

## Job Description - Senior Ecologist (PB4)

### Job summary

We are looking for an experienced and highly motivated Senior Ecologist to provide expert ecological leadership across the district. This is a key role within the Planning & Environment team, supporting delivery of our statutory responsibilities, driving nature recovery, and ensuring that all our operations meet the highest ecological standards. You will work across the whole South Forest District, covering diverse habitats, species, and projects- from SSSI enhancement and PAWS restoration to landscape-scale biodiversity programmes. We're looking for someone who can combine deep ecological expertise with strong leadership, excellent judgement and the ability to work confidently across a diverse operational landscape.

### Key responsibilities & accountabilities

- Oversee specialist surveys, baseline assessments, monitoring frameworks and habitat prescriptions.
- Manage relevant ecology and SSSI budgets, ensuring efficient, compliant, and timely delivery against statutory obligations.
- Line-manage members of the Ecology team, supporting professional development and building ecological capacity across the district.
- Build and maintain excellent professional relationships and communications providing expert advice to Forestry England staff, contractors, and partners to ensure ecological risks are managed and opportunities for enhancement maximised.
- Undertake regular travel to locations that are inaccessible by public transport.

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

### Skills, knowledge & experience

#### Essential professional and technical experience

- Extensive experience working in applied ecology, ideally within land management, forestry, conservation, or a similar sector.
- Strong knowledge of UK habitats, protected species legislation, SSSI management and ecological survey.
- Experience in planning and delivering ecological programmes or projects, including budget responsibility.
- Ability to communicate ecological issues clearly to a wide range of colleagues, partners and contractors.
- Experience supervising staff or leading technical workstreams.
- Competent IT user including MS Office.

#### Desirable professional and technical experience

- Competent using Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
- Strong ecological knowledge and understanding of the key ecosystems found in the district.

- Experience or understanding of the UK forestry sector, the UK Forestry Standard and UKWAS certification.
- Experience of procurement and contract management.

## Qualifications

### Essential

- A degree (or equivalent experience) in ecology, conservation, environmental science or a related field.
- A full and current driving licence that enables you to drive in the UK.

### Desirable

- Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

