



Buxton Civic Association
buxtoncivicasociation.org.uk

Job description for WOODLAND ESTATE WORKER. PART TIME (3 days per week or equivalent) for a fixed term until 31 March 2022 for Buxton Civic Association.

Buxton Civic Association (BCA)

Buxton Civic Association (BCA) is a registered charity established in 1967 to preserve the fine architecture of Buxton and its natural and human environment.

Over time BCA have acquired ten woodlands (65.36 ha) surrounding the town including the 40.60 ha Grin Low wood. This SSSI with high quality limestone flora (in the glades) and industrial archaeology was developed as Buxton Country Park in 1970. The upkeep of these mature woodlands remains one of our main tasks. All the woods are managed for conservation and recreation and are all permanently open to the public. BCA also own and manage Poole's Cavern show cave visitor and educational attraction and host Buxton's Go Ape high wire adventure course at Buxton Country Park.

All the woods are within 2 miles of Poole's Cavern.

Stronger Roots Project

BCA is excited to have been successful in securing funding for a major project under the Green Recovery Challenge Fund: **Stronger Roots; Regeneration and Healing in Buxton's Community Woodlands.**

Breathing new life into Buxton's network of community woodlands and allowing our woods to breathe new life into our people, Stronger Roots is a woodland restoration project with a difference; using / working with nature in BCA's woods to restore people's well-being through the ongoing Covid-19 crisis on the one hand whilst linking this with community restoration of the ecological damage caused by rampant Ash Die Back disease on the other.

We aim to build on our experiences during the Covid-19 lockdown, when Buxton people turned to BCA's nine community woodlands, our Country Park and SSSI as places to exercise, play and seek contact with nature. The woods were used like never before by families for children's play (dens and rope swings springing up all over the woods), walking and many other forms of exercise, bird watching, painting and other forms of quiet contemplation. In parallel with this, over the last two years the ash trees within our woods have been stricken by Ash dieback disease leaving BCA with an urgent and growing health and safety problem and major concerns about the long-term restoration of our woods.

The public's appreciation of and need for our sites highlighted the urgency of our work in nature care and nature conservation. This project will accelerate that, enabling us to reach more people faster, whilst responding to the ash dieback crisis. With our partners and the community, we will create flourishing woodlands with enhanced biodiversity and build ecological, social and economic resilience.



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Ash dieback is particularly significant for the BCA woods, because not only are ash trees a significant component of the woods as they are at present, but we were depending on ash as being the major canopy tree component for the future regeneration of a more natural composition to the woods. Before Ash dieback we had considerable amounts of natural regeneration of Ash occurring in our woods. The woods on the limestone in this part of the peak district would naturally be dominated by a combination of Ash and Wych Elm supported by an element of Small Leaved Lime. Many of our Wych Elm have already succumbed to Dutch Elm disease, so the additional loss of Ash provides us with a significant problem.

TITLE

Woodland Estate assistant

PURPOSE

To

- Assist with practical woodland conservation management tasks
- Help act as a ranger presence in the woods.
- Assist the educational and community use of the woods.

RESPONSIBLE TO

On a day-to-day basis: the Stronger Roots Project Manager and Woodland Manager, Poole's Cavern and Buxton Country Park.

On issues of policy and work programming: The BCA Stronger Roots Steering Group as advised by BCA Woodlands Management Team.

DUTIES OF POSTHOLDER

Assist the work of the BCA Woodland Manager as regards his work in the woods.

This may include assisting with:

Tree felling, removal of diseased trees, clearing brash and creating habitat stacks

Brush cutting by mechanical means, mowing and woodland glade maintenance

Boundary repairs, walling and fencing.

Footpath maintenance

Health and safety tree monitoring

Assisting tree contractors to facilitate safe working practice

General wardening

Patrolling woods – be a BCA presence, talking to and helping users.

Litter picking – including using vehicle to remove litter from site.

Help Respond to incidents e.g. camping, vandalism.

Help respond to accidents in wood – first aid, transport etc. Providing emergency first aid to any user of the woods needing it and maintaining records of any such incidents

Help liaise with recreational user groups over use of woods for events etc – helping supervise events etc.



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Educational /community use of woods

Assist with an annual programme of interpretative events in the woods.

Help lead guided walks / events as required.

If required, assist local schools and Forest Schools in the educational use of the woods.

If needed, assist the Stronger Roots Woodland Community Engagement Officer in running community events in the woods.

Supervision of volunteer tasks in the woods

Help lead a regular programme of conservation volunteer tasks in the woods.

Help carry out risk assessments prior to each task.

Contractors

Assist contractors to provide health and safety measures, e.g. path closures. Clearing and brashing tree material.

Vehicle and machinery maintenance

Help maintain all woodland management tools (including power tools) and arrange for their servicing when necessary.

Help maintain all necessary safety clothing and equipment.

LOCATION

This post will be provided with a shared office and workshop space based at Poole's Cavern Visitor Centre adjacent to Grin low wood (Buxton Country Park).

SALARY

£ 18,367 pro rata (i.e £11,020 Actual salary at 3 days per week) depending on experience of appointee.

PENSION PROVISION

Statuary Workplace pension scheme enrolment

LEAVE ENTITLEMENT

28 days including bank holidays pro rata

HOURS

22.5 hours per week

These will normally be worked on a 3 day a week basis but the nature of the work will involve some seasonal variation and flexibility. Some evening and weekend work will be required.

EQUIPMENT

All necessary tools (including power tools) and safety equipment will be provided by BCA. They will be kept in the BCA workshop / store (currently at Poole's Cavern Visitor Centre).



TRAINING

BCA prides itself on being a learning organisation and we see developing and investing staff skills as a key part of this. Training will be provided, either in-house or external, as needed and at the discretion of the Manager.

It is envisaged that the post holder will be given on the job training for any tasks that he / she has not had previous experience or training in.

Attendance at outside training courses in certain essential skills (eg chainsaw use and scrub cutter use) may be required.

Training will definitely be provided, if need in, outdoor emergency first aid.

PERSON SPECIFICATION	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Habitat management and management planning		
Basic knowledge and understanding of woodland ecology.		*
Ability to identify some common woodland plant and bird species.		*
Basic understanding and practical experience of woodland and grassland management for nature conservation.		*
Basic understanding and practical experience of site management for recreation/ amenity.		*
People / Rangering skills		
Good diplomacy skills	*	
Ability to work in a team.	*	
Experience of working with volunteers.		*
Experience of working with the public in the field, especially helping them with: orientation, access, education, interpretation, policing behaviour, first aid, event management.		*
Practical skills		
Current clean driving license.		*
Basic maintenance of off road vehicles.		*
Off road driving experience.		*
Training and experience in operating and maintaining, chainsaws, brush cutters, winches.		*
Tree management		*
tree planting		*
Manual Groundwork skills		*
basic carpentry / woodworking		*
Emergency outdoor first aid.		*
Experience of practical task planning and risk assessment.		*



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DBS clearance

Any appointment will be subject to an enhanced DBS check in addition to other safeguarding checks .

REFEREES

Please supply the names and contact details (phone numbers and e-mail addresses) of two referees. At least one of your referees should be your existing employer or if you are not currently employed, a previous employer. You should indicate how long each referee has known you.

We will take up references prior to appointing. Please indicate clearly if you do not want us to contact your referees until after the interviews.