

# Kent County Council

## Job Description: *Biodiversity Officer – Maternity Cover*

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

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

To advise on the ecological implications of development, strategic planning and other proposals; ensuring the planning authority meets wildlife legislation, policy requirements and the NERC Act Biodiversity Duty and effectively protects, manages and enhances the biodiversity of Kent.

To support the development and implementation of biodiversity projects and initiatives.

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

The post holder will be required to work across the whole range of activities of the Natural Environment and Coast Team including the following priority work areas:

- Deliver the Ecological Advice Service to KCC's Planning Application Group and participating local authorities, providing access to ecological expertise and including:
  - Provision of ecological advice at any stage as requested within the development management process (pre-application, screening, scoping, formal application and enforcement).
  - Assessment and advice on ecological impacts and appropriateness of any proposed mitigation and biodiversity enhancement measures.
  - Participation in meetings with developers/applicants pre- and post-submission.
  - Input to, and attendance of, planning committees, planning inquiries and appeal hearings.
  - Impartial assessment of the recommendations of statutory and non-statutory conservation organisations in relation to planning applications and other planning documents.
  - Input, as requested, to the Local Plan and other forward/strategic planning.
  - Ecological assessment of hedgerows for which a removal notice has been submitted, to ensure compliance with the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.
  - Provision of general advice on biodiversity issues.
  - Training for development management staff and planning committees.
- Deliver the County Council's ecological input to strategies, plans, major development proposals and consultations.
- Provide ecological advice to various KCC departments, providing scrutiny of, and advice on, ecological surveys to ensure compliance with biodiversity and protected species legislation, policy and best practice. To provide training, where required, for KCC staff and members on biodiversity.

- Provide support, under the direction of the team manager, in other tasks necessary to the functioning of the Natural Environment and Coast Team.

**This position is offered on a part-time, fixed term contract of 0.6 FTE for 14 months.**

Footnote: This job description is provided to assist the job holder to know what his/her 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: *Biodiversity 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>	<p>Relevant professional qualification to degree level.</p> <p>Membership of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (or ability to meet eligibility criteria/willingness to gain accreditation)</p>
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Experience in a relevant field demonstrating an excellent understanding of ecological issues, including protected species.</p> <p>Demonstrable experience of undertaking or reviewing habitat and species surveys and ecological impact assessments.</p> <p>Proven track record of developing effective working relationships with a range of partners and developing and delivering biodiversity projects.</p> <p>Experience of the planning system.</p>
<b>Skills And Abilities</b>	<p>Strong partnership working and influencing skills. Ability to provide clear and coherent advice and defend that advice when necessary.</p> <p>Ability to understand and analyse information from a wide range of disciplines - attention to detail.</p> <p>Excellent verbal and written skills, demonstrating an ability to communicate biodiversity issues to the general public and professional partners and an aptitude for producing project reports.</p> <p>An ability to adopt an organised and methodical approach to work.</p> <p>An ability to use and apply GIS techniques.</p> <p>Demonstrated ability to work both independently and as an effective team member.</p>
<b>Knowledge</b>	<p>A detailed knowledge of habitats, protected species and wider biodiversity issues.</p> <p>A detailed knowledge of habitat and protected species survey requirements and an understanding of the tools and techniques for assessing development impact.</p> <p>A detailed knowledge of the relevant legislation and policy required to provide good quality ecological advice.</p>

	<p>Knowledge and understanding of development management and strategic/forward planning.</p>
<p><b>Values and Cultural Attributes</b></p>	<p><b>Be Open</b></p> <p><b>Invite contribution and challenge</b></p> <p><b>Be accountable</b></p> <p>Our culture and values make KCC who we are as an organisation and as an employer; everything the authority does should be guided by these values. They set out who we are as people, what we stand for and how we act. These are the values that we demonstrate ourselves, see around us and collectively and individually strive for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are brave. We do the right thing, we accept and offer challenge</li> <li>• We are curious to innovate and improve</li> <li>• We are compassionate, understanding and respectful to all</li> <li>• We are strong together by sharing knowledge</li> <li>• We are all responsible for the difference we make</li> </ul>