



Ayrshire Rivers Trust



Job Title: Seasonal Invasive Weeds Officer

Working Hours: This is a 5 months full-time position, working 37.5 hours per week.

Salary: £15000 pro rata.

Responsible to: Trust Manager of Ayrshire Rivers Trust.

Objectives: To manage and coordinate control of invasive non-native species within Ayrshire.

Background to project

Ayrshire Rivers Trust (ART) in conjunction with Scottish, Northern and Southern Irish Partners has secured funding to allow the control of priority invasive non-native riparian plants and the restoration of native biodiversity (CIRB). The project is part-financed by the European Union's INTERREG IVA programme, The Scottish Environment Protection Agency's restoration fund and South, East and North Ayrshire Councils through various local funds. ART's component of the CIRB project will deliver the strategic and systematic control of invasive non-native species (INNS) (plants) where they occur along riparian margins in Ayrshire. Control commenced in 2011 and will end in 2014; this control will immediately halt the spread of these plants and thereafter quickly reduce their potential to spread to other areas.

The target species include Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) herein referred to as GHW, JK and HB respectively. All 3 species occur widely throughout Ayrshire and the UK. Rivers act as a transport mechanism for these plants distributing seed (GHW & HB) and vegetative material (JK) from which the plants reproduce. These plants are categorised as highly invasive, able to rapidly out compete native species and thus reduce biodiversity. Their potential to dominate riparian margins requires that any effort to control or eradicate these species should follow a planned and systematic approach. Since 2007, ART has been at the forefront of strategic INNS control in Ayrshire. Their expertise is recognised by all three Ayrshire Councils and riparian owners across these districts. This project will deliver environmental benefits while supporting strategic cross-border co-operation for a more prosperous region and improve access to services to enhance the quality of life.

To deliver the planned control, ART will engage suitably qualified contractors through an annual competitive tendering process in accordance with INTERREG IVA procurement requirements ensuring transparent and fair competition with the aim of achieving value for money.

The project officer will oversee the control work delivered by the contractors and will be taking part in the control themselves. Training to PA6 AW (NPTC standards) will be given to the suitable candidate. They will engage with the various volunteers who have already been

trained and will arrange days to control. The project officer will also control HB as this is not being done by a contractor. Again the officer will engage with local volunteers and riparian owners to arrange control days of HB.

The officer will be based in ART offices located in the Scottish Agricultural College, Auchincruive, Ayr, KA6 5HW. The officer will be responsible to and employed by ART, they will work as part of a team, but also must be motivated enough to lone work.

Main Duties:

1. To survey and be competent in identifying the targeted invasive non-native species.
2. To formulate, co-ordinate, and manage your work programme for the project, reporting back to the Trust Manager.
3. To develop and implement the strategies and the policies for the control of the targeted invasives.
4. To secure and maintain good working relationships with ART membership, District Salmon Fishery Boards within Ayrshire, and other public and representative bodies, including SEPA, SGRPID, SNH, local authorities and other River Trusts/Associations.
5. To manage and co-ordinate the work of local volunteers.
6. To meet financial targets as determined by the Project Manager and to assist with the claims.
7. To raise awareness of INNS within local communities and members of the public.
8. To remain well informed and up to date with relevant INNS and environmental issues.
9. To represent ART within RAFTS and other relevant bodies.
10. To ensure compliance with Health and Safety requirements.
11. Salary will be paid on the 21st of each month.