

Heritage Champion 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.

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

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 Fund 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.

Heritage Champions - Key Tasks:

- Work with the Heritage Engagement Manager and Creative Producer to explore aspects of the industrial, social and natural heritage of Northern Roots and the surrounding communities.
- With the support of the Citizen Researchers, Heritage Engagement Manager and the Producer, help to design and deliver events and activities that bring the heritage of Northern Roots to life for local communities and visitors to the Northern Roots site, including Playing Out, HarvestFest and WinterFest events.
- Support the Learning Manager to engage with local educational institutions and develop and deliver an appropriate and engaging pilot learning programme.
- 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. 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:

- 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 eg. Urdu, Bangla, Roma or Polish.
- An affinity for local heritage, natural history, the environment, growing, arts, culture or outdoor sports would be an advantage.