

Woodland Public Access Advisor

Location

Any Forestry Commission office (subject to availability in relation to working pattern/blended working arrangements).

About the job

Forest Services are the Government's forestry experts. We work nationally and locally on unlocking the full potential of woodlands and the forestry sector to protect, improve, expand and connect England's valuable woodland assets.

The Policy Advice Team (PAT) is part of Forest Services (FS). The team has responsibility for advising Government and other stakeholders on the expansion, protection, improvement and connection of woodlands in England. We work closely with Defra and other arms length bodies, including Natural England; as well as internally across various teams and through Forest Research and alongside Forestry England.

There has never been a more inspiring time to be involved in forestry. The government's commitment to, and society's interest in, increasing England's tree cover and improving woodlands for society has never been greater. The Forestry Commission - and the forestry sector as a whole - all have exciting and diverse roles to play in this.

The England Tree Action Plan included commitment 4.3: to "Ensure the provision of safe and appropriate public access is a feature of as many woodlands as possible and work with landowners and woodland users to develop and implement a plan to improve the quantity, quality and permanency of public access to new and existing woodlands". The Government's ambitions to meet this objective are due to be published later this summer. The delivery of these ambitions will be the focus of this role, alongside working with external opportunities as they arose.

We are seeking a well-motivated individual with skills and experience related to the provision and management of public access and managing people in woodlands alongside wider forestry objectives; alongside excellent project management experience; proven communication ability and strong interpersonal skills to build and maintain relationships.

Job description

The Woodland Access Advisor will develop FS policy and guidance to support the delivery of the Government's ambitions on woodland access. There will be close collaboration required with Defra, Natural England, Forestry England and eNGOs at a national level, and strong partnerships will need to be built with a variety and diverse range of external stakeholders.

KEY WORK AREAS

- Act as the subject lead and technical expert within FS, and in supporting Defra at a national level through the delivery of the woodland access ambitions.
- Oversee the progress of the delivery and undertake regular reporting through the monitoring and reporting framework.
- Provide technical advice and guidance to FC Area teams assessing tree planting applications with a woodland public access component.
- Work with FS national teams to ensure public access features in the wider development of forestry policy, grants and regulations; and ground truthing with Area delivery teams.
- Line manage the Access and Landscape Support post (PB4/HEO); who will support the public access delivery and be responsible for the development of guidance and technical documentation and communication. requirements of the wider People, Landscape and Historic Environment teams.
- Determine training requirements for FS staff on woodland public access and coordinate and provide training materials on woodland access for FC staff and Defra delivery partners.
- Be a strong advocate for public access to woodlands and forestry, and an active listener, in order to understand other perspectives and viewpoints on issues around managing people in woodlands.

- Be objective in evaluating evidence and data, identifying evidence and data gaps and working with the Principal Advisor to address these.
- Work with the National Promotions and Engagement Officer to provide nationally relevant examples and case studies of different approaches to managing people alongside other objectives i.e. nature recovery or timber production.
- Engage in a variety of key policy areas and delivery mechanisms that may present woodland public access opportunities or where access needs to be considered for example: through the Levelling up (Pride in Place) agenda, Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Biodiversity Net Gain, Environmental Land Management, and Green Infrastructure.

The role will require some travel across England when restrictions allow - a full driving licence is required. The role will involve blended working; a flexible combination of working from home and working from an FC or Defra office close to the postholder's home. The role will report to the Principal Advisor – People, Landscape and Historic Environment in the Policy Advice Team within FS.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL:

- *Degree-level qualification, or professional experience, in the issues facing countryside management; leisure, tourism or recreation management; and managing land positively for people.*

Please clearly demonstrate how the above applies to you throughout your application. Failure to do so will mean that your application is automatically sifted out.

- *Good strategic and technical understanding of access legislation, countryside leisure and tourism management and recent policy developments and how they relate to woodland/forests, their creation and management.*
- *Project management expertise, and superior communication and interpersonal skills.*

DESIRABLE:

- *Understanding of how to use spatial prioritisation for targeting support for access.*
- *Understanding of relevant research and evidence supporting the benefits of managing woodlands for people.*
- *Experience of successfully building and maintaining effective relationships and networks.*
- *Be capable of challenging differing viewpoints assertively and with relevant expertise.*
- *Excellent interpersonal, written and verbal communication skills.*
- *Experience in delivering training and/or presentations.*
- *Experience of line management.*
- *Experience in influencing policy and writing guidance.*
- *Membership of a relevant professional institute (e.g. Institute of Chartered Foresters); and*
- *Evidence of having undertaken appropriate management development training and supporting CPD.*

Benefits

- A Civil Service pension
- A range of family friendly benefits
- An environment with flexible working options
- Learning and development tailored to your role
- A culture which promotes a diverse and inclusive work environment
- A range of wellbeing benefits including discounted Civil Service Healthcare, access to an Employee Assistance Programme 24/7, Bike to Work Scheme, plus many more.
- 25 days annual leave, rising to 30 after 5 years service, plus 10.5 bank holidays/privilege days (pro rata)
- Ability to buy or sell 2 days annual leave
- 3 days volunteering per year (pro rata)

Salary: £42, 462- £46, 029

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

Closing date: Apply before 11:55 pm on Sunday 4th September 2022



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