

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Landscape Project Officer - Quantock Hills AONB		
Directorate	Economic Development, Skills & Climate		
Reporting to			
Grade	12		
Evaluation ref:	AU1132	Job Family ref:	
Role Purpose			
To work with relevant staff from the Quantock Hills National Landscape Team, farmers/landowners, and local authority partners to develop and deliver projects/schemes that will enhance and restore the landscape and natural heritage of the Quantock Hills National Landscape. To administer discretionary grant schemes, such as the Greater Quantock Landscape Development Fund (GQLDF) and Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme (FiPL), which includes supporting applicants to write applications, assessing applications against agreed criteria and undertaking progress monitoring and evaluation of projects. To deliver landscape and natural heritage workstreams by developing projects, delivering schemes of work, and managing contracts that will undertake land management activities such as invasive species control, scrub clearance, planting schemes and habitat restoration. Liaise with other National Landscape staff, local authority partners, landowners, and statutory agencies as appropriate to develop projects and schemes of work related to the natural heritage.			
Accountabilities			
Work with AONB Staff, partner organisations and farmers/landowners to develop and deliver projects/schemes that will enhance and restore the landscape and natural heritage of the Quantock Hills AONB. Deliver the Quantock Hill AONBs landscape and natural heritage work stream through the implementation of projects and land management contracts. Manage contractors in the delivery of natural heritage project and works, e.g. draw up specifications, let contracts, contract management and monitoring. Administer and support delivery of discretionary grant scheme(s) that supports others to deliver objectives and actions linked to the statutory Quantock Hills AONB Management Plan. Work closely with AONB colleagues to develop, co-ordinate and implement the landscape and natural heritage workstream and forge links with local communities, landowners, and interest groups.			

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Provide specialist landscape, natural heritage and nature conservation advice to farmers/landowners, partner organisations and relevant stakeholders.

Advise on appropriate site management plans and design and implement practical work programmes using contractors and volunteers.

Use and maintain IT and data management and GIS systems.

Ensure that Health and Safety and risk management processes are followed during project delivery and prepare the necessary risk assessments.

Contribute to the sharing of best practice across the AONB family.

Understand, uphold and promote the aims of the council's equality, diversity and inclusion policies; health, safety and wellbeing of self and others (safeguarding); and organisational values.

Knowledge / Experience / Skills

	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge		
Good working knowledge of nature conservation especially land management works to restore/enhance biodiversity.	X	
Good working knowledge of landscape enhancement works in relation to mixed farmland and more extensive landscapes (e.g. extensive heathlands).	X	
Knowledge of current agri-environment schemes and emerging opportunities through ELM.	X	
Working knowledge of the Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, Access, Outlook).	X	
Knowledge of relevant health & safety with regard to working in the natural environment, working with contractors.	X	
Good interpretation skills in written and digital media and face to face.	X	
Familiarity with the Quantock area.		X
Knowledge and previous use of GIS.		X
Familiarity with Landscape Character Assessments as a tool for understanding landscapes.		X
Knowledge of climate change mitigation and adaption.		X
Experience		

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At least two years' experience in a relevant role including having worked to a 'plan of action' (e.g. grant scheme, management plan, strategy) where works have been delivered on time, on budget and achieved anticipated targets.	X	
Experience of working with farmers and other private landowners to achieve conservation objectives, including through agri-environment schemes.	X	
Experience of delivering practical habitat management and restoration using staff / volunteers and contractors.	X	
Experience of running contracts including writing specifications, contract management, health & safety monitoring.	X	
Experience of a manging / administering a discretionary grants scheme.		X
Experience of community orientated biodiversity or wider natural heritage projects.		X
Experience of delivering practical access management and restoration using staff / volunteers and contractors.		X
Experience of using social media as an engagement tool.		X
Qualifications / Registrations / Certifications		
Full driving licence with category A1/A2/A or B.	X	
Higher level qualification e.g. HND, degree, in related subject such as agriculture, countryside management etc.		X
Skills		
Project and budget management.	X	
Experience of report writing / presentation.	X	
Excellent interpersonal skills to engage with the farming community and other stakeholders.		X
Can demonstrate imagination when devising projects.		X
A can-do attitude to problem solving.		X
A finisher that can complete projects within budget and on time.		X

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Working Conditions

Requirement to work outdoors on occasions in a rugged countryside environment to meet with farmers and assess/monitor projects with potential to be exposed to severe weather.

Regular requirement to work alone in rural locations – e.g. site visits required.

Dimensions of the role

Working Arrangements

Somerset Council's Dynamic Working Strategy will be applied to this position.

Corporate Accountabilities

Understand, uphold, and promote the aims of the council's equality, diversity, and inclusion policies; health, safety and wellbeing of self and others; and Organisational values in everything you do. Equality and Diversity practice covers both interaction with staff, service users and communities and includes challenging discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity for all.

Date: