

ECOLOGY OFFICER

WEST OF ENGLAND AND
SOUTH WALES

APPLICATION PACK



ECOLOGY OFFICER

Thank you for your interest in this position!

THE ROLE

Salary: £27,000 per year + expenses

Working hours: 4 days (28 hours) per week

Contract type: Full time (4 day week) , Fixed Term 2 Years

Location: Remote, based in the West of England or South Wales, with travel required to sites in these areas.

Application Closing Date: 10pm Sunday 15th March

Youngwilders are looking for an Ecology Officer to help us restore nature across the West of England and South Wales and to involve young people (aged 18-30) in our nature recovery projects across the region, and in the nature recovery movement more broadly.

Since 2022, Youngwilders have set up twelve youth-led nature recovery projects across the UK; created 210 acres of new space for nature; and engaged over 1400 young people in the process. We are now looking to expand our projects across the West of England and south Wales, and need your help to do so!

As the Ecology Officer, you will lead the regional delivery of our youth-led nature recovery projects. This includes managing the ecological monitoring programme across our projects and developing and delivering nature recovery project plans. You will use this knowledge to educate and mentor young people who take part in our projects, and will help to deliver practical nature activities through regular youth action days. Activities include tree planting, wildflower seeding, species reintroductions and habitat creation work. You will work closely with the Youth Network Officer , and the wider Youngwilders Ecology Team based in south and north of England.

WHAT YOU'LL DO

- Help to run our nature recovery projects based in the West of England and South Wales, with key support from the central team based in the South East;
- Carry out in-person ecological work on Youngwilders' sites;
- Carry out in-person ecological surveying on Youngwilders sites, including UK Hab Surveys;
- Deliver educational activities as part of our projects which the aim to empower and upskill Youngwilders attendees as the next generation of environmental stewards;
- Support and mentor our Wild Stewards (young people taking part in our training programme) to develop their skills and support our project delivery.
- Work with the Wild Stewards to manage groups of volunteers as part of our projects;
- Review and help develop Youngwilders' ecological restoration project plans;
- Support with the research and writing of our reports, including desk based analysis and development of nature recovery plans
- Manage nature recovery project budgets and contribute to funding proposals where relevant;
- Help build and support a network of young people empowered to take action for nature in the West of England, particularly at our projects
- Hold Youngwilders to account on creating an inviting atmosphere in all things we do.

EXPERIENCES/SKILLS REQUIRED

A clean and current UK driving licence and access to a working vehicle is a necessary requirement of the role, please include reference to this in your cover letter.

This role is well suited to an early career conservationist and/or junior ecologist, with some work or volunteering experience, looking to build skills for delivering nature recovery projects, building ecological surveying experience, and working with volunteers. In particular, we are looking for candidates who recognise the importance that youth engagement can play in the successful long term outcomes of nature recovery work.

Experience we're looking for (none of this experience is necessary, only preferred):

- A strong interest in Rewilding, wildlife conservation, and/or nature connectedness, youth engagement, nature education;
- A good understanding of and interest in nature recovery work, and process-led ecological restoration theories;
- Experience delivering practical nature recovery interventions and habitat management activities;
- Experience carrying out ecological monitoring activities (e.g habitat and/or species surveys, UKHab Surveys, camera trapping, citizen science programmes, etc)
- Comfortable taking initiative in developing and implementing nature recovery projects and educational programmes;
- A strong understanding of why it is important to involve everyone in the environmental movement and you understand the reasons why some groups find it harder to access nature;
- You know about the principles of safeguarding and how to signpost people to support;
- You've worked with volunteers before, maybe to help organise or run activities;
- You'll work at least two Saturdays a month at volunteer events (these are part of your normal hours, not extra). Sometimes these days have early starts and late finishes due to travel, but they are some of the most rewarding days.
- You're comfortable working on your own at home as well as being part of a team working in person;
- You are good at taking initiative, coming up with ideas and making things happen!
- You can chat comfortably with people of all ages and backgrounds, including in front of groups of up to 20 people, and are able to write clearly and explain ideas and get people excited
- You enjoy being around people and thrive in social situations;
- You are organised and good at planning your time

The role will require access to a reliable internet, if this is a problem for you please get in touch and we can see what we can do to help!

ABOUT YOUNGWILDERS

Youngwilders is a youth-led non-profit organisation focused on accelerating UK nature recovery and centering young people in the process and movement. We do this through facilitating youth-led nature recovery projects across the UK, and running youth engagement and platforming programmes to upskill and energise the next generation of environmental stewards.

Since 2022, we have set up twelve youth-led nature recovery projects across the UK; created 210 acres of new space for nature; and engaged over 1400 young people in the process. This includes a 30 acre rewilding project in Sussex, an urban wildflower meadow creation project in Islington, and a 20 acre woodland and river restoration project in Essex. These ecological projects are youth-led, with all interventions conceived, designed and delivered by young people. By taking this approach, our ecological projects aim to provide young people with practical experience in nature recovery work, a sense of community and well-being, an opportunity to feel more connected to nature and an opportunity to have real stake in the direction of an active conservation project.

We also run a number of creative programmes and activities focused on involving young people in the nature recovery movement. These include workshops, seminars, our magazine, documentary work, social media outreach, and two annual youth rewilding summits held at the Knepp Estate in Sussex and Hepple Wilds in Northumberland.

In the next three years, we want every young person in England and Wales to be within an hour of an accessible, youth-led nature recovery project.

A recent feature in [The Guardian](#) showcases the impact we've had at our flagship site in Sussex. For a breakdown of our national impact see our latest [impact report](#).

TERMS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The role would be four days a week as part of a fixed term full-time contract.

We're keen to encourage applications from anywhere in the West of England and South Wales, therefore the position can be fully remote, although you will need to regularly visit Youngwilders project sites. These sites are currently focused in Bath, Monmouthshire, Somerset, and north Devon although the ambition is to have sites across the West. It will be part of your role to expand this scope!

Youngwilders run regular weekend volunteer efforts, which would be included in the candidate's set hours of work per week. Youngwilders core team operates out of an office in London, and organises regular team activities in person.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this role please send a copy of your CV to **apply@youngwilders.uk** - with the title of the role in the subject line - alongside a short covering letter which answers the following four questions:

- 1.Can you tell us about a moment or experience that made you want to get involved in environmental work? (150 words max)
- 2.How have your life experiences shaped the person you are today? Use examples to show how these experiences make you the right candidate for this role. (150 words max)
- 3.What specifically about UK Nature Recovery excites you right now, and what do you think the nature sector could be doing better? (150 words max)
- 4.This role involves bringing people together, staying organised across many different projects, and taking lots of initiative. Can you share an example from your life where you've managed a project from start to finish? (150 words max)

The deadline for applications is 10pm on the 15th of March 2026 and we will let you know the outcome by the end of March, with interviews likely for the first two weeks of April. If you have any questions at all please send Noah an email on noah@youngwilders.uk. Thank you for your interest in this position, we look forward to hearing from you!

