

Assistant Biodiversity Officer

Basingstoke

£35,447 - £38,268

Closing date 1/12/23

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

This is an exciting opportunity to help Basingstoke and Deane address environmental challenges by taking on an important role in delivering the council's biodiversity agenda. The role includes the ability to work from home on average 40% of working week as part of a flexible working pattern.

Reporting to the Principal Biodiversity Officer, you'll be working within the multi-disciplinary Natural Environment Team alongside other ecologists, arboriculturists and landscape architects. We are looking for an early career ecologist with an understanding of the planning system to join us as an Assistant Biodiversity Officer. We are a growing team and the role has potential for development within the organisation.

As a council we recognise the importance of biodiversity having declared an Ecological Emergency in 2021. We are preparing a strategy to outline how we will affect change in the area to halt the decline and restore biodiversity. We are also preparing to enact our new responsibilities around Biodiversity Net Gain, Local Nature Recovery Strategies and Enhanced Biodiversity Duty all ensuing from the Environment Act.

We're extremely lucky to have part of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the rivers Test and Loddon as well as parts of two other chalk stream catchments, areas of heathland, ancient woodland and chalk downland. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is committed to conserving these important resources through its statutory functions, such as planning, and by working in partnership with others.

The post-holder will join a growing team of biodiversity officers supporting this high priority work. The core of the role will be supporting the team's development management casework through screening and triage and undertaking ecological monitoring. The monitoring will evaluate and support other work streams such as Biodiversity Net Gain, the management of our estate and the delivery of our emerging Biodiversity Strategy. The role will involve desk work and field work across the seasons and will require a solid understanding of data management and an ability to apply this knowledge in ensuring both key work streams are fulfilled to the required standard.

This role requires you to have a good knowledge of terrestrial, and some freshwater biodiversity; relevant legislation, policy, designated sites, habitats and species. Knowledge and experience of ecological surveying is also essential. Knowledge of GIS, impact assessments and habitat management are all desirable for the role.

For more information and to apply: <https://www.countryside-jobs.com/job/dec23/assistant-biodiversity-officer-basingstoke-and-deane-borough-council-0311-3>