

## Ecologist (Railway and Infrastructure) – Job Description

<b>Job title</b>	<i>Ecologist (Railway and Infrastructure)</i>
<b>Reports to</b>	<i>Head of Rail/Principal Ecologist</i>
<b>Salary range</b>	£23,000 - £32,000 per annum

### Job purpose

As a member of the ecology team you will be delivering protected species surveys and assisting on all survey work, from project inception through to the completion of reports such as Preliminary Ecology Appraisals, Ecological Assessments, Ecological Impact Assessments, Mitigation Strategies, Management Plans and Method Statements. You will also be responsible for managing your own projects with support from the senior team. Although ecology work across other sectors will be required, this role will have a specific focus on SES infrastructure projects, including (but not restricted to) railways and Nationally Important Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

### Main duties and responsibilities

- Actively engage as a member of the ecology team and wider SES team promoting the business and maintaining company reputation and standards.
- Carry out field surveys as required including planning and managing own time and scheduling to facilitate project deadlines.
- Conduct Preliminary Ecological Appraisals in accordance with published guidelines (including Network Rail standards), with support from more experienced team members on standard/complex sites.
- Manage a variety of projects from small scale developments and/or single-species mitigation, to more complex projects (with support from more experienced team members).
- Assist in the co-ordination of ecological surveys, taking ownership for the delivery of surveys associated with own projects.
- Provide coherent and timely project management including, coordination of project milestones, key dates, and on-site survey timetables across multifaceted projects.
- Deliver professional, ethical, high quality ecological consultancy services to a variety of clients.
- Maintain and develop good working relationships with existing and new clients.
- Maintain and develop the good working relationships developed between SES and Local Planning Authority ecologists/biodiversity officers involved in the planning process.
- Ensure that you follow company health and safety policies and procedures, engage with all H&S initiatives and communications, and actively take responsibility for your own personal safety. *(See company H&S handbook and company policies and procedures)*
- Produce good quality written reports such as ecological constraints reports, Preliminary Ecological Appraisals, Ecological Impact Assessments, and protected species reports in a timely manner ensuring that they are checked and signed off before being issued.
- Provide manual labor support on site when required (within training and qualification competence).
- Take ownership of your development as a consulting ecologist by liaising with more experienced members of the team / management to ensure technical risks and implications are covered.
- Provide ecological advice to clients, where necessary attend meetings face to face, onsite or online / on the phone, maintaining good quality advice and communication in a timely manner.

- Maintain up to date knowledge of industry changes, best practice guidelines, legislation, and policy.
- Keep all personal records, timesheets, and tackers up to date and in accordance with company policy.
- Take time and care in keeping all work areas, storage areas and office space safe and tidy and well organised ensuring shared equipment and vehicles are looked after, tracked correctly and damage or faults reported.
- Undertake other reasonable work as may be required.

## Qualifications & Experience

### Essential

- A relevant degree in ecology or a proven track record within a professional ecological consultancy.
- A proven track record within a professional ecological consultancy (minimum of two years'), including managing projects, undertaking surveys and assisting more experienced team members.
- Good working knowledge of ecology, legislation, and survey techniques, including protected species surveys and mitigation.
- Good level of botanical survey identification.
- Understanding of the application of relevant protected species planning policies; NPPF & Local Plans in relation to development.
- Understanding of the application of the current protected species mitigation licensing processes
- Experience in ecological assessment, protected species survey, and for development projects for example housing, commercial, transportation, and power.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Good working knowledge of MS Office programs, in particular Outlook, Excel, Word, PowerPoint.
- Attention to detail along with excellent communication skills at all levels.
- Pro-active and organised mindset with the ability to multi-task and prioritise busy workloads efficiently.
- Full UK driving license with access to your own vehicle and within a commutable distance to our office.
- Desire to work on railways and other NSIPs.

### Desirable

- Membership of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).
- A survey licence holder for at least one protected species.
- The ability to formulate appropriate and proportionate protected species mitigation strategies including both licensed and non-licensed schemes.
- Experience of designing and supervising protected species mitigation projects including capture, exclusion translocation and habitat creation.
- Experienced in the preparation of quotations and tenders.
- Familiarity with Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Experience with GIS mapping.
- Railway experience desirable but not essential as full training will be given.

## Working conditions

- Role requires UK travel to sites mainly across the southeast and midlands.
- Overnight stays may be required on specific projects.
- Hybrid working from home and from the office in Essex will be required.

#### Physical requirements

- Outdoors working will be required in all weather conditions.
- Walking long distances undertaking site surveys.
- Carrying of light / medium weight equipment.

#### Subject to relevant qualifications & training

- Handheld machinery and hand tools may be required on certain projects.
- Tree climbing, if qualified and required.

<b>Approved &amp; Reviewed by:</b> <i>Signature of the person with the authority to approve the job description.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
<b>Signed Employee Acceptance</b>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
<b>Signed Deputy Acceptance</b>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>

*Job description should be reviewed annually and updated as often as necessary.*