

Role: Seasonal Ranger Naturalist	Region: South & West
Reports to: Senior Ranger	Pay Band/Starting Salary: Band 2 Upper £25,483 per annum £12.25 per hour
Location: NTS Arran Ranger Service, Isle of Arran	Type of Contract: Fixed-Term Seasonal – 6 months (40hrs/week, April to October 2025)
Terms and conditions <i>The post is subject to the standard terms and conditions.</i> <i>Accommodation may be available – a shared house, with a separate bedroom, but shared kitchen and living area, utilities included at a rental rate of £400 per calendar month.</i> <i>Hours of work – 40 hours per week including some weekend work and some unsocial hours.</i> <i>Holidays – 15 days paid leave, to be taken over the period of the contract</i> <i>A Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme check will be required.</i>	

Purpose of the role - how it adds value

To contribute to the management of Brodick Country Park & Goatfell, in line with the Trust's objectives for conservation, access and enjoyment, and meeting health and safety and other policies and standards. To help deliver the targets in the countryside management operational plan. The post holder will help to protect and enhance the natural and cultural heritage whilst facilitating access by visitors and increasing their enjoyment and understanding by means of interpretation and partnerships with local stakeholders.

Brodick Castle, Gardens and Country Park and Goatfell.

Brodick Castle, Country Park and Goatfell could be described as the archetypal Trust property exhibiting all the elements that the Trust aims to conserve, from built and natural heritage to the collections, designed landscape and wild land.

Brodick Castle, with its magnificent gardens and policies, rises majestically above Brodick Bay on the Isle of Arran. Once owned and created by the Dukes of Hamilton, one of Scotland's grandest aristocratic families, the property derives much of its significance from this association. The Castle is of national importance for its architectural and archaeological interest, and the gardens have three national collections of Rhododendrons.

Brodick Country Park (72ha) was designated the first island Country Park in Scotland in 1980. The Country Park forms part of the designed landscape surrounding Brodick Castle and with its mosaic of native woodland, gorges, ponds and mature parkland, is of considerable local natural heritage value. The Country Park supports a number of locally and nationally significant species such as red squirrel, barn owl, brown long-eared bats and a wide array of flowering plants, ferns and mosses.

The property is a well-used local recreational resource and is exceptionally important to the local economy being one of the most visited tourist attractions on the island (approx. 45,000 visitors in 2024). The diversity of the property and the opportunities it provides for recreation, education and

enjoyment makes it of outstanding recreational value and an outstanding amenity resource for visitors and locals alike.

Goatfell is of local, national and international significance for the quality of its landscape, geology/geomorphology and the opportunities it provides for walking and mountaineering in a dramatic and challenging upland landscape. Its extensive tracts of moorland are recognised as having European importance and most of the Goatfell property is designated as a SSSI (for geological and ecological features) and SPA (for hen harrier and other upland bird species), as well as being part of the North Arran National Scenic Area.

The post holder will be based in Brodick Country Park and assist with the management of these iconic properties, to ensure that the rich natural and cultural heritage of the properties continues to be conserved whilst at the same time facilitating access to enable visitors to enjoy and fully appreciate the value of these heritage features. The post holder must have or be prepared to quickly develop the specialist knowledge required to do this.

Key Responsibilities:

- ♦ To take a lead role in education groups
- ♦ To assist with visitor management and interpretation
- ♦ To assist with practical countryside and property management
- ♦ To supervise volunteers undertaking practical conservation tasks
- ♦ To contribute to biological monitoring programmes as appropriate. To collect, manage and collate biological information in a consistent manner compatible with Trust and national datasets.
- ♦ Work within the property's 'Safe System of Work' (the system for managing Health & Safety)

Scope of Role:

People Skills

- ♦ Work closely with other members of the Ranger team and with the wider property staff.
- ♦ Not a line manager but will supervise and work with volunteers.
- ♦ Contribute to the interpretation and education programme at the property including leading guided walks and educational groups, assisting in property-wide events, providing regular updates for social media, and contributing articles for the website and the local newspaper.
- ♦ Ensure a welcome for visitors via personal interaction and maintenance of interpretation facilities.
- ♦ Develop and maintain sound relationships with representatives of key parties who have interests in the property including NatureScot, Forestry and Land Scotland, North Ayrshire Council, tenants, local businesses, neighbours, local community and user groups.

Countryside & Property Management

- ♦ To carry out practical countryside management including footpath maintenance, strimming, brush cutting, fencing, woodland management and control of invasive species.
- ♦ To carry out practical property management including maintenance of outdoor furniture, and maintaining and cleaning the Ranger Centre, car park and Nature Room.

- ♦ Undertake monitoring and recording of key species and habitats.

Financial Management

Not a budget holder but will assist in making the best use of resources and ensuring best value.

- ♦ Contribute to the income of the Trust through recruiting new members.

Skills and attributes required for the role:

The Key Responsibilities above outline the core skills and experience the post-holder must have in order to fulfil the role. In addition, s/he should be able to demonstrate:

Essential

- 9 Experience of leading education groups
- 9 Experience of visitor management including leading guided walks
- 9 Experience of practical countryside management including working with and supervising volunteers
- ♦ Natural history knowledge and experience of biological monitoring
- ♦ Ability and willingness to undertake strenuous physical work
- ♦ To be comfortable working in an upland environment
- ♦ Ability to work alone as well as part of a team, with experience of lone working in remote areas
- ♦ Good organisational, time-management and problem-solving skills with the ability to prioritise and re-prioritise workload to meet changing demands
- ♦ Good communication and interpersonal skills
- ♦ Competent user of Microsoft Office products including Word, Excel and Outlook.
- 9 A full driving licence valid for driving in the UK
- 9 Living the values of the National Trust for Scotland and encourage colleagues to do the same
 - ♦ The ability and willingness to understand others' perspectives and to consider the impact of your actions on them and to adapt your actions as necessary.
 - ♦ The ability and willingness to learn and try new things, to be flexible and step outside of your comfort zone.
 - ♦ An open and honest way of communicating, ready to ask others for their ideas and to be open to hear and consider different points of view.
 - ♦ A pro-active approach to taking initiative and to driving forward ideas and projects designed to improve daily operations and deliver an exceptional visitor experience.

Desirable

- ♦ First aid qualification
- ♦ NPTC brushcutter and trimmer
- 9 NPTC certificates in the safe use of pesticides (PA1 and PA6A)
- ♦ Summer mountain leadership qualification
- ♦ Confident driver of an off-road vehicle
- ♦ A sound knowledge of nature conservation and countryside management
- ♦ Wildflower and wildlife identification skills

- ♦ Experience of working with external bodies or stakeholders and in partnership with local interest groups and in community liaison
- ♦ Ability to think and act quickly when confronted with emergencies.

Applications

Interested applicants should forward their Curriculum Vitae (CV) or an Application Form to the People Services Department (Applications) by email via workforus@nts.org.uk, by Sunday 9th February 2025.

Please ensure your CV includes your full name and contact details, the CV file sent to us should be titled your first initial and surname. When submitting your CV please state the position and job location of the vacancy you are applying for in the subject title or body of your email: For example "Gardener - Culzean"
