



**The  
Langholm  
Initiative**



**Tarras Valley  
Nature Reserve**

## **Job Description: Ecologist**

### **Langholm Initiative: Tarras Valley Nature Reserve**

**Hours:** Part time - 2 days a week – may be scope to increase to additional days

**Contract:** Initial 2-year contract

**Salary:** £29 - £32k pro rata

**Accountability:** Responsible to Reserve Manager

### **The Role**

We are looking for an ecologist to support the work of the existing Langholm Initiative staff team here at the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve in Langholm.

The initial focus of the work will be to carry out the surveys required as part of our annual ecological monitoring work. We hope the successful candidate will also support us in shaping how we can develop a wider ecological monitoring framework for the reserve to help inform decision making and monitor progress in the future.

Beyond this we are generally looking for someone to support our whole system's approach to ecological restoration, provide advice and guidance on our ongoing management and project activity.

It is crucial that you are comfortable working in a community setting, are an effective communicator and are willing to be flexible in your way of working. The work will involve a balance between office and site-based work throughout the year.

### **Principal Duties**

The Tarras Valley Ecologist role duties will involve:

- Carrying out ecological surveys which include general habitat assessment, breeding birds, protected species, herbivore impact and grazing impact assessment and invertebrate monitoring.
- Developing and implementing practical ecological monitoring frameworks
- Supporting and developing Citizen Science Monitoring

- Providing advice and guidance for holistic ecological restoration activities across the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve including projects, volunteering and land management.
- Support community engagement and help contribute to Tarras Valley communications and engagement activities around nature and restoration projects.

We expect the successful candidate to have the following skills and experience:

<b>Qualifications/Experience</b>	<b>Essential/Desirable</b>
Educated to degree level or equivalent in relevant subject	Essential
Excellent practical ecological surveying skills	Essential
Excellent interpersonal and communication skills – particularly with reporting, feedback on progress with projects and liaising with local community and other interest groups	Essential
Ability to work alone and as part of a team	Essential
Experience and evidence of delivering project outputs	Essential
Ability to manage and prioritise a diverse workload	Essential
Experience of report writing	Essential
Good IT skills, including Microsoft Office and QGIS	Essential
Passionate and enthusiastic about the vision of Tarras Valley Nature Reserve	Essential
Developing and delivering ecological monitoring programmes	Essential
Physically fit and able to work independently on remote upland environments	Essential
Membership/chartership with CIEEM, or working towards this	Essential
Experience of holistic ecosystem restoration initiatives within the Scottish context	Desirable
Experience of working with and/or licensed for bats, badgers, raptors, protected species	Desirable
Experience of working with volunteers	Desirable
Experience of communicating in a community setting	Desirable
Experience of reporting to a Board of Trustees	Desirable

### **What can we offer?**

We are a very small but friendly and enthusiastic team, managed by an amazing board of volunteers. We are all based in Langholm and whilst we work at home occasionally, the team is very much office based so can best support each other and be present within the local community where we work.

The establishment of the Nature Reserve is high profile following our historic community land buyouts. This is a great opportunity develop your skills in a unique setting to work at scale in one of the UK's largest community-led ecological restoration projects.

We offer 35 days annual leave (including bank holidays) pro-rata for part-time

We operate a dog friendly office

Employer Pension contribution is 5.5%

Time in Lieu (TOIL) system is in place alongside flexible working policies

**Interested in Applying?**

Please fill out the role application form by noon on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026** and email it to [recruitment@langholminitiative.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@langholminitiative.org.uk).

For any questions, please contact Jenny Barlow, Reserve Manager.  
[jenny@tarrasvalleynaturereserve.co.uk](mailto:jenny@tarrasvalleynaturereserve.co.uk)