



Ben Watkins

Marine Officer

Role profile

We’re looking for an enthusiastic, personable team player who’s passionate about Cornwall’s spectacular coast and seas, with the skills needed to engage a range of stakeholders (including fishers, marine businesses and local communities) with their protection.

The role will be an important part of Cornwall Wildlife Trust’s most ambitious project ever, ‘Tor to Shore’, as we look to create a thriving land and seascape, including through the protection of St Austell Bay’s seagrass and maerl habitats.

Job title	Marine Officer
Team	Tor to Shore Project Team, with active involvement in the Marine Conservation Team
Contract	12 months fixed term (with potential to extend subject to satisfactory performance and future project funding)
Hours	5 days per week (37.5 hours)
Salary	£23,868 - £27,000 (Band D)
Reports into	Tor to Shore Project Manager
Key relationships	Head of Marine, Marine Conservation Officers, and Tor to Shore’s Community and Volunteer Officer

About Cornwall Wildlife Trust

For more than 60 years, Cornwall Wildlife Trust has been working to protect Cornwall’s wildlife and wild places. Although a local, independent charity, we are part of a national movement of 46 Wildlife Trusts, all with a shared purpose.

Our vision is of a Cornwall where nature thrives. Where currently rare and threatened species are once again a normal part of our countryside, skies, and seas. Where children grow up surrounded by wildlife. And where we’re all connecting with and taking action for nature – benefiting our health and wellbeing, and ensuring a future for nature in Cornwall.

About Tor to Shore



Tor to shore is a new project located in the Par River catchment and surrounding area - from the granite boulders of Helman Tor, Cornwall Wildlife Trust's largest nature reserve, to the spectacular waters of St Austell Bay, home to important seagrass and maerl habitats.

Tor to Shore is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players, the project aims to establish a thriving land and seascape, where local communities and businesses are engaging with, taking action for, and benefiting from nature. Key project goals include:

- implementing rewilding principles at Helman Tor, helping nature once again take the lead at one of the UK's most important sites for wildlife
- working with local farmers and fishers to increase sustainable practices, contributing to greater flood prevention, a reduction in harmful pesticides and agricultural run-off, and better protection for marine species and habitats
- creating a Voluntary Marine Nature Reserve in St Austell Bay, supported by and benefiting local communities and businesses
- engaging communities, including those from excluded backgrounds, who are acting for wildlife and benefiting from nature.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust aims for this to be a six-year project, starting with the one-year development phase, followed by a five-year delivery phase.

Role summary

This role will co-ordinate the development of our marine surveying, engagement, and fisheries liaison work for Tor to Shore. This will be achieved through engagement with catchment stakeholders such as fishers, marine businesses, and community groups via the facilitation of meetings, training, workshops, and events. The role will also coordinate a programme of marine survey work to capture data, ultimately improving our understanding of St Austell Bay's marine species and key blue carbon habitats to inform project activities.

Responsibilities

- Develop trust and foster positive working relationships with coastal and marine stakeholders. This includes community groups, harbour authorities, fishing industry representatives, conservation bodies, managing bodies, recreational industries, and other local coastal businesses within St Austell Bay. The aim of this work is to encourage an improved understanding of the value of our marine environment and buy-in for marine nature recovery initiatives (these could include reducing negative impacts on key habitats and developing more sustainable practices). This will be done via engagement with stakeholders, including one-to-one meetings, workshops, and events.
- In particular, develop relationships with fishers and fishing businesses within the area from a range of catching sectors. This may involve joining fishers at sea to identify impacts, barriers, and potential for development of fisher-led project ideas to improve the sustainability of their practices for the delivery phase of Tor to Shore.
- Work with local marine community groups to:
 - raise awareness of St Austell Bay's blue carbon habitats (seagrass and maerl) and their value

- identify priorities and scope potential for a local Charter of Sea (a plan of action to promote nature recovery in the local marine environment) for St Austell Bay.
- Coordinate a programme of marine surveys, including shore-based sea watches, intertidal, and subtidal surveys, and water quality sampling, in partnership with Cornwall Wildlife Trust's Marine Conservation Officers and trained volunteers to collect data on marine species and habitats.
- Use data collected to inform stakeholder and public engagement and project development.
- Support the Tor to Shore Project manager and other project staff with the development of the delivery phase of Tor to Shore grant application and project plans.
- Support the design of data collection and framework development for project evaluation.
- Undertake other work required within the project, including project support, communications, media work and administration.

Person specification

		Essential	Desirable
Knowledge and experience	Degree in marine or fisheries science or equivalent	✓	
	Stakeholder engagement	✓	
	Marine conservation and nature recovery initiatives	✓	
	Experience in fisheries science, MPA management, or working with fishers at sea		✓
	Knowledge of Cornish fishing industry and issues being faced		✓
	Personal sea survival qualification		✓
	Project management		✓
	Working with communities and / or volunteers		✓
	Report writing and funding application writing		✓
	Experiencing using social media and creating web content to engage audiences		✓
Skills	Great communication and inter-personal skills	✓	
	Computer literate, particular for Microsoft Office applications	✓	
	Design, photography and film making skills.		✓
Personal qualities	Organised and efficient	✓	
	Ability to work on own initiative and as part of a team	✓	
	Enthusiastic, friendly, professional, and empathetic attitude, with the ability to establish trust with various groups	✓	
	Committed to, and passion for, environmental conservation and sustainability issues	✓	
Other	Full clean driving licence	✓	
	First Aid qualified		✓

Other details

- Events and meetings relevant to the role may be held outside office hours.

- Cornwall Wildlife Trust operates excellent toil and flexible working policies.
- Enhanced company holiday entitlement – starting at 25 days and rising to 30 days (one day extra for each year worked after three complete years served), with additional time off between Christmas and New Year.
- All employees have access to the Employee Assistance Programme (24/7 counselling service) and Employee health and wellbeing portal.
- Cornwall Wildlife Trust provides a stakeholder pension.
- The successful candidate will have the opportunity to visit and spend time at some of Cornwall's most beautiful wild places.

To apply

Please send a CV and supporting statement outlining your suitability against the person specification to recruitment@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk by midnight on 28th July 2024.

Thank you for your interest in joining Cornwall Wildlife Trust to create a Cornwall where nature thrives.