

**Job Description**

**Job Title**: Ecologist

**Reference**: SUS2746

**Grade:** Grade H: £31,058 per annum

**Hours**: Up to 37.5 hrs per week (part-time and/or job share will be favorably considered)

**Fixed term:** Permanent

**Base:** Sustrans offices in Birmingham, Bristol or Manchester (other Sustrans offices will be considered)

**Job purpose:**

To advise staff on all ecological aspects of Sustrans work in the UK. To carry out surveys and assessments to support route development including supporting planning applications and the preparation of protected species licences. To train relevant staff in ecological best practice and protected species issues.

**Place in Organisation:**

The post-holder will work as part of the infrastructure team and report to the Senior Ecologist.

**Key relationships:**

Internal Infrastructure Director

 Senior Ecologist

Design & Engineering and Network Development teams across Sustrans

Other relevant teams across Sustrans

RPL Asset Manager

Sustrans’ volunteer teams

External: National and regional environmental organisations

 National and regional environmental bodies

 Local Authorities

 Consultants and third party ecologists

**Key responsibilities:**

**Delivery of projects and services:**

* To provide practical support and guidance to Sustrans’ management and geographical teams with regard to ecological issues to support the delivery of Sustrans strategic priorities around the National Cycle Network paths for everyone and Liveable cities and towns for everyone.
* To provide practical support and guidance to Sustrans and Railway Paths Limited (RPL) with regard to ecological issues associated with the maintenance of (primarily disused railway) structures owned by the two organisations.
* To support geographical delivery teams to ensure that they follow best ecological practice.
* To proactively respond to queries from Sustrans site staff.
* To advise Sustrans’ volunteers team on best practice for volunteers in carrying out surveys and undertaking light duties on the network.
* To advise on the co-ordination and organisation of staff and volunteer training days in liaison with the Volunteer teams.
* To collaborate with the Monitoring and Evaluation team to collect evidence to demonstrate the NCN’s value for biodiversity.
* To respond to enquiries from the public and partner organisations on relevant matters.

**Business development:**

* To contribute to the development of project proposals and bids and participate in bid writing for projects where appropriate.
* To contribute toward the development of new ideas and innovative strategies for product development, marketing, branding, or business opportunities.

**Communication and marketing:**

* To support and comply with the charity’s guidance on branding, tone of voice and key messages, positively contributing towards raising Sustrans’ profile.

**Training and personal development:**

* To attend essential Sustrans training as required by the Charity.
* To ensure own personal development by working to objectives set as part of the Charity’s appraisal process.

**Health & Safety, Safeguarding and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:**

* To support and comply with the organisation’s policy for the management of Health and Safety.
* To support and comply with the organisation’s policies for the management of safeguarding.
* To support and comply with the organisation’s policy and procedures relating to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and apply principles of best practice in own role.

**Networks**:

* This role may have additional responsibilities as a member of a network of colleagues working on Sustrans-wide oversight of strategic communications.

**Other:**

* To keep the charity’s Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and other internal information management systems up to date.
* To perform any other duties consistent with the nature and grade of the role as agreed with the line manager.

**Working conditions:**

The post-holder will live close to their nominated office base although there may be opportunities to work from home at times. Overnight stays away from home may be necessary when participating in projects away from their designated base. Occasional weekend and late working may be required with time off in lieu. The post-holder must be prepared to walk, cycle or use public transport for the majority of work journeys.

**Special note:**

This job description does not form part of the contract of employment, but indicates how that contract should be performed. The job description may be subject to amendment in the light of experience and in consultation with the jobholder.

Compiled: Infrastucture Director

Date: October 2019

**Ecologist (SUS2746)**

**Person specification:**

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| **Criteria** | **Essential** |
| Qualifications, education and training | Significant practical experience in relevant role/s; higher level vocational qualification or degree in ecology |
| Experience | Experience of ecology of both urban and rural green spacesExperience of partnership working, for example, with local authorities and third sector organisations such as nature conservation bodies or external consultants |
| Skills and abilities | Demonstrable skills in field surveying and assessing habitat suitability for protected and notable speciesDemonstrable skills in ecological report writing including reviewing and interpreting third party reportsExcellent written and verbal communications skills and an ability to communicate effectively to a range of different audiencesExcellent organisation skills with the ability to plan and prioritise workload and work independentlyIT literateGood presentation skillsInfluencing skills and ability to quickly develop productive working relationships |
| Knowledge | Knowledge of survey methodologies for a range of flora and fauna including protected speciesKnowledge of land management practices and managing a range of habitats for biodiversityFamiliarity with nature conservation groups and initiatives |
| Other | Committed to Sustrans’ vision |
| **Criteria** | **Desirable** |
| Qualifications, education and training | Post graduate qualification in Ecology |
| Knowledge | Knowledge of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Ecological Impact Assessment (ECiA) |
| Other | Member of CIEEM or an alternative professional bodyPossession of at least one protected species licence and be working towards anotherExperience of working with volunteers and of overseeing volunteer projects |