

**ROLE OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND
Jurassic Coast Protected Site Strategy Project Officer**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CONTRACT:** | 18 months fixed term, subject to Funding |
| **WORKING HOURS:** | Either 28 hours per week or 35 hours (0.8 or 1.0 FTE) depending on the applicant. Occasional evening and weekend working will be required as part of the role. |
| **ACCOUNTABLE TO:** | Principal Officer World Heritage |
| **LOCATION:** | Forston, near Dorchester, Dorset. Travel across the Jurassic Coast region will be required, with the potential for travel across the UK for meetings/conferences |
| **SALARY:** | £30,000 per annum. |
| **TERMS & CONDITIONS:** | The role is offered subject to standard JCT Terms and Conditions (available upon request). The role is subject to a three-month probationary period, during which the notice period will be four weeks on either side. Upon successful completion of the probationary period notice period will be three months. |

**About the Jurassic Coast Trust:**

Our vision for this extraordinary UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS), the Jurassic Coast, is that everyone loves, understands and values it. We believe that this is the very best way in which the Jurassic Coast will be effectively looked after – by the people who live, play, work here – today and for future generations.

**Our Aims:**

* To **protect** and enhance the World Heritage Site and its setting
* To **engage** with people and organisations
* To **deepen** our own and others’ understanding of the World Heritage Site
* To **sustain** our organisation financially and demonstrate exemplary governance

**Our Work:**

We provide leadership on what is best for the World Heritage Site (WHS) and we actively foster the partnerships and engagement that collectively protect the site.

We promote the Site’s identity and values and seek to understand and build the benefits (environmental, economic, scientific, cultural and social) of World Heritage status. Our role is then to enhance and share these benefits widely, at a local, national and international level.

We run a range of programmes and activities, encompassing conservation, engagement and partnership facilitation.

We raise funding through a range of ways, including grants, trading and individual donations, as well as our growing Business Partner scheme which we use to fund our wide-ranging work, examples of which includes:

* Monitoring and oversight of Site Conservation, including involvement in planning policy and control and working with a range of partners on conservation activity
* Developing and monitoring policy in relation to the WHS, alongside and in close collaboration with our partners
* Supporting our partners work in relation to responsible fossil collecting and the display and interpretation of fossils and the Jurassic Coast’s wider story in local museums and visitor centres
* Developing resources to enable the meaningful interpretation of the Site
* Publishing a range of valued and high quality books and publications that are the definitive guides to the Jurassic Coast
* Running a website that aspires to be a hub for information about the WHS, supported by our active social media presence and enabling relevant data sharing by partners
* Promoting a dynamic programme of walks, talks and outreach, delivered by our team of Ambassadors and other volunteers
* Organising a range of events, designed to raise funds and foster enjoyment of the Site, including museum sleepovers, guided walks and online talks
* Growing an active membership base, including young people, that develops our committed giving income but also fosters deeper relationships between individuals and families and the Jurassic Coast

This list isn’t exhaustive

**Background to the role:**

Working with the Principal Officer World Heritage and key stakeholders the project co-ordinator will help lead in the development and delivery of a vitally important piece of strategic work for the conservation of the World Heritage Site.

The Jurassic Coast occupies a position in wider planning and environmental strategy that is currently unique – it is the only natural World Heritage Site in England. The Outstanding Universal Value of the Jurassic Coast is a distinctive receptor when considering the impacts of climate change and evolving national conservation policy. The World Heritage designation is now 20 years old and there is a need to update our collective understanding of its conservation needs and the pressures that may arise in the future, not only to the attributes of the site, but to its functional and experiential setting as well.

The Jurassic Coast Protected Site Strategy project is designed to answer some fundamental questions about the future conservation of the WHS and create valuable shared resources for the Jurassic Coast partnership that will support their ongoing work to safeguard the Site’s OUV. The intention is that this will include the formal establishment of Protected Site Strategy for the area by Natural England as well as supplementary planning guidance for the WHS that may be adopted by the local planning authorities.

Within this small charity, the entire staff team collaborate in order to deliver the varied work programme. Colleagues share their knowledge of their work and its relevance to the overall Site to help identify opportunities, steer project planning and inspire their co-workers, partners and JCT audiences. An understanding of and a passion for the landscape of the Jurassic Coast and its extraordinary geological heritage allows us to lead by example as effective advocates, whether we are speaking to a planning officer, a business partner or a ten-year-old child.

The Jurassic Coast Protected Site Strategy project officer will bring dedication and passion to the role, tempered with pragmatism and a sensitivity to partnership working and collaboration. This is a rare opportunity to gain experience in geological heritage conservation and engagement, working along literally one of the most important geological Sites in the World.

**Project description**

This project will research and develop the mechanisms available to JCT and Natural England to address the pressures of Coastal Squeeze and Neglect/Lack of Connection by local communities on the Jurassic Coast SSSIs and UNESCO designations. The project will build the evidence case for future Protected Site Strategies for SSSIs and other Protected Sites impacted by similar pressures to those experienced on the Jurassic Coast in England. It will also identify and progress actions for JCT and NE to pursue outside of a Protected Site Strategy which will help address these pressures on the Jurassic Coast. While there is no assumptions made whether a Protected Site Strategy will be deployed on the Jurassic Coast, the project will help gather evidence for this eventuality should this be determined by Natural England through a future formal consultative process.

**Project outputs outline**

1. Project commencement and Context desk study
	1. Identify and recruit project partners.
	2. Review and compile information on site condition, available methodologies for climate change impact assessments on coastal environments
	3. Compile master table on WHS attributes distribution along the coast and their connections to existing management strategies, issues, and opportunities.
2. Research and development - Commission research and expert consultants to produce information and data on the effects of climate change on mean low water mark, cliff top retreat, and the functional and experiential setting of the WHS.
3. Final key outputs – sustainable management goals for the Jurassic Coast, proposal for supplementary planning guidance, proposal for Protected Site Strategy, and coherent package of GIS and other resources to support the conservation of the WHS.