

Post Specification

Post Specification - Key Information

- **Post Title: Development Management Officer - Ecology**
- **Date: February 2026**
- **Post Group Number: 6351**
- **Job Family: Regulation and Technical**
- **Job Family Role Profile: RT13**
- **Final Grade: 13**

To be read in conjunction with the job family role profile.

Service Area Description

Delivery of technical advice to fulfil the Council's Development Management responsibility for responding to planning enquiries and planning applications in Westmorland and Furness Council on behalf of the Ecology Team, within Climate and Natural Environment.

To ensure due consideration is given to all statutory obligations and duties and local policy requirements relating to biodiversity within the planning process and co-operation and effective collaboration between the Ecology Team, Local Planning Authority, statutory agencies, partnership organisations, and other stakeholders.

Purpose of this Post

The Ecology Development Management Officer is responsible for taking a lead on the provision of ecological advice to development management on complex cases with a focus on major applications in Barrow-in-Furness and the associated travel-to-work area. They will lead on preparing formal responses to complex planning enquiries and applications and to ensure timely provision of an effective and appropriate standard of service, reflecting the relevant policies, technical principles, guidance and regulations/legislation relative to the area of responsibility. They will also work closely with the Lead Ecologist to lead on the delivery of similar planning advice in other parts of the local planning authority area as required.

To provide technical advice in accordance with relevant legislation e.g. Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Town and Country Planning Act (as amended) and planning policy and coordinate the Council response to applications with respect to ecological matters. Where necessary they will attend planning committees and represent the council at planning appeals.

Key Job Specific Accountabilities

1. To lead on evaluation and assessment of complex planning applications and planning enquires which impact on biodiversity, with a focus on major applications, and provide formal responses on behalf of the ecology team within deadlines and agreed targets.
2. To take responsibility for representing the team at meetings and events, formulating guidance and training, budget management, allocating and quality assurance, input to consultations and planning policy and other similar duties.
3. To lead on reviewing and producing Habitats Regulations Assessments, Biodiversity Net Gain calculations, Construction Environmental Management Plans and other complex

ecological reports and assess their accuracy and the suitability of proposed measures to mitigate ecological harm.

4. To represent the ecology team at stakeholder meetings, planning committees and planning appeals where necessary.
5. To carry out site visits to assess ecological constraints, check the conclusions of submitted reports and monitor delivery against planning conditions and planning obligations.
6. Support the delivery of the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and development of ecological guidance for developers, landowners, and the public.
7. To assist with the drafting and management of Section 106 Agreements which include clauses relating to ecological matters ensuring that contributions are received and spent and implemented within the stipulated timeframes.
8. To provide training and advice to colleagues, other officers and external parties on the interpretation and application of policies, technical principles and regulations/legislation in respect of the areas of responsibility.
9. Carry out other tasks commensurate with the grade as may be required.

Please note: Annual targets will be discussed during the appraisal process.

Key Facts and Figures of the Post

- **Budget Responsibilities:** To assist in the administration of team budgets and to negotiate and secure appropriate mitigating measures such as financial contributions.
- **Staff Management Responsibilities:** No direct line management responsibility.
- **Other:** The post holder will take an active role in the ecology team including quality assurance and supporting the work of colleagues within the team, including subcontractors.

Essential Criteria – Qualifications, knowledge, experience and expertise

- A relevant degree in appropriate discipline or equivalent demonstrable experience.
- Detailed knowledge and understanding of ecological principles, ecological mitigation, habitat management and restoration.
- Professional experience leading complex work in a similar role within a multi-disciplinary setting.
- Experience of supporting colleagues and representing teams.
- Detailed knowledge of the Habitats Regulations and Habitats Regulations Assessment and other relevant legislation and policy relating to ecology and biodiversity.
- Demonstrable experience of working independently to successfully manage own workload, use time effectively to maximise productivity and delivering within set deadlines.
- Experience of balancing competing demands and carrying out successful negotiations.
- Detailed knowledge of biodiversity net gain legislation and guidance and the biodiversity metric.
- Relevant experience of ecological field survey work, including protected species, habitat and vegetation survey.
- Member of a relevant professional body.
- Driving with a full UK driving licence

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks

- This post does not require a DBS check.

Job Working Circumstances

- **Emotional Demands:**
 - Occasional
- **Physical Demands:**
 - Normal effort required.
 - Mainly desk based, with some attendance at sites.

- **Working Conditions:**

- Hours are generally worked during normal office hours and subject to the Council's flexible working schemes.
- Although the role is generally office based, there will be some flexibility to work from home, subject to agreement by the line manager.
- There is also a physical need to undertake regular site visits and move throughout office buildings and attend external meetings with a variety of different organisations.
- In order to meet the duties of the post the job holder must ability to travel independently around Cumbria

- **Other Factors:**

- Valid driving licence
- To model and display the corporate standards of behaviour.