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**Technical Officer - Restoring the Thamescape**

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| **Job level** | 3 | **Reports to** | Thea Cox |
| **Directorate** | Conservation & Policy | **Function** | Estuaries & Wetlands |
| **Contract** | Fixed Term Contract | **Location** | Regent’s Park |

**Responsibility for resources**

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| **Direct line reports** | None | **Responsibility for other resources** | The post holder will support the project team in maintaining GDPR compliant databases. |
| **Financial resources** | This post holder may occasionally have delegated responsibility for the procurement of equipment for projects in accordance with project budgets. The post holder will need to seek value for money balanced with quality outputs. They will also be expected to keep accurate and evidenced expense claims. |

**Our vision and mission**

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is an international conservation charity, driven by science, working to restore wildlife in the UK and around the world. Our vision is a world where wildlife thrives and every role, every person in every corner of ZSL has one thing in common – we are all conservationists, and passionate about restoring wildlife.

**Purpose of the role**

Since the early 2000s, the Estuaries and Wetlands team at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) have been working with partners and volunteers to drastically improve the biodiversity of the Greater Thames Estuary. As part of this work, we have a dedicated coastal habitat restoration team working towards recovery of intertidal seagrass, saltmarsh and native oyster habitat in this area – known as the Restoring the Thamescape project. This role will focus on the oyster side of this work.

Oyster beds are an important structural and ecological component of Britain’s bays and estuaries, known as ‘ecosystem engineers’ because they provide the foundation for entire ecosystems – filtering water and providing vital food and habitat for coastal wildlife. Sadly, much of the UK’s native oyster habitat is in a highly degraded state – vastly reduced in size and quality when compared to historic extents, condition and ecological function, and with this, we are losing the many ecosystem services that functioning coastal and marine habitats provide us with. Our vision is to recover native oyster, with seagrass and saltmarsh habitats to create an integrated mosaic of coastal and marine habitats that support a thriving Greater Thames Estuary.

The Restoring the Thamescape team have started to map extant populations of *Ostrea edulis* and build a picture of the current state of this habitat in the Greater Thames Estuary. We are looking for a dedicated and self-motivated Technical Officer to further develop this work and, with partners and stakeholders, produce an action plan towards the recovery of *Ostrea edulis* in the Greater Thames Estuary. This role will also work closely with the rest of the Restoring the Thamescape team.

The post holder will be supported by the Restoring the Thamescape Project Manager to deliver the responsibilities and activities as noted within the Main Duties and Key Responsibilities section of this document.

**Key responsibilities**

The team work at the ZSL offices based at Regent’s Park, with occasional home working (a laptop will be provided), and regular visits to the north Kent coastline where our field sites are located. The successful candidate must live in or be willing to move close to London and/or Kent. There may also be occasional travel to the Essex coastline.

* Collaborate with others and broaden partnership to incorporate key stakeholders and interests e.g., local oystermen and fishers, other local water users, regulators, academics, other eNGOs
* Attendance of and organisation of meetings such as external stakeholder workshops; this may include delivery of presentations to a range of external audiences
* Collate and review published literature, guidance, and data; distil and interpret relevant information and utilise this to inform next steps
* Mapping and modelling of relevant datasets such as oyster population data, seabed and substrate data, temperature, environmental pressures
* Identifying information gaps and needs, and addressing these e.g., through further desk-based research, working with partners and stakeholders, designing surveys
* Management of field surveys e.g., coupelle (oyster spat collector) deployment and retrieval, including logistics and any licence applications/permission requests
* Management and analysis of data collected from field surveys
* Preparation of a written oyster recovery plan for the Greater Thames Estuary

The duties and responsibilities described are not a comprehensive list and additional tasks

may be assigned from time to time that are in line with the level of the role.

**Person Specification**

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| Experience |

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| Essential | Educated to BSc degree level in marine sciences or related subject area, or equivalent qualification, or demonstrate such a level of equivalent qualifications and experience through relevant practical work experience.  Experience with and confidence in building relationships with local stakeholders, such as oystermen, fishers and other users of the local coastal and marine environment.  Experience of leading and managing fieldwork. |
| Desirable | Educated to MSc degree level in marine sciences or related subject area, or equivalent qualification, or demonstrate such a level of equivalent qualifications and experience through relevant practical work experience.  Experience of temperate coastal habitat restoration, specifically of native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*).  Experience with and confidence in using relevant software for mapping and modelling, such as QGIS. |

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| Knowledge and skills |

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| Essential | **Communication:** Excellent communication and inter-personal skills (verbal and written) to communicate effectively with the rest of the team, and to collaborate with a range of external stakeholders, deliver presentations and write reports.  **Self-Motivated:** Proven ability to work independently, take ownership of tasks, and problem solve.  **Adept at Information Synthesis and Analysis:** Good attention to detail and the ability to thoroughly research, review and distil key technical learnings to be shared with wider project team and other stakeholders. Proficient in taking those key learnings to determine next steps. |

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| Additional requirements |

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| Essential | * This post may require some outside working with direct exposure to the weather. * This post requires occasional work during evenings and/or and weekends * A full driving license is required for this role. * Strong commitment to creating a culture that lives ZSL values and commitment to safeguarding, equality and diversity (collaborative, inspiring, inclusive, innovative, impactful and ethical). * To comply with and promote Health and Safety policies and procedures. |