



Role: Ecological Specialist
Area: Major Projects
Sub-Area: Planning and Environmental
Location: Dublin

Duration: Permanent **Salary:** Competitive **Ref:** 227M18

Ervia is a commercial semi-state company which provides strategic national gas and water infrastructure and services in Ireland, through our regulated businesses, Gas Networks Ireland and Irish Water. Ervia directly employs over 1,600 people who deliver services to 1.6 million customers daily. Our infrastructure supports economic and social development, protects the environment and enhances the health and quality of life of the Irish people. Ervia has established a Major Projects business unit responsible for ensuring the delivery of Major Strategic Capital Projects, with an estimated portfolio value of c. €1.5b, across Gas and Water in the Group.

The Role:

The Ecological Specialist within Major Projects will have the responsibility for Ecology across the Major Infrastructure Projects. The delivery of projects requires the relevant consents and permissions to be obtained under the Planning and Development Act and related national and European legislation. The Ecological Specialist will report to the Planning and Compliance Manager to manage pre and post-planning consent activities to achieve business objectives. They will be responsible for liaising with both Irish Water and Gas Networks Ireland on all ecological matters including ensuring that Major Projects and the external service providers are following relevant policy.

A key part of this role will be responsibility for building relationships both with external stakeholders such as the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS), Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and within the business through coordination of activity with other ecological/ environmental functions within Irish Water and Gas Networks Ireland.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Responsible to ensure that Programme and Project Managers are fully appraised of ecological regulatory requirements and implications therein.
- Advise on and mitigate ecological risk on projects, and coordinate key support in matters related to ecological advice and related planning requirements.
- Responsible for providing expert ecological advice to Project Managers on statutory obligations relating to ecological matters both pre and post planning.
- Responsible for leading on technical stakeholder management with National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS).
- Responsible for horizon scanning for the identification of further legislative requirements with regards to ecological and environmental planning at national and EU levels.
- Responsible for ensuring that the Project Managers are aware of implications to project from determinations stemming from ecological case law.
- Responsible for managing Appropriate Assessments (AA) processes including technical reviews of Screenings for AA reports and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) reports ensuring that they are in line with statutory obligations.
- Responsible for producing AA Screening Reports if required by Project Managers.
- Have oversight of the service providers undertaking the Appropriate Assessments (AA) process and undertake a technical review of all AA determinations.
- Provide expert technical advice, including reviews of Environmental Impact Assessments Reports (EIA) and assist with the coordination of the EIA process for Major Projects.

- Review technical reports including Ecological Impact Assessments (EclA), AA Screening, NISs, EIARs, Method Statements applicable to either plans and/ or projects.
- Responsible for ensuring that the projects adhere to Invasive Species policy and guidance and prepare and/ or review of Invasive Species Management Plans.
- Responsible for ensuring that projects adhere to Biodiversity management policy and guidance, in particular Irish Water and GNI policy.
- Develop and promote effective working relationships with other ecological and environmental functions within Irish Water and Gas Networks Ireland.
- Actively develop and maintain skills and expertise across a number of areas that are relevant to the ecological and environmental field.
- Responsible for technical stakeholder management with statutory and non-statutory bodies.
- Effectively present technical information, in an easy to understand format to statutory and non-statutory stakeholders, in conjunction with technical, environmental and planning experts.
- Review submissions from stakeholders and provide expert responses to these.
- Perform other such duties as Ervia may reasonably require.

Knowledge, Skills and Experience:

- Have a relevant third level qualification (Degree/ Masters) in ecology.
- Have a least 7 years' post qualification experience in managing projects in the aquatic and terrestrial environment.
- Extensive ecological and environmental knowledge of water statutory processes and regulatory bodies in Ireland e.g. Water Framework Directive / Irish & European Environmental/ Ecological Legislation & Directive.
- Strong knowledge of Irish and European case law in relation to Appropriate Assessment.
- Demonstrable skills and experience of preparation and review of assessments, including Constraints/ Site Selection, EIARs, EclA and AAs.
- Experience of working on infrastructural projects, alongside civil engineering teams.
- Good working knowledge of project supervision, interface management and programme planning including ability to manage cost control.
- Extensive technical knowledge of ecological and environmental impacts and mitigation measures, at asset and catchment level.
- Experience of conducting survey work in the aquatic and terrestrial environment.
- Ability to prioritise tasks, work with schedules and manage resources while remaining focused on project goals.
- Strong collaborative and negotiation skills, with experience of stakeholder management, and statutory and non-statutory consultation in particular with environmental and ecological bodies.
- Have excellent analytical skills and be able to identify and analyse problems and potential improvements, and propose and implement solutions.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills along with the ability for fast turnaround reviews of technical reports.
- It would be an advantage to have the following skills:
 - Full member of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and preferably chartered.
 - Expert witness experience.
 - Construction site supervision of ecological/ environmental works.
 - Competency in ArcGIS or other GIS package

The closing date for receipt of applications for this vacancy is the 18th December, 2018

Applications, including a current Curriculum Vitae should be emailed to: recruit@ervia.ie

Please include the Reference Number for this Role when making an application