



Woodland & Forestry Consultant

North Devon UNESCO Biosphere is an important meeting place of rich natural and cultural heritage in a stunning world-class environment from dunes, grassland and moors, towns and villages to 12 miles beyond Lundy Island into the Bristol Channel. As part of the global MAB network, our Biosphere provides an open forum for bringing people together with their natural surroundings, to empower them to unlock their potential and using their local and scientific knowledge to model solutions for sustainable living. North Devon UNESCO Biosphere is also a vibrant landscape for scientific research and is host to a number of ecological pilots.

Project Background

Devon Woods is a 6-year partnership project, which will create up to of 350ha woodland across a network of sites. The project will be for the benefit of improved water quality but will also sequester carbon, reduce flood risk and enhance biodiversity.

This is a partnership between the Environment Agency, North Devon Biosphere Foundation, Natural England, Forestry Commission and the Woodland Trust. It will deliver woodland creation, enhanced woodland management and infrastructure specifically to achieve Water Framework Directive (WFD) outcomes, with multiple benefits to flood risk and biodiversity.

The project will provide the resource to engage landowners and support them in creating woodland through a suite of existing incentives (e.g. England Woodland Creation Offer), specific small grants for rural Sustainable Drainage Systems and Natural Flood Management measures alongside forest infrastructure such as access roads. These will be delivered or facilitated through advice and guidance by this partnership project.

Project Objectives

The primary objective of this project is to improve water quality in Devon catchments over 6 years, driving measurable improvements at a waterbody scale and thereby delivering the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan. This will be achieved by addressing sources of runoff associated with farming through tree planting and woodland establishment and management.

The project will create a minimum 158ha and estimated maximum of 350ha (not restricted) of woodland, targeting waterbodies that are failing to meet Water Framework Directives objectives where land use is the dominant pressure on water quality.

The project will increase biodiversity and reverse a decline in the area of woodland across the county. It will:

- Engage with a minimum 200 landowners, supporting their adoption of agricultural practices that improve the water management regime for the land that is under their stewardship. This target is based on our experience in Wood4Water project, scaled to Devon Woods.
- Deliver reductions in flood risk for target waterbodies aligned with the Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) programme, with full engagement with FCRM teams including PSO.

Project Deliverables

- Provide advice and scheme design for tree planting and woodland creation
- To liaise and develop planting schemes with partner organisations such as the Environment Agency, Devon Wildlife Trust (through their Natural Solutions project) and Westcountry Rivers Trust (through their Woodlands for Water project) to support landowners more widely
- Advice to landowners on Countryside Stewardship, Environmental Land Management Scheme, Environment Agency regulation and the England Woodland Creation Offer
- To carry out promotional and engagement activities and provide advice and support
- Services to landowners to encourage their participation in tree planting, woodland creation, flood alleviation and related habitat creation
- Advice in reduction in runoff where source apportionment indicates high nutrient loads are driven by diffuse pollution from land use. Advice on Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems.
- Support landowners through the delivery process, monitor the results, and feed this information back into the project management cycle.
- Creation of community planting schemes such as the Queen's Green Canopy tree planting initiative
- Manage and delegate contracts and consultants and the development and delivery of projects with their local environmental organisations
- Preparation of contract specification, tendering, managing project pipeline, compliance and monitoring of quality tree planting schemes
- Provide relevant information and evidence to support Biosphere Foundation grant claims
- Managing, monitoring and reporting against project budgets in accordance with requirements of funding agencies
- Creating at least 158 ha of new, multi-purpose woodland across Devon
- Other activities consummate with the contract and North Devon Biosphere project

The Candidate

You will have significant practical experience of delivering high quality tree planting schemes, including negotiating and managing contracts, you will work in partnership with the Environment Agency, local authorities, conservation organisations and landowners and lead on the delivery of planting schemes that bring benefits for both people and wildlife.

Contract terms

Full time equivalent to 1FTE.

18 month Contract which may be extended, depending on circumstances.

£30,400 pro rata (inclusive of VAT, if applicable)

Knowledge, Skills and Experience	Essential/ Desirable
Forestry Degree/Diploma	E
Good understanding of UK forestry standards, and current best practice in biodiversity-led forestry	E
2+ years forestry experience.	E
Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) Member Or other related professional body	E
Design of woodland creation plans. Woodland creation design must include broadleaved native woodlands	E
Experienced in woodland establishment	E
Experienced in woodland operations advice for restoration of woodlands	E
Experience in managing woodland contractors including specification, procurement and project management implementation	E
Experienced in negotiating and managing contracts	E
Managing budgets and grant claims	E
Experience in claiming woodland carbon credits and biodiversity net gain	D
IT competent including use of MS Office and management of spreadsheets	E
Remote working with ability to travel across Devon for site visits/ meetings	E

How to apply

Online application – Upload your CV via the link below

<https://forms.monday.com/forms/2e96395561f5c72bd14dac2ba1962630?r=use1>

For further information contact jobs@biospherefoundation.co.uk



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