

Citizen Ranger Job Description

Salary: £12.21 per hour

Contract: Up to 6 hours per week, from May 2025 to May 2026. Flexibility will be required to adjust to programme activities.

Organisation: The employing organisation is Northern Roots (Oldham) Ltd, charity no 1196806.

About Northern Roots

The Northern Roots charity has been created to transform 160 acres of urban greenspace in the heart of Oldham 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 2026.

Since 2020 we have been building relationships within the communities that neighbour Northern Roots, and across Oldham. Over the last year, with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we have recruited a team of local and youth community champions and supported them to co-produce a series of heritage-themed events and activities for local people.

Building on the success of this project we have now secured additional National Lottery Heritage funding for a **new project**, to expand and diversify the community champion model, and create new opportunities for our local communities to get involved in shaping and benefiting from Northern Roots.

Specifically, we now seek to recruit three new teams of community roles:

- **Heritage Champions** – who will be supported to explore the industrial, social and natural heritage of Northern Roots, develop ideas for activities and events that bring that heritage to life, and help to organise and deliver those activities.
- **Citizen Researchers** – who will be trained in a range of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies and then supported both to evaluate the impact of the project, and to carry out research to help shape different aspects of the development of Northern Roots.
- **Citizen Rangers** – who will be trained in species identification and monitoring skills and supported to oversee volunteers to carry out a series of seasonal species surveys to build up a comprehensive picture of the fauna and flora at Northern Roots.

All community roles will also play a key role in bringing members of their communities together to help shape, deliver, participate in and evaluate plans and activities at Northern Roots.

Based: In the community and on site at Northern Roots.

Citizen Ranger - Key Tasks:

- Take part in training with the Northern Roots Land Team to develop expertise in identifying and monitoring a wide variety of different species present on the Northern Roots site.
- Help to recruit environmental volunteers. Plan and lead a series of citizen science activities and surveys e.g. seasonal bioblitzes and citizen surveys to establish species baselines for fauna, flora, invertebrates etc at Northern Roots.
- Based on these surveys, work with the Rangers to develop habitat management plans to support nature recovery at Northern Roots.
- Support the Land Team to carry out landscape management tasks to improve habitats for different species.
- Support the Learning Manager to engage with local educational institutions and develop and deliver an appropriate and engaging pilot learning programme, including engagement with the natural heritage of the site.
- Work with Northern Roots to feed into the development of the charity's marketing plans, learning programme, interpretation programme and Opening season, in the run up to the opening of the Visitor Centre in 2026.
- Raise awareness of Northern Roots within your community, including with key partners like schools, faith organisations, health centres etc. Act as an ambassador for the project. Ensure the community understands the significance of Northern Roots in a way that is accessible, inclusive and relevant to them.

Person Specification: for all roles you must be able to demonstrate:

- Due to the outdoor and physical working nature of the Ranger role, a reasonable level of physical health/fitness will be required. E.g. Moving over rough/uneven terrain with a load.
- Training where required will be provided e.g. Manual Handling. Some outdoor wear will be provided - waterproof jacket and boots.
- A good knowledge of, and good relations with, the residents, NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations), religious and educational institutions of your community
- Where relevant, ability to communicate in community languages e.g. Urdu, Bangla, Roma or Polish.
- An affinity for local heritage, nature, the environment, growing, arts, culture or outdoor sports would be an advantage.