



## JOB OPPORTUNITY

### Field Botanist



**Position:** Field Botanist

**Location:** The Burren region in Co. Clare and Co. Galway

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a fixed-term, 5-month contract position as a Field Botanist with High Nature Value Services (HNVS) Ltd. HNVS consists of a small team of dedicated people responsible for administering the Burren Programme.

#### Programme Description

Arising from the success of the BurrenLIFE Project (2004-2010) and the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme (2010-2015), the Burren Programme (BP) commenced in 2016 to continue, and expand, help to farmers in their vital role of managing and conserving the Burren's rich ecological, archaeological, geological and cultural heritage. This Locally Led Agri-Environment Scheme (LLAES) under the Rural Development Programme (RDP) is co-financed by the EU and DAFM, with support from NPWS. The Burren Team is based in Carron and led by Programme Manager, Dr Brendan Dunford.

The BP, like its predecessors, is innovative in that it promotes farming for conservation through result and reward based initiatives. Under Intervention 1 (I-1), there are scaled payment rates for species-rich pastures where fields with higher scores receive higher payments. Farmers are also funded for carrying out site enhancement works under Intervention 2 (I-2) that can help farmers manage their farm and contribute to increasing their I-1 scores. I-2 tasks, nominated by the farmer, include removing immature scrub from species-rich pastures, repairing walls, installing gates, improving water supplies and enhancing access.

Further information on the Burren Programme is available at; [www.burrenprogramme.com](http://www.burrenprogramme.com).

#### Job Description

The successful candidate's main role will be to assist with fieldwork, in particular, carrying out the botanical assessments that form part of the Intervention 1 scoring of Burren Lowland Grasslands. He/she will also be required to maintain records, enter data, and undertake any other reasonable tasks requested of them. He/she will work under the supervision of the Scientific Officer, Dr Sharon Parr, and work closely with several members of the Programme team to support the delivery of the Burren Programme. The Carron office will provide a base but most of this work will be carried out at various locations across the Burren, possibly with occasional work elsewhere in Ireland.

#### Essential criteria:

- Ability to identify a range of vascular plants found in different grassland types, both in flowering and vegetative state.
- Either a suitable third-level qualification in a botany, environmental science and/or ecology-related discipline OR in the case of 'amateur' field botanists, a level of proficiency and skill that can be endorsed by a competent field botanist, e.g. by a BSBI vice-county recorder (please supply endorsement as part of application).
- Competent in using Excel.
- Full valid Irish/EU driving licence.
- Have use of a vehicle for the full duration of the contract.

- Ability to carry out fieldwork on difficult terrain and in adverse weather conditions.
- Ability to work independently and with others.
- Fluent in spoken and written English.
- Eligible to work in Ireland.

**Desirable criteria:**

- Ability to identify other taxonomic groups in addition to plants especially butterflies and bees.
- Practical knowledge of the Burren.
- Experience in surveying and/or management of species-rich grasslands.
- Agricultural knowledge and experience.

**Salary:** €3,360 per month (€40,320 annual equivalent). **Start date:** 1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

Informal enquiries about this post can be made to Bryony Williams: [bryony@burrenlife.com](mailto:bryony@burrenlife.com).

**To Apply:**

Applicants should submit a covering letter, detailed CV, the names and contact numbers of at least two referees and, where necessary, a letter of endorsement by a competent field botanist. Applications should be sent by e-mail (in Word or PDF format only) to [bryony@burrenlife.com](mailto:bryony@burrenlife.com) with **Field Botanist** in the subject line.

**The closing date for receipt of applications is 5pm on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017.**

Please note that late applications will not be accepted.

Interviews are planned to be held Monday-Wednesday 10-12<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified, and details of those deemed suitable for appointment will be retained on an internal panel for consideration should similar posts arise in the future.