

Job description - Woodland Creation 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 constraints and opportunities, and work on a variety of sites in all parts of the country. This is a desk based role, but there will be some travel across England to visit sites and attend meeting with occasional overnight stays.

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 to inform effective decision making, from scoping potential land acquisitions to delivery.
- apply a risk-based approach to woodland creation and management, balancing the protection of ecological features with woodland creation objectives.
- lead on BNG assessments where full planning is required.
- procure and oversee ecological surveys, ensuring quality assurance and specifications are appropriate for project needs. Occasionally, undertake or support ecological surveys or checks.
- 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).
- develop and maintain strong working relationships with internal teams, external partners and key stakeholders.
- attend and support public consultations as a representative of the woodland creation team.
- And any other tasks, reasonably requested by your line manager.

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Skills, knowledge & experience

Essential

- up to date knowledge of the environmental regulations, standards and good practices relevant to nature conservation and woodland creation.
- knowledge of potential ecological features impacting woodland creation in a variety of habitats and geographical locations.
- experience of appraising BNG options and completing BNG assessment to inform planning.
- a proactive and pragmatic attitude: to understand new technical areas, interpret emerging guidance and consider bespoke options for each woodland creation site.
- strong communication skills with the ability to engage with key stakeholders.
- experience working effectively with multidisciplinary teams.
- able to manage a complex workload, effectively prioritising and meeting deadlines
- experience using GIS systems.

Desirable

- experience and demonstrable knowledge of working in the land management sector, preferably related to forestry and/or woodland creation.
- specific species and habitat survey experience, such as: Preliminary Ecological Appraisals, Habitat Regulation Assessments, UKHab, National Vegetation Classification, bird surveys, GCN surveys.

Qualifications

Essential

- degree qualification in Ecology, Environmental Management or other closely related discipline, or equivalent relevant experience.

Desirable

- membership (or working towards membership of) the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).
- Protected Species licences