**Ref 3181- Marine Lead Advisor (Marine Major Casework)**

**The team**

We are the Government's statutory advisor for the natural environment. Our remit is to ensure sustainable stewardship of the land and sea so that people and nature can thrive, and we play a vital role in delivering the Government's 25 year Environment Plan by providing practical advice, grounded in science, on how best to safeguard England's natural wealth for the benefit of everyone. You'll be joining an organisation where the staff are passionate about what they do- from experts in species and habitats to specialists in farming and sustainable development. Along with essential support services, we work together to play our part in nature's recovery. Natural England staff are inclusive, motivated and ambitious to achieve results for the environment, for everyone.

The role is advertised nationally, but would be attached to one of our local area teams. Area teams are responsible for the operational delivery of our work within their local 'patch'.

**Job description**

It’s an exciting, but challenging time in marine sustainable development, and particularly in offshore wind. In 2020, the UK generated more electricity from renewables than fossil fuels for the first time. It’s expected that by 2030 the UK will get a third of its energy from offshore wind. Expansion of offshore wind is central to achieving Government’s ambitious ‘Net Zero’ targets, and we play a crucial role in securing the best outcomes for the natural environment as the sector continues to grow.

Natural England is the government’s advisor on the natural environment- providing practical advice, grounded in science, on how to best safeguard England’s natural wealth for the benefit of everyone. Its' remit is to ensure sustainable stewardship of the land and sea, so that people and nature can thrive.

The successful candidate will play a central role in the co-ordination and delivery of Natural England’s formal technical advice on major development in the marine environment. These roles will initially focus on the delivery of work around offshore renewable energy but may encompass major casework across the marine industries portfolio.

**The post holder will**

* Take ownership of casework, coordinating the provision of advice from across Natural England. building expertise to deliver quality assured. robust advice on marine Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and other major marine development.

This will include (but not be limited to):

* Provision of advice on Environmental Impacts Assessments, Habitat Regulations Assessments (including technical supporting information); working with developers to ensure environmental impacts of developments have been fully addressed in order to achieve the best outcomes for the natural environment
* Provision of statutory advice to competent authorities within specified statutory timeframes.
* Responding to post-consent consultations on discharge of DCO and Marine licence conditions.
* Provision of advice to developers to inform survey and monitoring plans & reports through Natural England’s Discretionary Advice Service
* Provision of chargeable advice through Natural England’s Discretionary Advice Service (DAS), to maximise early engagement opportunities to achieve better outcomes for the natural environment
* Building partnerships with customers (primarily industry, PINS, BEIS, MMO) and stakeholders to resolve complex or contentious planning issues
* Contribute to internal business improvement projects to improve the delivery of offshore wind casework.
* Identify any risks associated with the delivery of this work and ensure they are escalated appropriately.
* Participate in relevant internal technical networks, showing leadership & sharing best practice with others to support development of strategic approaches to challenges, and promote skills development across the wider team

Recruitment Framework

**Competencies**

**Competence 1**

**Work Delivery- Practitioner**

Description

• Be decisive, combine your professional judgement with evidence to inform your decision making  
• Proactively manage and deliver your work to meet agreed targets and deadlines  
• Interpret and apply relevant evidence to underpin your advice  
• Flexibly and willingness to adapt their role in response to changing organisational priorities and ambition.

**Competence 2**

**Personal Effectiveness- Practitioner**

Description

• Share your expertise with people in your networks (both internal and external) to promote collective development of your colleagues and to improve outcomes  
• Use clear and appropriate language, communication styles and techniques that engage and influence your audience  
• Be ambitious, identify and adopt ways to make improvements in your team and Natural England and inspire others to act  
• Make and explain objective decisions which combine your professional judgement and evidence, taking a risk-based approach.

**Competence 3**

**Putting People at the heart of the environment- Practitioner**

Description

• Nurture trusting partnerships and collaborate to achieve pragmatic outcomes that help deliver Natural England’s vision, mission and aims  
• Listen to and understand our diverse partners and customers so that you achieve the best outcomes for them and Natural England

**Competence 4**

**Creating resilient landscapes & seas**

Description

• Collect, monitor and analyse data and evidence in an appropriate and meaningful way by applying your knowledge of survey and monitoring techniques  
• Identify and apply relevant planning and environmental legislation and policy (European, national, and local) to deliver effective and proportionate evidence-based solutions and advice;  
• Identify appropriate solutions for avoidance, mitigation, compensation of environmental impacts and meeting shared outcomes; and identify opportunities for enhancing the natural environment.  
• Provide advice on the need for, and scope of, environmental assessments (e.g. Environmental Impact assessment (EIA), Habitats Regulations assessment (HRA)

**Competence 5**

**Technical Skills**

Description

• Degree or equivalent qualification and relevant experience - essential  
• Detailed knowledge of marine ecology, marine processes and an understanding of the marine biodiversity in UK waters (specifically North Sea) - essential  
• Knowledge of the main challenges in delivering our statutory sustainable development work within designated sites in the marine/coastal habitats in the UK marine environment - desirable