

Job advert – Technical Officer

£24,000 pa

Full time, fixed term contract (initially for 1 year but with the expectation of renewal)

The closing date for applications is **5pm on 21st June 2019**.

You will be notified by 28th June if you have been selected for interview.

Interviews will be held on 8th July in central London.

How to apply:

Send your CV and a covering letter to sarah.garratt@naaturespaceuk.com before 5pm on Friday 21st June 2019.

The role:

This is an exciting opportunity for an early-career graduate to work on a ground-breaking project, working to deliver a step-change in the conservation of great crested newts.

This role would suit an early-career graduate looking to join a small, friendly company that is working with planning authorities and NGOs to deliver better conservation outcomes. The postholder will use GIS to analyse impacts of development on great crested newts, following defined processes and protocols. Attention to detail and a meticulous approach to assessments, report writing, and recording, as well as the ability to work within strict deadlines, are paramount for this post. Training and guidance will be provided, and day-to-day support will be available for all aspects of the work

Background:

Natural England have granted a series of 'District Licences' to a number of planning authorities in the South Midlands. The scheme allows planning authorities to authorise (under strictly defined terms) activities which affect newts at the same time as they grant planning permission. The District Licensing scheme has significant advantages for newt conservation (and wider biodiversity benefits) through a fully funded region-wide conservation strategy that creates high quality habitat at a landscape scale and delivers long-term management and monitoring for newts. The scheme benefits developers because the licensing process for great crested newts is simplified and streamlined.

The District Licensing scheme is administered by NatureSpace, is adopted by the Local Planning Authorities, is regulated and approved by Natural England and is fully supported by the country's leading amphibian and freshwater NGOs – Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust and the Freshwater Habitats Trust. The habitat creation, management and monitoring are delivered by a not-for-profit Community Benefit Society – the South Midlands Newt Conservation Partnership, which works with landowners and managers to create and manage ponds and other habitats across the region.



Main duties:

1. The Technical Officer will work within the NatureSpace analysis team, providing accurate quotes, assessments, reports and certificates in line with the deadlines, standards and critical requirements of the district licensing scheme. All work to be conducted and delivered to the high standards expected of NatureSpace staff.
2. The Technical Officer will need to liaise in a professional, confident and knowledgeable manner with:
 - Developers (prospective and current clients)
 - Ecologists and environmental/planning consultants
 - Local Planning Authority GCN officers, ecologists and planners
 - The South Midlands Newt Conservation Partnership (SMNCP)
 - NatureSpace colleagues
 - Other interested stakeholders
3. The Technical Officer will be required to complete casework administration to agreed standards and processes, including:
 - Daily maintenance of up-to-date live casework tracking and recording systems
 - Data management, e.g. to record habitat and impact information
4. The Technical Officer will be required to undertake or assist with further technical work for the company where required, for example:
 - client meetings, where appropriate, to discuss case specific examples
 - website and other media maintenance and updates
 - mapping work for publications, presentations, etc as required
 - internal IT support
5. The Technical Officer will need a close working relationship with the Technical Lead, the Conservation Director and Newt Officers to and ensure that assessments are accurate, informed, communicated effectively and work well within the planning and licensing framework.
6. The Technical Officer will be responsible for managing their own workload and working independently, as part of a small national team. We are a friendly, close-working team of home-workers. There will be high levels of personal flexibility and responsibility given, but equally high standards of self-management (time recording etc) will be required. The Technical Officer will need to be an organised, motivated and a mature 'self-starter', able to manage multiple ongoing tasks. Full training and guidance will be provided for all functions, and day-to-day support will be available for all aspects of the work.
7. Any other duties and functions as are deemed necessary to best implement the District Licensing scheme on behalf of NatureSpace.



The successful candidate will have:

- A relevant degree (e.g. in ecology, environmental management, environmental geography)
- Knowledge and understanding of ecological impact assessment and/or biodiversity in planning
- A genuine enthusiasm for ecology and conservation in the UK

Essential key skills:

- An excellent communicator with good inter-personal skills - able to liaise proactively and confidently with clients, consultants (e.g. ecologists, planners), planning and other regulatory authorities, NGO partners and colleagues
- A detail-focussed analyst, able to deliver critical analysis of projects using knowledge of great crested newt (GCN) ecology and impact assessment
- Understanding of European Protected Species legislation and licensing requirements in England
- Highly literate, able to prepare documents quickly and diligently to a high standard, following defined processes, protocols and guidance.
- Excellent I.T. skills
- Competence in using GIS software, preferably ArcGIS or QGIS
- Organised, methodical and conscientious - able to juggle and prioritise multiple cases, enquiries and tasks, and work efficiently to meet tight deadlines
- Self-motivated and independent - able to work flexibly and with minimal supervision, as part of a small dispersed team
- Willingness and ability to travel as necessary

Desirable key skills:

- Practical experience with GCN – preferably first-hand field experience of surveying, GCN mitigation methods and compensation projects
- Knowledge and experience of the local planning system
- Full driving licence and access to a car for business travel
- Marketing experience
- Website administration experience

Employment and location:

NatureSpace Partnership is a small, growing company. The successful candidate will be joining a friendly, close-working team of home-workers. The post holder will have responsibility for managing their own workload and working independently, as part of a dispersed national team. The post requires high levels of motivation and high standards of self-management (time recording etc. will be required). Location is to be agreed - this post will be mainly desk based but with some site visits and travelling to meetings required.