

## **Fund an ecologist**

Support a specialist for a year

We would like to take on an ecologist to support our work for 12 months. They would support our Operations Director in overseeing our baselining and monitoring programme and provide on-site advice relating to ecological matters.

With this in-house expertise, we could ramp up and expand our ecological survey work, allowing us to increase our capacity to develop new research and delivery partnerships, particularly with universities and other environmental charities. It would increase scope for us to explore new and innovative projects such as the reintroduction of insects, for example butterflies, and to deliver works to attract nearby species to our site, for example beavers.

The ecologist would contribute to the design of the long-term monitoring programme and manage its implementation. They would also be involved in the further development of the land management plan, providing ongoing ecological advice to the site team, ensuring that all land management and visitor activities are fully compliant, and working with Heal's Ranger to coordinate surveys led by Heal volunteers and other charities.

In the long-term, this role would design and deliver monitoring programmes to track changes that result from interventions, for example, species reintroductions and wetland restoration works.

Finally, the ecologist would support the development of partnership research projects with universities and other charities, and ensure that all ecological data collected is high quality and could be shared with other rewilding projects and researchers to benefit the wider sector. They would liaise with local stakeholders to ensure that monitoring is delivered according to best-practice and informs policy in local biodiversity conservation initiatives.

## **Impact**

Bring specialist knowledge and expertise to the Heal team at Heal Somerset.

## Legacy

The creation of a high-calibre, long-term monitoring programme and land management plan which will be used year after year, informing our work at future sites and also being shared with others.