

Job Description - HLS Ecologist (PB5)

Job summary

You will work as part of a team delivering terrestrial and wetland habitat restoration programmes with specific emphasis on HLS funded work delivery. As an Ecologist, you will provide essential ecological support to the team as they plan and deliver habitat restoration projects across the New Forest. You will also take a leading role in the development and delivery of your own restoration projects, ensuring high ecological standards are met throughout.

Key responsibilities & accountabilities

- Provide expert ecological advice and guidance to the habitat restoration team.
- Ensure all restoration work is planned and delivered in full compliance with environmental legislation.
- Support the team in designing and implementing restoration activities that enhance biodiversity across designated sites.
- Apply for and manage protected species licences required for restoration works.
- Commission, oversee and review ecological and species surveys.
- Undertake reviews of SSSI conditions and maintain regular liaison with NE.
- Monitor how restoration activities are influencing site condition and recommend adaptive management where needed.
- Manage ecological and operational contracts, including leading the invasive species eradication programme. Identify ecological risks within planned restoration projects and advise on appropriate mitigation.
- Provide high-quality ecological input into project proposals, site plans and decision-making.
- Contribute to long-term ecological monitoring and reporting to support funding and regulatory requirements.
- Support colleagues through training or informal advice to build ecological awareness within the wider restoration team.
- Communicate and liaise with stakeholders regarding our commitments to the environment and nature conservation legislation.

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

Skills, knowledge & experience

Essential professional and technical experience

- At least 3 years' experience working in the environmental management sector.
- Sound knowledge and understanding of ecology.
- Experience in working with local stakeholder groups, including: landowners; non-governmental organisations; charities; local government.
- Experience in providing ecological advice to a wide audience.
- An effective communicator, both written and verbally.

- Competent in IT - Microsoft Office.
- Sound knowledge of the application of environmental legislation to project planning and delivery.

Desirable professional and technical experience

- Experience in working within protected sites.
- Experience in presenting on wildlife topics, dealing with media and public engagement activities.
- Experience with Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
- Experience in setting up and managing contracts.
- Experience of budget management.
- Experience in applying for, or advising on, species licences.
- Experience in setting up and delivering monitoring programmes.

Qualifications

Essential

- Degree or equivalent in Ecology or Environmental Management.

Desirable

- Member of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

