

## Kent County Council

Job Description: *Making Space for Nature in Kent & Medway Landowner Officer*

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<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Growth, Environment &amp; Transport</b>
<b>Unit/Section:</b>	<b>Natural Environment &amp; Coast Team</b>
<b>Grade:</b>	<b>KR9</b>
<b>Responsible to:</b>	<b>Natural Environment &amp; Coast Manager</b>

### **Purpose of the Job:**

Kent County Council is the Responsible Authority for the development of the Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

The *Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway* project will develop this important strategic document for the county. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will agree and map our most valuable areas for nature, priorities for its recovery and opportunities for wider environmental benefits. It will be collaborative and locally led, with a large emphasis on stakeholder engagement. A key stakeholder group for the Strategy will be farmers, landowners and managers, who will be instrumental in ensuring that the plans are realistic and deliverable.

The Making Space for Nature Landowner Officer will take the lead on the land management elements of the project. They will be responsible for ensuring there is comprehensive and meaningful engagement with this important stakeholder group throughout the Strategy's development. As a result of this engagement, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy will benefit from the expertise, knowledge and opinions of Kent's landowners, farmers and land managers and have their buy-in to, and support of, the priorities and actions it proposes.

### **Main duties and responsibilities:**

1. Establish a land advice network for the county, which brings together all bodies currently involved in landowner/manager engagement activities. Utilise these established relationships and forums to engage this stakeholder group in the strategy development process.
2. Provide training, guidance and communication to these bodies to support them to act as ambassadors for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and positively engage landowners in the in the development process.
3. Ensure that other landowners not covered by these established routes are brought into the discussions and engaged with the work.
4. Collate and present relevant information that will help inform and support landowner engagement, including lessons learnt, case studies and best practice learnt from existing clusters; and up to date information on financing for nature recovery and nature-based solutions.
5. Map all existing and planned nature recovery and nature-based solutions work delivered at a landscape scale to identify where action is already taking place and where opportunities exist to join up and extend efforts.
6. Collate and present relevant evidence/data that will help inform nature recovery priorities, wider environmental benefits and measures for landscape scale land management.
7. Identify priorities, opportunities and potential actions for land management in Kent and review how these may relate to, and impact on, farming business and landowners' commercial priorities.

8. Ensure landowners, farmers and land managers are fully consulted on the draft Strategy before public consultation and work with stakeholders to address and resolve any concerns.
9. Use the Local Nature Recovery Strategy engagement process to facilitate work to address gaps in existing farmers clusters, and areas where new farmers clusters are required.
10. Act as the main contact point for landowners, managers and farmers for the project and manage the Landowners, Farmers and Managers Stakeholder Group.
11. Produce communication materials to promote the Local Nature Recovery Strategy to landowners and coordinate, and/or lead, events, workshops and other face to face engagement activities.
12. Manage a record of landowner engagement.

The post holder will be required to travel throughout the county and, at times, to work evenings.

The post is offered on a fixed term contract of 20 months. Secondments and approaches from self-employed professionals will be considered for this role.

This job description is provided to assist the job holder to know what their main duties are. It may be amended from time to time without change to the level of responsibility appropriate to the grade of post.

## Kent County Council

### Person Specification: *Making Space for Nature in Kent & Medway* *Landowner Officer*

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The following outlines the criteria for this post. Applicants who have a disability and who meet the criteria will be shortlisted.

Applicants should describe in their application how they meet these criteria.

	<b>CRITERIA</b>
<b>QUALIFICATIONS</b>	Appropriate higher education or vocational qualification(s) relating to land management or natural environment.
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>	Extensive experience of business-led land management and/or working with landowners, land managers and farmers.  Excellent partnership working experience.  Demonstrable experience of developing and leading engagement activities within the land management and/or natural environment sector.
<b>SKILLS AND ABILITIES</b>	The ability to understand and appreciate the problems, practicalities and priorities of landowners, managers and farmers and recognise where agendas may differ and sometimes conflict.  A demonstrable ability to establish and maintain excellent and productive working relationships with landowners, managers and farmers.  Good facilitation skills, including negotiation, diplomacy, persuasion and conflict management.  The ability to think strategically and see the bigger picture.  Excellent communication skills, personable.  Applied GIS skills.
<b>KNOWLEDGE</b>	A demonstrable knowledge of land management, agriculture and farming business.  A good understanding of nature recovery at a landscape scale.  A good understanding of the opportunities and benefits of nature-based solutions and the land management that enables these to be realised.  An understanding of the delivery and financing mechanisms available to landowners, managers and farmers for nature recovery and nature-based solutions.  A good knowledge of Kent's habitats and species and land management within the county.

<p><b>KENT VALUES AND CULTURAL ATTRIBUTES</b></p>	<p><b>Kent Values:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are <b>brave</b>. We do the right thing, we accept and offer challenge</li> <li>• We are <b>curious</b> to innovate and improve</li> <li>• We are <b>compassionate</b>, understanding and respectful to all</li> <li>• We are <b>strong together</b> by sharing knowledge</li> <li>• We are all <b>responsible</b> for the difference we make</li> </ul> <p>Our values enable us to build a culture that is:</p> <p><b>Flexible/agile</b> - willing to take (calculated) risks and want people that are flexible and agile</p> <p><b>Curious</b> - constantly learning and evolving</p> <p><b>Compassionate and Inclusive</b> - compassionate, understanding and respectful to all</p> <p><b>Working Together</b> - building and delivering for the best interests of Kent</p> <p><b>Empowering</b> - Our people take accountability for their decisions and actions</p> <p><b>Externally Focused</b> - Residents, families and communities at the heart of decision making</p> <p>(If this document is being used for recruitment purposes, examples of Behaviours which support the Kent Values will need to be demonstrated within the context of this post)</p>
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