

Job Description

1 Job details

Job title:	Nature Recovery Officer (Fixed-term for 18 months)
Team:	Environment and Rural Economy
Directorate:	Environment and Rural Economy
Post number:	TBC
Hours per week:	37
Grade:	7
Base:	Town Hall, Lymington
Accountable to:	Head of Environment and Rural Economy
Responsible for:	N/A
Budget Responsible Officer (BRO):	No
Car user:	Casual
Politically restricted:	No
Does this post involve working with children and/or vulnerable people?	No
Membership of professional body required:	Membership of professional institute e.g. CIEEM is desirable
Key liaisons:	▪ New Forest National Park Authority (NPA) staff ▪ NPA members ▪ Partner organisations, particularly the Wildlife Roundtable (a collaboration between NGO's, the NPA and NE) ▪ Landowners ▪ Local communities and interest groups ▪ National agencies ▪ Other UK National Parks

2 Role summary

2.1 The main purposes of this post are to:

- develop and implement a portfolio of projects that will contribute to significant nature recovery in and beyond the New Forest National Park for the benefit of biodiversity and people
- work with farmers, private landowners, NGOs and other conservation stakeholders central to the creation and delivery of the nature recovery network
- to act as the secretariat for the Wildlife Roundtable - an informal working group of NGO's, the National Park Authority and Natural England who are the steering group for the nature recovery projects

3 Main duties and responsibilities

3.1 Developing the Nature Recovery Network

- At the direction of the line manager and key stakeholders, lead and co-ordinate the development of a Nature Recovery project portfolio that will deliver landscape scale habitat conservation, restoration and enhancement
- Work with landowners, farmers and land managers to identify opportunities to enhance the nature network including the opportunities provided by Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), phosphate and nitrate mitigation, carbon credit schemes, Countryside Stewardship and Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme
- Encourage community engagement with nature recovery, supporting the work of local groups, promoting community wildlife plans and signposting groups to funding opportunities such as the Sustainable Communities Fund and Landscape Enhancement Initiative.
- Promote the use of tools such as the natural capital baseline for the National Park and ecosystem service mapping to ensure that nature-based interventions maximise and enhance the natural assets of the National Park and the benefits that flow from them
- Identify and collate the evidence needed to develop the vision for the nature recovery network
- Develop a programme of monitoring to measure progress in the development of the nature recovery network
- Employ participatory approaches to engage stakeholders in, and foster support for, the nature recovery network

3.2 Support for the Wildlife Roundtable

- Provide administrative support for the Wildlife Roundtable and maintain the clear and open collaboration between all stakeholders. This will involve the preparation of agendas and records of meetings, reporting on projects and occasional research/ data gathering

4 Problem solving

- 4.1 Able to solve a wide range of problems relating to the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy and nature network for the National Park. These include devising solutions to complex conservation problems such as identifying opportunities for schemes that will reduce flood risk, improve water quality, sequester carbon, create wetland habitats and enhance biodiversity.
- 4.2 On-site problem solving may be required, to resolve unexpected practical difficulties or in response to changing external circumstances. This will demand the ability to maintain a flexible approach under pressure of client deadlines and budgets.

5 Decision making

- 5.1 Targets and objectives are set in discussion with the line manager.
- 5.2 Required to make a wide range of decisions independently, in conjunction with colleagues and with outside agencies and the public.

- 5.3 In the line manager's absence, other decisions outside of the post holder's own responsibility should be referred to other managers.
- 5.4 Decisions impacting on other colleagues and services, such as the involvement of staff and allocation of financial resources for projects, are made in consultation with the line manager and/or with other senior managers.

6 Operational responsibility

- 6.1 Responsibility for safe storage of data relating to the job.
- 6.2 Occasional access to sensitive and confidential information requiring a clear understanding of why such information is not yet in the public domain.
- 6.3 Responsible for operational budget, approximately £5,000.

7 Communication

- 7.1 Skilled in communicating and negotiating with a range of audiences including property owners, agents, community groups, partner organisations, national agencies and members. This requires an open and engaging approach with the ability to create partnerships and collaborations to deliver the desired outcomes for nature.
- 7.2 Requires written skills using plain English in reports and correspondence to set out a clear, concise and logical approach to assist decision makers to reach appropriate conclusions.
- 7.3 Internal 30% External 70%

8 Working conditions

- 8.1 Works from an office base but required to undertake frequent site visits and frequent travel for meetings.
- 8.2 Requires occasional lone-working in relatively remote locations; woodlands, heathland and the coast. Risks are assessed and mitigated against in accordance with NPA policies.
- 8.3 Required to work outside normal office hours (e.g. evening meetings 2-3 times a month and occasional weekend work) in order to meet the needs of the job and specific project requirements.
- 8.4 The position may involve personal contact with people with differing views to the NPA's objectives.

9 General

- 9.1 The post holder must at all times carry out their responsibilities with due regard to NPA policy and procedures.
- 9.2 All staff have a responsibility to participate in the NPA Appraisal Scheme and to contribute to their own development, and the development of any staff they appraise or are responsible for.

10 Job description agreement

- 10.1 The above Job Description is not intended to be exhaustive; the duties and responsibilities may therefore vary over time according to the changing needs of the service.

Person Specification

Nature Recovery Officer

Criteria	Essential	Desirable	Assessed by
Education / qualifications			
A degree or post graduate qualification in a relevant discipline eg Ecology, Environmental Management	Y		A
Membership of professional institute e.g. CIEEM		Y	A
Experience			
Demonstrable post qualification experience in delivering habitat restoration, enhancement and creation programmes at the landscape scale	Y		A / I
Knowledge			
Understanding of the range of incentives for land managers to deliver environmental benefits e.g. BNG, Carbon credits, ELM	Y		A / I
A thorough understanding of the natural capital approach, the natural capital assets of the National Park and the services they provide	Y		A / I / T
Knowledge of the planning system and how it can contribute to the development of nature networks		Y	A / I
Full working knowledge of relevant legislation		Y	A / I
Methods of effective public engagement and consultation		Y	A/I
Knowledge of National Parks and the New Forest and an understanding the pressures on and threats to protected landscapes.		Y	A/I
Skills			
A high level of oral and written communication skills	Y		I
IT literate using Microsoft applications, GIS and data analysis		Y	A / I
Ability to work under pressure, use own initiative and analytical judgment	Y		A / I
Ability to negotiate to achieve objectives	Y		I
Ability to prioritise conflicting tasks with competing deadlines	Y		I
Proven project management skills	Y		A / I
Impact and attributes			
An ability to analyse a range of situations, exercise judgment and use initiative where these are in conflict.	Y		I

Evidence assessed by key:

A = Application form

I = Interview

T= Testing/assessment/presentation