



**COMHAIRLE ULADH  
CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL  
ULSTER COUNCIL GAA**

**Job Title:** Sporting Nature Project Officer

**Responsible to:** Head of Club and Community Development

**Duration of Post:** Three (3) years (subject to the successful completion of a 6-month probationary period). This is a full-time role.

**Salary:** £28,945.00

**Job Purpose:**

The Sporting Nature project is a National Lottery Community Fund partnership between Ulster GAA, RSPB NI and NI Water to work with sports clubs in taking action for biodiversity in their grounds and communities. The Sporting Nature Project Officer will provide nature training and advice to club volunteers to effect physical and behavioural change in the GAA clubs taking part in the project, to deliver longer-term sustainable cultural change in the sporting and community landscape and to contribute to the development of a tried-and-tested nature engagement template for other sporting and community organisations to follow.

**Main Areas of Responsibility:**

The Sporting Nature Project Officer's detailed activities will be agreed annually with the Head of Club and Community Development, the Sporting Nature Project Manager and the Sporting Nature Project Team through an agreed forward work plan which will include output targets and identified time scales. The Sporting Nature Project Officer will work closely with RSPB NI in the design and implementation of project activities and of club training and engagement.

The broad activities of the post include:

1. Raising awareness of conservation/nature/wildlife and improving club and community understanding of the significance, value and needs of habitats and species in their clubs and communities
2. Providing advice and training to GAA club Green Teams on species and habitats, on the monitoring, recording and reporting of bird and butterfly activity at specified intervals, and on taking action to protect and support these

3. Surveying participant clubs on their connectedness to nature at project start and end
4. Carrying out regular site visits to participant clubs to provide in-person support for engagement, monitoring and recording of biodiversity
5. Working with NI Water on actions for water quality and waterways improvement and on linking water conservation to nature
6. Supporting and advising participant clubs in the development of club biodiversity and nature action plans
7. Contributing to the development of resources for practical nature-based solutions for harm-reduction and climate action in sports clubs and community facilities.

### **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

#### **Post: Sporting Nature Project Officer (Ulster GAA)**

This individual will have demonstrable experience in engaging with target populations in the surveying, protection and/or management of sites, species or habitats. The successful candidate will have both excellent knowledge of regional ecology, species and habitats and relevant experience in community engagement and/or supporting the delivery of volunteer work programmes.

	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>
<b>1. Qualifications, Skills and Relevant Experience</b>	<p><b>1.1</b> Degree-level qualification in a relevant subject or equivalent demonstrable experience</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Excellent knowledge of the ecology, species and habitats of the operational area of this role</p> <p><b>1.3</b> Experience in supporting the delivery of volunteer work programmes</p> <p><b>1.4</b> Experience of working to survey, protect and/or manage sites, species or habitats</p> <p><b>1.5</b> Competent IT user</p>	<p><b>1.8</b> Effective project management skills</p> <p><b>1.9</b> Competency in use of GIS</p>

	<p><b>1.6</b> Experience of public engagement work</p> <p><b>1.7</b> Excellent communication skills (verbal, written and presentational), including an ability to speak confidently and compellingly in public to a variety of audiences</p>	
<b>2. Special Aptitudes</b>	<p><b>2.1</b> Proven ability to influence others and negotiate desired outcome</p> <p><b>2.2</b> Ability to form effective teams (both internal and within a wider partnership) and work effectively as a team player</p> <p><b>2.3</b> Confidence in advocating positions to facility managers and volunteers</p>	
<b>3. General Intelligence and Disposition</b>	<p><b>3.1</b> Ability to demonstrate integrity and appropriate working relationships with key partners</p> <p><b>3.2</b> Ability to demonstrate confidence, empathy, enthusiasm and initiative</p>	
<b>4. Knowledge</b>	<p><b>4.1</b> Knowledge and understanding of the community and volunteer context</p>	<p><b>4.2</b> Specialist conservation knowledge in relevant areas, such as amenity habitats</p> <p><b>4.3</b> Demonstrable knowledge and experience of GAA club structures at grassroots level</p>
<b>5. Circumstances</b>	<p><b>5.1</b> Access to a form of transport which will permit the applicant to meet the requirements of the post in full</p> <p><b>5.2</b> Able to work evenings and weekends as required</p>	



***The above list is not exhaustive and may include other related duties deemed appropriate to the post.***

***The nature of the job will change over time as the needs of the project change. It is a requirement to contribute to the development of the job and to reflect changing needs. This is a high-profile post and requires a considerable degree of commitment and flexibility on the part of the post holder to meet quality standards and work deadlines. He/she/they will maintain at all times such availability, flexibility and mobility as is necessary to the pursuance of the job e.g. including working evenings and weekends where prior notice will be given wherever possible.***

**Please note closing date for this role is 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024 with a view to hold interviews on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024.**