



Project Officer 8-month contract

1. Job Description

Post Title:	Project Officer (Bird Sensitivity Mapping)
Department:	Policy & Advocacy
Main place of work:	BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20, Block D, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Co Wicklow
Interview Date:	Likely week of 14 th of March 2016
Period covered:	Likely Start Date: late March to end of November 2016

General Purpose: BirdWatch Ireland carries out a range of policy & advocacy work focussed on birds, their habitats and wider biodiversity which involves engaging proactively with a range of sectors. We are seeking a suitably experienced person to join our team in the area of sensitivity mapping with a focus on two key sectors, forestry and marine renewables.

2. Background

Bird sensitivity mapping identifies areas in which there are particular bird sensitivities to potential changes in their environments. It is a planning tool designed for developers, planning authorities and other interested stakeholders to foresee and address potential conflicts between the ecological needs of birds and planned new developments (e.g. forestry; renewables; roads etc); to provide access to information on the sensitivities of vulnerable species to these new developments which can help inform decisions, ensuring negative impacts on these species are minimised. Previous successful projects include [Bird Sensitivity Mapping for Wind Energy Developments](#) which was completed by BirdWatch Ireland in 2014 and involved producing a consolidated GIS map layer which gives a measured spatial indication of where those terrestrial birds' species most sensitive to wind energy developments are likely to occur.

The post holder will need to have a good understanding of the ecological requirements of birds, including the demographic and landscape-scale processes that can influence their distribution. Knowledge of forestry, marine and energy sectors policies in Ireland would be an advantage. The post holder will be responsible for a number of tasks which are outlined below. It is intended to complete this preliminary scoping phase in 2016 which may include production of draft species/species group layers, recommendations on methodologies and guidance and making the mapping tool available to relevant end users. It is likely that there will also be stakeholder involvement in this phase to inform the development of the mapping tools.

3. Responsibilities and deliverables

Key Responsibilities

- The post holder will be responsible for progressing a work programme which includes two key work packages:
 - A scoping for a Bird Sensitivity Map for Forestry – a tool and guidance for strategic planning of forestry in Ireland.
 - A scoping for a Bird Sensitivity Map for Marine Renewables – a tool and guidance for strategic planning of renewables in the marine environment in Ireland.
- Work with expert staff and external experts on scientific and policy needs in developing the mapping tools
- Carry out any data requests required for the sensitivity mapping project
- Liaise with a range of stakeholders including maintaining communications and arranging meetings and any workshops that will facilitate wider stakeholder discussion to inform the development of mapping tools
- Prepare and contribute to project reporting as required

- Regularly update the website pages relevant to Sensitivity Mapping & coordinate publicity concerning the sensitivity mapping project through available media (*Wings*, e-zine; Facebook, twitter, newspapers, radio, magazines, etc.)
- To raise the profile of BirdWatch Ireland and specifically to promote sensitivity mapping to a wider audience including relevant stakeholders and BirdWatch Ireland branches and members
- As part of the wider team provide support in the areas of species policy

Overview of deliverables

- ❖ a detailed review of most relevant literature & projects
- ❖ workshop with BWI conservation team to discuss species-specific sensitivity scoring model & mapping outputs
- ❖ a methodology for species selection i.e. including aspects of vulnerable species so as to identify parameters for inclusion in the sensitivity scoring model
- ❖ a list of species for inclusion in tool and data availability for these through consultation with in-house and key external species experts
- ❖ identify the scope of the mapping exercise for both mapping tools (forestry & the marine)
- ❖ Identify available complementary mapping data
- ❖ a desk-based review on the current published research in related areas (birds and forestry interactions, birds and marine renewables, sensitivity factors)
- ❖ stakeholder needs with a view to informing future stakeholder engagement in the development of a mapping tool, its associated guidance and application for the end-user
- ❖ review of licensing processes providing context strategic mapping tools and identifying appropriate end-users

Team Role

- ❖ The Project Officer for Sensitivity Mapping will be supported and assisted by the Policy & Advocacy Team (specifically for stakeholder engagement and development of appropriate guidance) and a wider technical group (specifically for assistance on more technical aspects of the project).

4. Terms and conditions

Normal working hours apply, Mon-Fri; the successful applicant will be required to provide an average of 35 hours per week over a five day week. The salary for this position is comparable to the Full Time Equivalent range of €27,000-€30,000 dependent upon relevant qualifications, experience etc. but will run for 8 months. Leave entitlement is 20 days per annum pro rata plus statutory holidays.

For an application form is available at www.birdwatchireland.ie or by contacting Michelle Kavanagh, at BirdWatch Ireland, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, County Wicklow. Tel: 00353 1 2819878; email: mkavanagh@birdwatchireland.ie.

Completed applications can be returned via post or email.

Closing date for applications is Friday 11th of March. Interviews to be held the week of March 14th (TBD) at BirdWatch Ireland Offices, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow.

For more details on the specific requirements for this post, please see information below.

Person Specification

Qualifications

Third level qualification or equivalent in an environmental or related subject
Some knowledge of ArcGIS 10 Software

Experience

Experience of surveying and monitoring birds would be desirable
Organising training events, workshops / facilitated discussions and meetings
Proven experience of report writing & leading project development
Confident using Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, MS Outlook

Skills and abilities

High level of literacy, numeracy and professionalism
Ability to interpret bird distribution data and work with spatial Geographic Information Systems
Ability to work within the project area
Experience in producing advisory materials, newsletters etc.
Ability to communicate clearly with the media and the public, both verbally and in writing
Ability to work well within a team, to be delivery & priority focused and take the lead when appropriate