

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Field Ecologist
MANAGED BY:	Senior Environment Manager - nature recovery
GRADE:	8

ROLE OVERVIEW

Key accountabilities:	Conduct surveys to identify, record and monitor species abundances and their habitats across a series of selected sites within the West of England region. Support Citizen Science surveying through training and engagement work.
Key relationships:	Project Manager, Data Analyst, Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre

THE ROLE

The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) is seeking to appoint a senior field ecologist to work on an innovative approach to assessing the change in species abundance/biodiversity across the region. You will join the nature recovery team and collaborate closely with the University of Bristol, the Bristol Environmental Records Centre and Unitary Authorities.

Reporting into the Senior Environment Manager for nature recovery and alongside a project manager and data analyst, the field ecologist will conduct surveys to identify, record and monitor species abundances and their habitats across a series of selected sites within the West of England region. Sites will be in both rural and urban areas. You will train and support Citizen Science groups to undertake appropriate surveying, and contribute to understanding the abundance and distribution of species as part of our approach to evidence-based nature recovery. This is a mayoral priority within the West of England's Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan.

The role will be central to developing an index to assess the change in species abundances (biodiversity) in the West of England. This is a crucial measure needed to direct nature recovery investment and to help evaluate the effectiveness of nature

recovery measures.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Planning, coordinating and undertaking field surveys to collect biological information about the numbers and distribution of organisms.
- Apply appropriate sampling strategies and methods (particularly to collect abundance data), building on past data and methods.
- Carry out the identification of organisms, analysing and interpreting survey results.
- Stakeholder and partner engagement to identify survey sites.
- Landowner engagement to attain access to field sites.
- Training Citizen Scientists to undertake surveys as appropriate and support existing interest groups to engage with the Wildlife Index.
- Collaborate with the Wildlife Index data analyst to contribute habitat and species data to a regional database.
- Keeping up to date with new environmental policies, legislation and surveying methods.
- Contribute ideas about changes to policy and legislation, based on ecological findings.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL (MUST HAVE)

Qualifications and Knowledge

- A degree in a biological science or an environmental subject.
- A broad understanding across the breadth of field ecology skills (including NVC/FISC level 4 and UK Habitat Classification surveys)
- Expertise on UK priority habitats and species.
- Relevant work experience.
- Knowledge of the latest techniques and technology in ecological monitoring and management.
- First aid trained
- Ability to drive - a full UK driving licence is required.

Experience

- Experience in undertaking fieldwork. Field-based survey work can be physically demanding, and patience is often needed to obtain and collect the necessary data. Work is carried out in all weather conditions.

- Experience in identifying the most appropriate surveying method.
- Experience of communicating (written and oral) with a wide range of people, particularly external stakeholders, and of explaining technical/complex information in an easy-to-understand manner.
- Experience in supporting Citizen Scientists, interest groups or community ecology projects
- Experience in writing Risk Assessments and Method Statements

Skills and Competencies

- Strong interpersonal and negotiation skills with evidence of engagement with a wide range of public and private sector bodies.
- Good written and verbal communication skills.
- Content to work alone. Surveys are expected to be done alone unless a health, safety or well-being risk. You will however work as part of a larger multidisciplinary team within the Mayoral Combined Authority and across the Unitary Authorities who have trained ecologists.
- Confidence in using survey techniques and identification.
- Teamworking and project management skills.
- The ability to use computer software for recording, analysing and presenting data and reports.
- Self-motivation, energy and drive.
- An objective approach to working in conservation.

DESIRABLE

Qualifications and Knowledge

- A postgraduate qualification in a relevant discipline, such as an MSc in Ecological Consultancy, is advantageous.
- Membership of CIEEM, or equivalent professional body and seeking to work towards Chartership.
- Experience of working in a public sector organisation.
- Experience of QGIS and data analysis skills.