

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

### **SENIOR BIODIVERSITY AND PLANNING OFFICER (Berkshire)**

Hours of work: 28 hrs per week

Type of contract: Permanent

Location: Hybrid working available

Croner Rank: 5

### **BACKGROUND**

The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) is the only charity working to safeguard wildlife and natural landscapes across the three counties. Founded in 1959 by a small group of volunteers, we now have more than 27,000 memberships and 1,700 volunteers. We own or manage more than 80 nature reserves and work in partnership on conservation projects with local communities, businesses, landowners and local authorities. Each year around 12,000 schoolchildren visit our four education centres. We have strong finances, with an annual turnover of £6 million and we're proud of our highly effective and dedicated team of 150 staff.

BBOWT is part of a national network of 46 Wildlife Trusts, which means our work has a bigger impact, making a difference for wildlife beyond our three counties.

Our 'Wilder' plan for 2021-2026 sets one simple overarching aim: to create more nature everywhere. To do this, we need to inspire people to take action and do all we can to restore wilder landscapes.

Our three main goals are to:

- Put nature into recovery
- Empower people to act for nature
- Secure our future

### **JOB PURPOSE**

BBOWT recognises that the conservation of biodiversity is vital in the wider countryside, not just within Trust nature reserves. This includes protection of the most biodiverse areas, and the active seeking of biodiversity enhancements where they can achieve the greatest benefits.

Berkshire is under intense development pressure. The potential for wildlife impacts, both negative and positive, are unprecedented. The post holder will ensure that BBOWT seeks opportunities to prevent negative impacts and promotes positive outcomes for wildlife from development. This will be both at the strategic level, in influencing development frameworks, and through pursuing green infrastructure provision in major developments.

BBOWT seeks to involve people in influencing the planning system for the benefit of wildlife. The postholder will encourage this involvement by raising awareness of biodiversity and of how people can play a positive role in its protection and enhancement.

The postholder will ensure that, by raising awareness of biodiversity and in how people can play a positive role in its protection and enhancement, BBOWT will involve people in influencing the management of the wider countryside for the benefit of wildlife.

The post holder may be required to attend and present evidence at planning inquiries, examinations in public and committee meetings, and will represent BBOWT's interests in collaborations with other environmental stakeholders and within conservation-related forums in Berkshire.

**REPORTING LINE**

Reports directly to the Head of Planning, Policy and Advocacy

**STAFF MANAGEMENT**

This post has no line reports

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Contribution to the Trust’s strategic aims in Berkshire by positively influencing planners, decision makers and developers
- Undertake biodiversity impact and net gain assessments of new housing, commercial and infra-structure developments and contribute to certification scheme for developments
- Provide biodiversity net gain guidance to local authority planners and developers
- To work with colleagues and other organisations on the development of a Berks nature recovery network and strategy
- To support BBOWT paid-for services
- To work with the Berks Local Nature Partnership
- To respond to consultations and other appropriate communications where these provide significant opportunities for biodiversity benefit
- Identify local authority funding for BBOWT projects and partnerships
- To represent the Trust on conservation issues to the media and at appropriate public events
- To co-design conservation projects with local authorities and partners
- Adhere to all Trust policies, procedures and systems. To represent the Trust in a professional manner and to act at all times in a manner which will not damage its reputation.
- To ensure that all health and safety obligations are met in all aspects of the role, to provide regular reports as required
- Any other duties as delegated by the line manager, Head of Department or Chief Executive

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

	Essential	Desirable
2 years’ experience in biodiversity related work	✓	
Degree or equivalent in a relevant discipline		✓
Proven knowledge of ecological principles and habitat management	✓	
Knowledge of the Town and Country Planning system and environmental and/or ecological impact assessment		✓
Proven ability to influence the planning system		✓
Excellent interpersonal and liaison skills	✓	
Excellent oral and written communication skills with an ability to write persuasive reports, and deliver clear presentations	✓	
A current UK valid driving licence	✓	
Volunteer management skills and experience		✓

Experience of working with the media		✓
Experience of Access, GIS systems and Recorder		✓
Ability and willingness to demonstrate the BBOWT behaviours of Connect; Grow; Lead by Example; Positivity; and Conscious Inclusion	✓	

## MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS

- Quality of responses provided to consultations and enquiries
- Positive influences achieved on planning issues
- Effective briefings provided for staff, trustees and volunteers on conservation issues and campaigns
- Effective representation of the Trust on wider countryside issues in Berkshire
- Effective integration of wider countryside work with work programmes of colleagues
- Efficient co-ordination with planning colleagues in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire