

## JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>JOB TITLE</b>	Rivers and Wetlands Conservation Officer (Stour Chalk Streams and Clay Vales Project)
<b>TEAM</b>	Nature-based Solutions
<b>GRADE</b>	D
<b>RESPONSIBLE TO</b>	River Catchment Manager
<b>RESPONSIBLE FOR</b>	Contractors, volunteers and trainees

### OVERALL ROLE

To work towards a Wilder Dorset by 2030 by delivering practical conservation action across the Stour chalk streams and clay vale landscapes, improving river health, biodiversity and climate resilience at a catchment scale.

The postholder will play a key role in coordinating the delivery of the Chalk Streams and Clay Vales Project, working closely with internal colleagues, external partners including water companies, landowners and farmers and the community to plan and implement river restoration and catchment management interventions. The role will involve gathering and managing data, leading on project monitoring and reporting, and ensuring outcomes are clearly evidenced and communicated to partners and funders.

A key element of the role will be acting as Dorset Wildlife Trust's lead officer for beavers within the Stour catchment, working closely with the Dorset Beaver Management Group and other stakeholders to support strategic, evidence-led beaver management that delivers benefits for nature, people and climate.

You will work collaboratively across Dorset Wildlife Trust and with a wide range of partners to ensure projects are well coordinated, effectively delivered and contribute to long-term, landscape-scale nature recovery.

### Key Responsibilities

#### **Project Coordination & Delivery**

- Coordinate the delivery of conservation actions across the Chalk Streams and Clay Vales Project, working with internal colleagues, contractors and partners to ensure projects are delivered on time and to a high standard.
- Alongside project partners, plan and implement river restoration, catchment management and habitat enhancement works across chalk stream and clay vale landscapes.
- Develop and deliver citizen science initiatives that contribute to project monitoring, data collection and increased community involvement in chalk stream and clay vale conservation.
- Oversee contractors and consultants delivering practical works, surveys or specialist inputs, ensuring compliance with specifications, budgets, health and safety and best practice.
- Contribute to the development of work programmes, project plans and funding proposals as required.

## **Landowner & Farmer Engagement**

- Build and maintain positive working relationships with landowners and farmers within project catchments.
- Engage land managers in discussions around catchment management, river restoration and nature-based solutions, identifying opportunities for collaborative action.
- Deliver of conservation outcomes on private land through advice, facilitation and partnership working, including alignment with agri-environment schemes where appropriate.
- Where appropriate organise small farmer grants and agreements for practical works and monitor their implementation.

## **Beaver Lead – Stour Catchment**

- Working alongside Dorset Wildlife Trust's beaver specialist, act as lead officer for beavers in the Stour catchment. Work closely with the Dorset Beaver Management Group, statutory bodies and local stakeholders to support coordinated, responsible beaver management.
- Contribute to monitoring, data collection and evidence gathering relating to beaver activity and impacts.
- Engage with landowners, communities and partners to promote understanding of beavers and their role in catchment restoration.

## **Partnership Working**

- Build positive relationships between Dorset Wildlife Trust and other organisations working in the catchment. Work collaboratively with project partners, statutory agencies, NGOs and local organisations and community groups to deliver shared objectives.
- Work with internal colleagues and partners to align citizen science activity with wider monitoring frameworks and organisational priorities.
- Act as a key face of Dorset Wildlife Trust and spokesperson, representing the organisation and the project at meetings, site visits, partnership forums and the media as required.

## **Monitoring, Data & Reporting**

- Coordinate and support citizen science monitoring where appropriate, ensuring data is collected consistently, safely and to agreed standards.
- Work with colleagues and volunteers to integrate citizen science data into project evaluation and reporting.
- Gather, manage and analyse data relating to project delivery, habitat condition and outcomes.
- Lead on project reporting for funders, partners and internal audiences and contribute to financial claims.
- Develop case studies and evidence to demonstrate project impact and support learning and continuous improvement.

## **Other Duties**

All staff are expected to:

- Undertake any other duties appropriate to the post as delegated by the line manager;
- Contribute to other Dorset Wildlife Trust activities when required, to deliver the aims of the Strategic Plan;
- Engender a culture of membership recruitment within the team;
- Abide by organisational policies and procedures laid down in the Staff Handbook, including promoting equal opportunities particularly with regard to volunteer work.
- Ensure that Health and Safety policies and procedures are met in all aspects of the role.

## **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

### **Area A – Experience**

The postholder will be expected to have relevant experience in the following areas:

- Delivering conservation or environmental projects, including coordinating activities, contractors or partners (essential)
- Working with landowners and/or farmers to deliver land management or conservation outcomes (essential)
- River restoration, catchment management or wetland habitat projects (desirable)
- Partnership working across multiple organisations or sectors (essential)
- Gathering data and contributing to monitoring, evaluation and reporting for projects or funders (essential)
- Experience relating to beavers or species reintroduction/management projects (desirable)
- Experience of supporting or delivering citizen science or volunteer-led monitoring activities (desirable)

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### **Area B – Knowledge**

The postholder is expected to have knowledge of the following:

- River and wetland conservation, with an understanding of chalk streams and/or clay vale landscapes
- Catchment-based approaches to nature recovery and natural flood management
- The role of beavers in river and catchment systems, and associated management considerations (desirable)
- Monitoring, data collection and evidence-based conservation
- Health and Safety requirements relevant to practical conservation work
- An understanding of the climate and ecological emergencyAn understanding of the role of citizen science in conservation monitoring, engagement and evidence-based decision-making
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### **Area C – Skills / Qualifications**

The postholder will require the following skills/qualifications:

- Strong organisational and project coordination skills
  - Ability to work collaboratively with a wide range of partners and stakeholders
  - Excellent communication skills, including the ability to engage land managers and partners confidently and diplomatically  
Ability to manage competing priorities and work independently with a high degree of autonomy
  - IT competent, with a good working knowledge of Microsoft Office applications
  - Full driving licence (or ability to travel independently within the project area)
  - Relevant qualification in conservation, environmental management or a related field (desirable)
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### **Area D      PERSONAL QUALITIES**

- Passionate & motivated about nature recovery and river health with an ability to convey that enthusiasm to others.
  - Ability to listen, absorb and allow effective conversation.
  - Positive, creative & resilient – adaptable and flexible in approach.
  - Willingness to work some evenings and weekends when required to suit communities and volunteers, with time off in lieu.
  - Warm and approachable with the ability to establish trust and build strong relationships with varied audiences.
  - Tactful and diplomatic.
  - Confident and engaging public speaker.
  - Integrity and commitment – honest, with a strong work ethic and a real commitment to the values and aspirations of Dorset Wildlife Trust.
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Director signature ..... Date.....

Postholder signature : ..... Date.....