To accompany job description and person specification when required

**Job title: Ecologist**

**Directorate/Service/Team:** Place/ Planning/ Environment, Policy and Partnerships Team: Natural Environment Team

**Organisation Structure**

Reporting to: the Lead Senior Ecologist

Responsibility for:

The Ecologist, as part of the Natural Environment Team (NET), is responsible for helping to ensure that Dorset Council complies with evolving legislation and policy relating to nature conservation and Biodiversity Net Gain. The Ecologist is more specifically responsible for providing day to day ecological information and advice through the Dorset Biodiversity Appraisal Protocol working with ecological consultants, planners and developers across Dorset and internal teams including planning and landscape colleagues. The primary focus of the role is regulatory, site visits and field surveys are occasionally undertaken but are not a core responsibility.

The NET is based in County Hall, Dorchester, although 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 Ecologist post is to:**

* Provide timely ecological input into the planning process through the Dorset Biodiversity Appraisal Protocol. This scheme ensures that protected species which may be affected by planning applications (for example loft or garage conversions where bats are present) are protected from harm by agreeing a particular methodology or on-site mitigation (such as providing an alternative roost).
* Work with the Biodiversity Technical Officer on the Dorset Biodiversity Appraisal Protocol to deliver an effective service. This includes dealing with enquiries from ecological consultants, applicants, the planning team and members of the public, reviewing Biodiversity Plans as they are submitted, and aiding in the ongoing review and development of the Protocol.
* Provide specialist comments on ecology and Biodiversity Net Gain , including monitoring, through the planning application consultation process within specified timeframes.
* Provide ecological advice to internal and external customers especially ecological consultants and developers, often to challenging deadlines.
* Undertake and assist in a range of tasks carried out by the team, including inputting data and helping produce reports for internal clients and to assist in the planning process.
* Help identify opportunities to promote the work of the team across the Council, to other local authorities and to the communities of Dorset.

There are two levels of Technician: Level 1 is a grade 7 position and Level 2 is a grade 8 position (awarded depending on experience).

For level 1 (grade 7) the post holder will be expected to carry out the duties outlined in the context statement. For Level 2 (grade 8) see the advancement requirements as set out for Knowledge and Experience within the Person Specification.

At Level 2: the post holder will need to show previous evidence on, and therefore will be required to:

* Deal effectively with matters, and to work with other NET and Council advisors, relating to planning and project issues.
* Undertake more complex and varied planning applications and projects and/or advanced level of tasks.
* Meet challenging deadlines forms a significant feature of the post at the higher level
* Contribute to the evaluation of relevant NET operations and services e.g. the running of the Dorset Biodiversity Appraisal Protocol, this includes participating in workshops to ensure efficient and effective working practices are maintained and contributing to the updating of ecological technical guidance and advice notes.

**Travel Requirement**

This role will involve the requirement to travel on a regular basis and therefore a full driving licence and access to a vehicle is required.

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