

JOB SUMMARY

Post Title	Ecology Officer - Planning						
Job Family	Directorate of Regeneration	Pay Range	9	Line Manager to others?	No	Role profile ref	SD09
Service Area	Planning Services						
Line Manager	James Brewer						
Location	Seaclose						

Job Purpose

To provide ecological advice that enables the Local Planning Authority to discharge its statutory requirements with regard to ecological and environment responsibilities and, when necessary, to other departments of the Council and external bodies.

Job Context

1. To provide appropriate ecological and environmental advice to Planning Officers in relation to relevant pre-application advice requests, planning applications, condition discharge requests, planning appeal statements and Environmental Impact Assessment screening and scoping requests. To provide Appropriate Assessments where required for the Planning Authority.
2. To review and assess Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) information submitted to the Local Planning Authority.
3. To provide ecological and environmental input to the Council's development plan and to represent the council as required on external bodies in pursuance of this role.
4. To lead the consideration and assessment of sites for designation as sites for nature conservation interest.
5. To prepare detailed and accurate reports for committees as necessary.
6. To support, as may be required, the council's Tree Officer and other officers of the council in duties relating to trees, hedgerows and ecological matters.
7. To provide input into funding bids that relate to the council's ecological and environment responsibilities.
8. In undertaking the above duties, maintain a liaison with other services and directorates of the council and specific consultation bodies/agencies on nature conservation matters.
9. To work in conjunction with the Planning Policy Team and the Environmental Records Officer, where required, particularly with regard to the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for the Isle of Wight.
10. Promote equality as an integral part of a role and treat everyone with fairness and dignity.
11. Any other matters relevant to the post as may be directed from time to time.

Knowledge, Skills and Experience

Role Profile requirements.	Job specific examples. (if left blank refer to left hand column)	Essential	Desirable
Relevant practical experience of working with and understanding of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of previous experience in the preparation of 	x	

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the relevant legislation, statutory frameworks / requirements and good practice guidance related to protected species and habitats in relation to the planning system.	<p>technical advice relating to protected habitats and species in relation to planning matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of work related to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations and Habitats Regulations 		
Practical knowledge of the specialist work area and relevant legislation, regulations, processes, systems, procedures and standards. Good knowledge of other areas of the authority relevant to the service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current knowledge and understanding of ecological and environmental legislation and issues, relevant to the Isle of Wight Current knowledge and understanding of the principles of SEA, EIA, HRA and supporting legislation Current knowledge and understanding of the planning system, with particular emphasis on protected areas and species, survey methodologies, mitigation strategies and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Knowledge of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, General Data Protection Regulations 2018, Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, Environment Act 2021 	x	
Proven ability to research, analyse and present complex information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to write concise reports and letters, and to demonstrate research and investigation skills to inform and assist decision-makers, such as by researching and preparing briefs for commissioning. 	x	
Good communication, interpersonal and presentation skills, able to explain technical / legal issues clearly. Proven ability to negotiate with, persuade and influence others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proven ability to tailor communication to the relevant audience. Proven ability to work with varying levels of internal and external stakeholders, for example Admin, Senior Managers and consultants. Ability to demonstrate a good technical ability with regards to mapping/GIS 	x	
Working knowledge of IWC professional groups and external	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate an awareness of other services and departments 		x

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agencies as relevant to the role.	within the Isle of Wight Council, and external consultees and how their work relates to the planning system across different disciplines and workstreams.		
Proven ability to build and maintain constructive working relationships with a range of people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proven ability to work with varying levels of internal and external stakeholders, for example Natural England, the Environment Agency, Senior Managers and consultants. 	x	
Proven ability to prioritise own workload and achieve deadlines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good planning and organisational skills, with proven ability to use initiative, prioritise workloads, monitor and evaluate work and ensure deadlines are achieved. 	x	
Qualifications			
Role Profile requirements.	Job specific examples. (if left blank refer to left hand column)	Essential	Desirable
Educated to degree level in biological sciences, ecology or environmental management			x
Membership of, or evidence of working towards, a professional ecological body (IEEM or ALGE)			x
Other Requirements			
Access to a vehicle/transport for work use			