



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

Nature Based Solutions Project Officer, Faculty of Environment



**Salary: Grade 6 (£30,487 – £36,024 p.a. depending on experience)**

**Reporting to: Dr Cat Scott**

**Reference: ENVEE1734 Nature Based PO**

**Part time: 60% FTE**

**Fixed-term until 30 November 2025 – the post is required to complete a specific task or time limited work**

**Location: University of Leeds (with scope for hybrid working)**

**We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements**

## Overview of the Role

**Would you like to contribute to projects that benefit climate, nature and people? Do you have experience and interest in working with volunteers to deliver engaging practical conservation and restoration activities?**

As Nature Based Solutions Project Officer you will play a key role in the delivery of projects that benefit climate, nature and people. Initially, the role will focus on [Gair Wood](#), the University's new woodland creation project in north Leeds.

Gair Wood is a collaboration between the University of Leeds, United Bank of Carbon ([UBoC](#)) and the White Rose Forest ([WRF](#)). Designed as a Living Laboratory, Gair Wood is now home to over 60,000 new regionally appropriate trees and an area that has been left unplanted to assess whether trees will establish there naturally. Gair Wood also hosts 3 hectares of existing mature woodland and experiments to explore the impacts of different levels of tree species diversity.

As Nature Based Solutions Project Officer you will design and deliver practical task sessions at Gair Wood with volunteer students, staff and members of the local community. Initial tasks will focus on working with volunteers to ensure successful establishment of the new woodland. You will also assist with the scientific monitoring taking place on site and help facilitate field teaching for our undergraduate and postgraduate students (training will be provided as appropriate).

You will become a member of the cross-faculty Leeds Ecosystem, Atmosphere and Forest ([LEAF](#)) centre, through which you will have the opportunity to work across other sites undergoing restoration and woodland creation in partnership with the University and UBoC, including [Wild Ingleborough](#), [Snaizeholme](#) and [Restoring Hardknott Forest](#). Spending time with these projects will enable us to share knowledge and approaches across sites.

## Main duties and responsibilities

- Reviewing evidence (i.e., existing data, surveys and reports) to identify and prioritise practical work;
- Working in collaboration with colleagues from the Facilities Directorate and wider University to plan and deliver practical work;



- Organising and leading practical conservation task sessions with volunteers (at least four per month including at least one weekend day);
- Building effective relationships with the local community, partners and external organisations;
- Assisting with scientific monitoring activities (i.e., data collection from loggers, vegetation monitoring, biodiversity assessments);
- Assisting with the delivery of field teaching;
- Facilitating student and staff access for research projects and ensuring co-ordination with any practical or operational work being undertaken;
- Working safely, with appropriate risk assessments;
- Working with the LEAF Communications and Engagement Officer to help deliver wider outreach and public engagement activities;
- Engaging with other woodland creation projects in the wider White Rose Forest region to share learning and develop best practice.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

## Qualifications and skills

### Essential

- Practical experience of landscape restoration or the creation, establishment and management of woodlands;
- Experience planning and delivering practical sessions with volunteers;
- Ability to work as part of a team and take ownership of a strand of activities;
- Experience working in a multi-disciplinary or multi-functional team to deliver a project;
- A good understanding of health and safety, including writing risk assessments;
- Ability to work in a flexible way to meet project requirements;
- Experience engaging with communities through e.g., schools, local action groups, parish councils, special interest groups;
- Ability to work independently with a positive and pro-active approach;
- A full UK driving licence;
- Experience working outdoors, and in bad weather conditions.



### Desirable

- Experience with scientific monitoring and / or fieldwork;
- Access to a vehicle;
- An Outdoor First Aid qualification;
- GIS or online mapping experience.

## **Additional information**

Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, from 1 January 2021 you will require permission to work in the UK. This will normally be in the form of a visa but, if you are an EEA/Swiss citizen and resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, this may be your passport or status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Find out more about our [School of Earth and Environment](#)

Find out more about the [Faculty of Environment](#)

Find out more about our [Research and associated facilities](#)

Find out more about [equality](#) in the Faculty.

### **Working at Leeds**

We are a campus based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

### **Our University**

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life and from across the world. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the Faculty of Environment we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian and ethnically diverse people; people who identify as LGBT+; and people with disabilities. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.



The Faculty of Environment has received a prestigious Athena SWAN silver award from Advance HE, the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. This award represents the combined efforts of all schools in the Faculty and shows the positive actions we have taken to ensure that our policies, processes and ethos all promote an equal and inclusive environment for work and study.

### **Information for disabled candidates**

Information for disabled candidates, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at [hr@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:hr@leeds.ac.uk)

## **Criminal Record Information**

### **Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974**

A criminal record check is not required for this position, however, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be, in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information.

