request. The initial appointment length will be two years, but with the expectation of a long-term commitment. The role is to work with staff to oversee the governance of the Trust and guide the delivery of the organisation's vision and objectives. Key challenges include reconciling the management of our 400,000+ visitors on Common Land with wildlife conservation, and diversifying income streams to secure the dynamic future of the Trust in a post Brexit world. We therefore especially welcome applicants with experience in visitor management and fund raising. A broad understanding of nature conservation, engagement and finance would also be desirable.

Background

The East Devon Pebblebed Heaths (Woodbury Common) is one of Devon's most important and most-visited conservation areas. Sited close to Exmouth and Exeter and covering over 1,000 hectares, the heaths have national and international designations including Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area. The site is also the primary training location for the Royal Marines. Further details on the site can be found at: <https://www.pebblebedheaths.org.uk/>

The core area of the site is managed by the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust (registration number 1109514) which was established by the landowner Clinton Devon Estates in 2005. It forms part of a conservation group, which includes a Land Management Company (company registration number 5413877). The Trust also has responsibility for the management of the Otter Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest adjacent to Budleigh Salterton.

Our Vision for the Pebblebed Heaths and the Otter Estuary

Places whose special qualities and rich history are understood by all; where wildlife is resilient and can flourish and adapt in the face of climate change; where society's ever evolving needs for recreation, health and learning are fulfilled; places which have confidence in their stewardship for future generations.

Objectives the Trust

- Management of the heath is based on recognised best practice and sound scientific knowledge
- Our staff are trained to the highest level and are respected as leaders in conservation
- All habitats and species under the care of the Trust are in a favourable conservation status, with a strong biological monitoring programme to support decision making
- A strong sense of environmental stewardship exists within our local communities, who fully support and are engaged with the activities of the Trust
- Sufficient financial resilience and fundraising capability exists within the Trust to ensure the sustainability of management

To arrange an informal discussion with either the Chair of the Conservation Trust, please contact Dr Sam Bridgewater at mail@mail@pebblebedheaths.org.uk

The closing date for notifications is Midnight on Thursday 31st February 2019. Notifications of interest must consist of a CV, a supporting statement (maximum 2 sides of A4), and names of two referees whom we may approach, should be sent by email to: mail@pebblebedheaths.org.uk. Interviews for potential candidates will be take place in March/April 2019 at the Conservation Trust's headquarters Near East Budleigh, East Devon.