

Seasonal Habitat Field Assistant

Job Specification

1. Introduction

The River Dee is offering an exciting opportunity to help deliver its ambitious plans to restore one of the country's most important salmon rivers.

The River Dee is one of the four principal salmon rivers in Scotland and the Dee's unique heritage makes it a worldwide destination for salmon fishing. Its 80-mile journey from headwaters in the Cairngorm mountains to the city of Aberdeen supports over 60 individual fishing beats.

The Dee District Salmon Fishery Board (DDSFB) is the statutory body tasked with protecting and enhancing stocks of salmon and sea trout across the district. The River Dee Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee which provides scientific services for the fisheries, conservation, and education to the wider community of the Dee catchment. The Board and Trust have been recognised as being at the forefront of fisheries management in Scotland with an established track record in innovative conservation and restoration programmes.

In May 2021 the DDSFB were successful in their application for NatureScot's Biodiversity Challenge Funding to deliver the "**Glen Muick - River and Wetlands Restoration Project**". This seasonal field assistant post is funded by this project and the successful candidate will help to implement project actions on the ground.

The employer for this post is the DDSFB. The Board and River Dee Trust work very closely together for the benefit of the river. The combined team of 13 staff work from the River Office at Dinnet on Deeside.

2. Reporting

The Seasonal Habitat Field Assistant will report to the River Operations Manager. The River Operations Manager reports to the River Director, who has overall responsibility for the activities of the Dee District Salmon Fishery Board and the River Dee Trust.

3. Responsibility & duties

The Seasonal Habitat Field Assistant will be mainly dedicated to assist in the delivery of the 'Glen Muick - River and Wetlands Restoration Project', which will be a practical, outdoor-based role. During the period of employment, hands-on training will be provided in habitat restoration techniques such as 'debris dam' and 'leaky dam' construction, large wood structure placement, fencing and fence repairs, tree planting & protection, tree monitoring and basics of habitat and species survey as relevant to the project.

The seasonal assistant will work alongside experienced team members delivering the various actions, and thus gain practical experience of a wide range of useful land management skills. In addition, the setting of working within the wider Fishery Board and Trust team will provide an invaluable context to the training.

4. Skills and Background

The Seasonal Habitat Field Assistant should have the following skills and attributes.

- Evidence of ability and willingness to carry out manual labour.
- Evidence of ability and willingness to work outside in all weathers.
- Good communication skills and a 'can do' attitude.
- A keen interest in learning practical skills.
- Willing to work in a small team.

5. Hours and Place of Work

The DDSFB operates a 40-hour working week. It should be noted that this may include periods of work out with normal office hours and include the occasional weekend or evening.

The place of work will nominally be the River Office in Dinnet although the successful candidate will be working in the field on a daily basis.

6. Remuneration and Benefits

The post will attract an annual salary equivalent of £19,000. Transport will be provided in connection with work duties. A pension scheme is offered, and 6% contributions are matched by the employer.

7. Terms of Employment

The terms of employment will be specified in an accompanying contract and staff handbook.

The post is temporary and seasonal in nature. It covers a 4-month fixed period, commencing mid-September 2021.