

Learning Manager Job Description

Job Title: Learning Manager, Northern Roots

Salary: £30,000 to £32,000, dependent on experience, pro rata 3 days a week

Contract: Fixed term, May 2025 until April 2026

Organisation: The employing organisation is Northern Roots (Oldham) Ltd, company no 11258080. The role is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Based: On site at Northern Roots and within the neighbouring communities.

Job purpose

Northern Roots is transforming 160 acres of urban greenspace into a destination for learning, leisure and growing. The charity aims to benefit the environment, and to improve the health, wellbeing and livelihoods of local communities. We are currently constructing a Visitor Centre, Forestry Skills centre and four acres of Urban Farm, and will open as a visitor destination in early 2026. The new buildings will provide three classrooms, two workshops and an amphitheatre, with the ability to support a wide range of educational and learning activities.

This role provides an excellent opportunity for an enthusiastic, dynamic individual to support local residents and the young people of Oldham to engage with the opportunities created by the conservation, restoration and enhancement of this urban green corridor and the development of the Northern Roots charity.

The successful candidate will join a growing, dedicated team, working to the Heritage Engagement Manager, as part of the team delivering a new National Lottery Heritage Funded project. The project will provide a range of opportunities for local residents and partners to learn about the natural, social and industrial heritage of Northern Roots, and to shape, and benefit from, the development of the site.

As Learning Manager, you will work with local educational providers, and our team of Heritage Champions, Citizen Researchers and Citizen Rangers to co-design a pilot programme of curriculum linked educational visits, placements and sessions. You will then deliver and evaluate this pilot programme, and use the lessons learnt to contribute towards the design of the Northern Roots learning programme once the new buildings open in 2026.

We are looking for an individual with experience of working in the education or learning sector, knowledge of the national curriculum, and experience of designing and delivering educational visits.

Experience of delivering Heritage Lottery funded projects would be an advantage. Specialist knowledge of the communities and heritage of Oldham, and an affinity for horticulture, ecology, arts and culture would be an advantage. A creative approach and flexible attitude are essential to this role to ensure the planning and delivery of a programme of activities responsive to the needs of the local communities.

Line Management responsibilities:

The role does not involve line management responsibility but may involve the management of volunteers and work experience students.

KEY TASKS:

The role will require you to:

1. Build relationships and partnerships with a range of education and learning partners including nurseries, primary and secondary schools, colleges, universities, alternate provisions, home education groups and SEND provisions.
2. Work with them, Citizen Researchers, Citizen Rangers and Heritage Champions, and Marketing and Interpretation consultants, to understand why and how educational partners would like to use Northern Roots as a learning resource in future. This includes identifying which curriculum subjects, age groups and topics provision we should support, and the best timing, duration and nature of sessions and programmes.
3. Design, manage and deliver a pilot programme of educational visits, courses and activities, including a pilot work experience programme, to enable children and learners to engage with the social, industrial and natural heritage of the site, as well as the environmental, horticultural and green technology activities of Northern Roots.
4. Recruit and support a team of volunteers to help with the delivery of this project, as appropriate.
5. Work with the educational partners and the Citizen Researchers to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the pilot programme.
6. Using this learning, develop proposals for the formal and informal learning and heritage engagement programme to be delivered by the Northern Roots learning and skills team once the new buildings open in 2026.
7. Feed into the work of the Marketing and Interpretation consultants to ensure that their proposals take the educational and family audiences into consideration.
8. Adhere to best practice in site management, health & safety and safeguarding procedures and Northern Roots policies, and ensuring that codes of practice are communicated to and adhered to by people participating in activities on the site.
9. Undertake professional development as required by the role and be willing to share learning with others.
10. Actively promote the equalities and diversity agenda in the workplace.
11. Undertake and assist in other duties as may be required from time to time commensurate with the grade of the post

Holiday entitlement: 25 days holiday a year (excluding public holidays) pro rata.

Employer Pension Contribution: 3%

Reporting to: Heritage Engagement Manager