

Woodland Officer - East & East Midlands

Never has there been a more important time for trees and forests to help tackle the climate emergency and provide a much-needed sanctuary for people and wildlife. Our Prime Minister and our government are committed to creating 30,000 hectares of woodland a year across the UK by the end of this Parliament. This acceleration in current planting rates in England will contribute to meeting the net-zero by 2050 ambitions, and to government's wider environmental targets.

The Department for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Forestry Commission have set up a joint tree planting programme for England to support the forestry sector, landowners and communities in the delivery of these ambitions.

Job description

We are seeking dynamic individuals with experience in forestry and/or land management, who are quick to learn and inspire and enthuse others.

There are a total of 3 Woodland Officer posts to be recruited across the East and East Midlands Area team.

One of these posts will focus on the East Cambridgeshire/West Essex area, the second will focus on Hertfordshire and the third focussed within South Essex, with flexibility for some optional blended working between a suitable FC office and home (see details below).

In your 'patch', you will be at the forefront of delivering the Forestry Commission's incentives and regulations, and able to provide advice and support to the private forestry sector in addition to Local Authorities and Defra colleagues. Internal team working is also integral in the Woodland Officer role, for example across the Area Team (e.g. assisting others in 'alleged unlicensed felling' investigations) and the wider Forestry Commission (e.g. opportunity for review of national guidance and procedure). Through both, you will have the ability to assist the Forestry Commission build strong working relationships to help create and manage diverse, resilient multi-purpose woodlands.

Responsibilities

Expand Woodland Cover:

- Champion the multiple benefits of new woodland as business opportunities for land owner and as natural capital (including biodiversity, water quality, flood management, carbon sequestration/substitution, etc) for the wider environment and society;
- facilitate the design and delivery of new woodlands optimising the benefits they can deliver to the owner and as natural capital;
- administer the forestry Regulations relating to woodland creation (Environmental Impact Assessment); and
- administer/process applications for grants.

Protect our existing trees and woodlands:

- Administer Forestry Regulations to include: i. Forestry Act – Felling Licences to ensure tree felling is carried out legally in accordance with the principles of the UK Forestry Standard as appropriate; ii. Environmental Impact Assessments –

afforestation, deforestation, forest roads and forest quarries, and iii. Habitats Regulations – re forest operations within Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation;

- advise on the links with other legislation such as those pertaining to European Protected Species; and

- provide specialist advice to planning authorities re the impact of proposals on existing woodland and how new trees and woodland could be used to enhance new developments.

Improve the condition and resilience of our existing woodlands and wider treescape:

- Champion the benefits of actively managed woodland;

- support woodland owners and managers in responding to key challenges of pests and diseases including Chalara ash dieback, Phytophthora ramorum, deer and grey squirrels;

- work to increase resilience within woodlands to the challenges of a changing climate; and - facilitate closer working across the forestry sector – for instance between markets, contractors, managers, etc.

Engaging partners, stakeholders and the public:

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential :

- *Good interpersonal and influencing skills demonstrating the ability to build and maintain effective working relationships with internal colleagues and our customers.*
- *Ability to prioritise and manage a varied workload.*
- *Good computer skills with experience of MS Office and Excel.*
- *Ability to proactively deal with complex and contentious issues relating to people and woodland interests, leading to the delivery of project outcomes and development of work areas as necessary.*

Desirable:

- *Experience of practical woodland management.*
- *Experience and knowledge of forestry regulations, incentives and tree health*
- *Experience of promoting, designing and establishing new woodland*
- *Experience of working in partnership across delivery organisations*
- *Experience in facilitating market growth in the forestry sector*
- *Experience of supporting integrated land / woodland management.*
- *Practitioner level understanding of landscape*
- *Membership of (or working towards) a relevant professional institute (e.g. Institute of Chartered Foresters).*
- *Evidence of maintaining Continuous Professional Development*

Salary: £31,973 - £34, 650

To apply, please visit [here](#).

Closing date: Apply before 11:55 pm on Sunday 17th October 2021



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