

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Role title	Landscape Planning Officer – Mendip Hills National Landscape		
Directorate	Climate & Place		
Reporting to	National Landscape Manager		
Grade	10		
Evaluation Ref	AU0152	Job Family Ref	
Role Purpose			
<p>Comment on planning applications on behalf of the Mendip Hills National Landscape Partnership to planning applications. Produce planning related guidance, advice and training.</p>			
Key results area	Accountability		
Landscape Planning	<p>Prepare written responses on behalf of the National Landscape Team to planning applications referred by the constituent local authorities in accordance with AONB wide policies. This will involve liaison and negotiation with statutory consultees including Parish Councils, Environment Agency, Natural England and the County and Unitary planning authorities.</p> <p>Identify, review and formulate new position statements and supplementary documents through employing consultants for the National Landscape Partnership to adopt and recommend constituent local planning authorities to incorporate in their local development frameworks.</p> <p>Review and recommend responses to planning issues, including government consultations, liaising with planning authorities covering the AONB and with other National Landscapes and Natural England to propose policies for incorporation in government guidance, regional plans and Local Development Frameworks that support the aims of the AONB designation, eg climate and biodiversity emergency.</p> <p>Provide a planning advisory service to the National Landscape Partnership preparing and presenting reports to the Partnership committee and the planning committees of the relevant County and Unitary councils.</p> <p>Attend public meetings on planning applications and policies proposed in Local Development Frameworks as necessary.</p>		



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Planning Liaison	<p>Achieve a consistent approach across the Mendip Hills National Landscape by the 3 differing local planning authorities by monitoring and promoting good practice. Regularly co-ordinate and advise the local authority planning staff and take an active part in the preparation of Local Development Frameworks through the consultation process including Green Infrastructure Plans.</p> <p>Achieve a coordinated, consistent approach to traffic management across the National Landscape by the 3 highway authorities, raising and ensuring consideration of issues in the development and review of Local Transport Plans and Freight Strategies.</p> <p>Liaise with other protected landscape teams, National Landscape Association, Protected Landscape Partnership and Natural England on national and regional planning policy issues of relevance.</p>
Raising Awareness	<p>Provide general planning advice for interested parties, including local groups and parish councils and members of the public relating to the National Landscape.</p> <p>Prepare articles, presentations and training related to planning in a National Landscape.</p> <p>Contribute to the Review of the statutory Mendip Hills National Landscape Management Plan, producing reports, statistics and analysis as required.</p>
Corporate Responsibilities	<p>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.</p>
Qualification/Knowledge/Experience/Skills	
<p>Qualifications – Essential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Degree in a planning or related subject <p>Qualifications – Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further relevant qualifications. Membership of appropriate professional body. <p>Knowledge/Experience/Skills – Essential</p>	

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- A demonstrable and proven track record of working in a local authority or similar organisation, preparing responses to planning consultations, including both development plans and development management work.
- Up to date detailed knowledge and understanding of development management, environmental legislation and procedures.
- Experience of effective working in active partnerships.
- Knowledge of the AONB designation and a good understanding of the potential impacts of environmental issues in designated areas.
- Excellent communication and presentation skills with the ability to promote and articulate key priorities for the Partnership, communicate its vision and with the ability to inspire and enthuse others.
- Interpretation and the understanding of impacts of development.
- Effective partnership and networking skills.
- Strong decision making, negotiating and influencing skills.
- Ability to speak fluent English as stated in Part 7 of the Immigration Act (2016).

Knowledge/Experience/Skills – Desirable

- Experience of organising and presenting technical seminars and events.
- Experience of managing contracts
- Knowledge of writing and co-ordinating publicity material that meet the needs of target audiences.
- Knowledge of organising volunteers and events.
- Knowledge of the operation of local government.
- Knowledge of the Mendip Hills

Dimensions of Role

Contacts & Relationships

- Regular contact with officers and members of the 3 local authorities but also with statutory bodies (Historic England, DEFRA, Natural England, Forestry Commission etc) to develop/consult over new policy and planning proposals. Part of the work involves enabling local communities to develop neighbourhood plans. Contact with the National Landscape Association and other protected landscape planning officers to influence policy and share good practice.
- Direct contact with the 3 constituent authorities to explain and influence them regarding Partnership recommendations and advise them on AONB policy. Liaise with senior officers in these bodies on all aspects of planning work, information, advice, influencing, monitoring and creating project teams to assess issues and develop new policies and approaches to solve issues eg renewable energy. Contact with the general public is in providing information over

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the phone, via email and through exhibitions and events. Contact with potential applicants to achieve proposals that meet National Landscape policies and guidance.

Resources

Working as the only planning officer for the National Landscape Partnership requires an experienced negotiator capable of persuading local planning authorities to the Team's recommendation.

Co-ordinate planning related issues across the National Landscape (over 198 sq. km) that lie within 3 local authority areas.

Responsibility for a budget of approximately £3,000 to undertake planning related projects, eg delivering training, and responsible for issuing contracts to outside consultants for relevant planning work, eg equestrian development design guidelines.

Notes

Working conditions:	Requirement to work outside in countryside environment occasionally (e.g. site visits).
Working arrangements:	There is a requirement to work occasional evenings and/or weekends which will require occasional travel to remote areas.