

Northumberland County Council

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>Post Title:</b> Ecologist	<b>Group - Service:</b> Regeneration and Public Protection - Planning Strategy		<b>Office Use</b>
<b>Band:</b> 7	<b>Workplace:</b> County Hall		<b>JE ref: 1963</b> <b>HRMS ref:</b>
<b>Responsible to:</b> County Ecologist	<b>Date:</b> Revised 15 July 2010	<b>Manager Level:</b>	
<b>Job Purpose:</b> To protect and promote the natural assets of the County through assisting the County Ecologist in the provision of ecological advice to Planning Strategy and Development Management Services and in the preparation of Habitats Regulations Assessments.			
<b>Resources</b>	Staff	None but significant influence on the work of external contractors and consultants	
	Finance	None but advice can result in requirement to commit significant expenditure on ecological investigations etc.	
	Physical	Maintain and operate service information systems.	
	Clients	Planning Strategy and Development Management Services, developers, consultants and the general public . NGO's and other organisations to deliver projects and promote data exchange.	
<b>Duties and key result areas:</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support the County Ecologist in the provision of the County's Ecology Service</li> <li>2. Work with the County Ecologist to undertake the Habitats Regulations Assessments of all Local Development Documents produced by the Planning Strategy Service.</li> <li>3. Provide advice concerning the conservation and enhancement of ecological resources through other aspects of the strategic planning process, to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and policy and to further nature conservation in Northumberland.</li> <li>4. Provide advice to Development Management officers and management agencies concerning the ecological implications of proposed developments to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and policy and to further nature conservation in Northumberland.</li> <li>5. Produce briefs for assessments, studies and mitigation works necessitated by planning conditions and approve specifications for ecological work submitted by developers. Liaise with Development Management officers and developers to ensure the successful execution of work required by planning conditions to ensure that the terms of ecological based conditions are met prior to discharge of conditions.</li> <li>6. Undertake Habitats Regulations Assessments for proposed developments.</li> <li>7. Provide advice concerning the conservation and enhancement of ecological resources during the working life, restoration and aftercare of minerals sites to ensure compliance with legislation, planning conditions and obligations and to further nature conservation in Northumberland.</li> <li>8. Contribute to the development of the Service's environmental database, and manage and promote data exchange with the emerging Regional Data Hub.</li> <li>9. Provide advice concerning ecological matters to other parts of the Council as appropriate.</li> <li>10. Answer enquiries from members of the public and other organisations.</li> <li>11. Work as part of the multi-disciplinary planning team assigned to one of Northumberland Conservation Team's operating areas providing advice on all aspects of nature conservation</li> <li>12. Provide specialist officer representation on internal and external working and steering groups.</li> <li>13. Work with internal and external partners to deliver projects to protect and promote the natural assets of the County.</li> <li>14. Assist with education and outreach activities for staff, members and the local community</li> <li>15. Other duties appropriate to the nature, level and grade of the post.</li> </ol>			
<b>Work Arrangements</b>			
Physical requirements: Predominantly sitting or standing, occasional need to walk to remote or inaccessible sites. Occasional requirement for lifting files, documents and equipment.			
Transport requirements: Involves travel to sites and area offices throughout the County and further afield on occasion.			

<p>Working patterns: Normal office works with some evening and week-end meetings. Flexi-hours scheme applies. Working conditions: Office and site based. Regular exposure to working outdoors in full range of weather conditions and in physically demanding terrain.</p>	
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**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

<b>Post Title:</b> Ecologist	<b>Group - Service:</b> Regeneration and Public Protection	Ref: 1963
<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>	<b>Assess by</b>
<b>Knowledge and Qualifications</b>		
<p>Detailed understanding of ecological legislation and policy.  Detailed understanding of both strategic planning and development management elements of the town and country planning system.  Knowledge of the process of EIA and LDF preparation and assessment  Knowledge of techniques for the conservation, management and enhancement of habitats and species.  Degree or equivalent level qualification in ecology or a related discipline.  Eligible for full or associate membership of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.</p>	<p>Full membership of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.</p>	
<b>Experience</b>		
<p>Experience of providing ecological advice within the strategic planning and development management systems.  Experience of ecological survey and assessment.</p>	<p>Experience of Habitats Regulations Assessments.  Experience of complex EIA casework.  Experience of providing ecological advice to land managers.</p>	
<b>Skills and competencies</b>		
<p>Ability to assess the ecological implications of complex land use change.  Ability to identify relevant legislative and policy implications of proposed developments  Ability to assess the ecological significance of sites and the habitats and species occurring on them.  Field identification of a range of habitats and species occurring in Northumberland.  Ability to communicate advice effectively.  Competence in use of standard word processing, database and spreadsheet programs.</p>	<p>IT skills and awareness, including use of using Geographical Information Systems.</p>	
<b>Physical, mental and emotional demands</b>		
<p>Ability to organise and undertake detailed iterative analysis of evolving documents.  Ability to organise and prioritise heavy workload comprising a mixture of casework and longer term project work.  Ability to advocate positive ecological outcomes in situations of competing priorities.  Ability to work without close direct supervision  Ability to work outdoors in physically demanding terrain and inclement weather conditions.  Ability to deal with members of the public who may be angry or difficult.</p>		
<b>Other</b>		

Able to meet transport requirements of the pos	Wide ranging interest in nature conservation	
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