

Context statement

To accompany job description and person specification when required

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Job title: Biodiversity Technical Officer

Directorate/Service/Team: Place/ Planning/ Environmental Partnerships & Policy Team: Natural Environment Team

Organisation Structure

Reporting to: the Natural Environment Team Manager

Responsibility for:

The Biodiversity Technical Officer, as part of the Natural Environment Team (NET), is responsible for providing the biodiversity technical assistance to the team and will work across all team areas. The NET is situated in County Hall, Dorchester and is part of a dynamic group of teams making up the Environment Policy & Partnerships Team (EPPT). The EPPT, along with other specialist environmental teams, sit within Planning Services in the wider Place Directorate.

A flexible working arrangement is in place to allow for home working and office-based working with a team office day held twice a week at County Hall.

Context of Work

The Natural Environment team is part of a dynamic group of Teams making up the Environment, Policy & Partnerships Team (EPPT).

The EPPT sits within Planning and provides specialist environmental advisory services. It is made up of six teams including the:

1. Natural Environment Team
2. Historic Environment Team
3. Environment Mitigation Delivery Team
4. Dorset Coast Forum
5. Dorset Heaths Partnership
6. Litter Free Dorset

The Natural Environment Team provides a key service on:

- **Policy and Strategy:** Providing input into Local Plan policies and supplementary planning documents. The team leads on delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain, the Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy and other Environment Act provisions.
- Delivery of the **Dorset Biodiversity Appraisal Protocol** to ensure there is an integrated approach to planning and development while looking after Dorset's ecological assets.
- Provision of specialist planning application consultation comments to ensure compliance with relevant wildlife and BNG legislation and best practice.
- Delivery and coordination of the authority's legal **Biodiversity Duty**.



- **Major project delivery:** ensuring that all aspects of ecological management before, during and after works are complete for projects including: major road schemes, construction of new schools and flood risk and coastal schemes.
- **Leading on the delivery of wildlife, habitat and landscape management** projects for a range of clients in accordance with licensing arrangements, planning agreements and countryside management schemes, producing method statements, detailed technical information and site management plans.

The purpose of the post is to:

1. Provide support to the Natural Environment Team Manager and other officers within the team relating to the different services they deliver.
2. Be first point of contact for the Dorset Biodiversity Appraisal Protocol, supporting the ecologists and senior ecologists to deliver an efficient service.
3. Provide support for the coordination of specialist responses to planning consultations on ecology and Biodiversity Net Gain.
4. Support to the delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and its implementation across a wide range of audiences.
5. Help support the coordination of the authority's legal Biodiversity Duty.
6. Monitor the NET inbox dealing with enquiries and/or directing to relevant officers in the team.
7. Support the different projects/work in agreement with the team manager.
8. Lead on communications in relation to the work delivered by NET e.g. press releases, information to the DC comms team, and web editing.
9. Oversee the NET financial tracker dealing with internal budgets and charges across different teams.

Working arrangements

This role will take a flexible approach and be expected to work in the office in Dorchester as well as working from home – in agreement with the team manager.

Context statement prepared by:			
Manager	Nikki Taylor	Date	26/08/2025