

## Job description - Ecologist (PB5)

### Job summary

As an ecologist you will join our fast-paced Woodland Creation team. This is an exciting opportunity to play a key role in shaping the future of landscape-scale woodland expansion. The role will support the evaluation, planning and delivery of woodland creation projects across England ensuring designs meet regulatory requirements and best practice. This will involve working closely with colleagues and external stakeholders throughout the development and delivery of projects. The successful candidate will provide technical expertise on a diverse range of ecological issues and opportunities and work across a variety of sites in all parts of the country. Some travel across England will be required with occasional overnight stays necessary. This is a Temporary Appointment for three years with the possibility of extension or permanency but no guarantee.

### Key responsibilities & accountabilities

- provide ecological expertise and advice across new woodland creation sites in England from scoping potential land acquisitions to delivery.
- lead on BNG requirements where full planning is required.
- develop and maintain strong working relationships with internal teams, external partners and key stakeholders.
- apply a risk-based approach to woodland creation and management, balancing the protection of ecological features with woodland creation objectives.
- procure and oversee ecological surveys, ensuring quality assurance and specifications are appropriate for project needs. In some cases, undertake self-led surveys, such as Preliminary Ecological Appraisals.
- review and interpret ecological data including LERC records and survey results, appraising risks and opportunities for woodland creation to develop proportionate responses to inform designs, in line with national guidance, such as the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS).
- attend and support public consultations as a representative of the woodland creation team.

And any other tasks, reasonably requested by your line manager.

Location-specific information
<b>Skills, knowledge &amp; experience</b>
<p><b>Essential professional and technical experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• proven experience and demonstrable knowledge of working in the land management sector, preferably related to forestry and/or woodland creation.</li> <li>• up to date knowledge of the environmental regulations, standards and good practices relevant to forestry and nature conservation.</li> <li>• experience of appraising BNG options and completing BNG requirements for planning.</li> <li>• a knowledge of different ecological constraints to woodland creation in a variety of habitats and geographical locations.</li> <li>• a proactive attitude: to understand new technical areas, interpret emerging guidance and consider bespoke options for each woodland creation site.</li> <li>• strong communication skills with the ability to engage with key stakeholders.</li> <li>• experience working effectively with multidisciplinary teams.</li> <li>• able to manage a complex workload, effectively prioritising and meeting deadlines</li> <li>• confidence and experience in communicating technical information to diverse audiences.</li> <li>• experience using GIS systems.</li> </ul> <p><b>Desirable professional and technical experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• specific survey experience, for example, Preliminary Ecological Appraisals, UKHab, National Vegetation Classification, bird surveys, GCN surveys.</li> </ul>
<b>Qualifications</b>
<p><b>Essential</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• degree qualification in Ecology, Environmental Management or other closely related discipline.</li> <li>• membership (or working towards membership of) the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).</li> </ul>