

Area Director South West

This Area Director role will lead the Southwest Area team within Forest Services Delivery, part of the Forestry Commission. You will be overseeing the operational delivery of grants and regulations, achieving bio-secure and multiple benefits through partnership working and be a regional leader for the forestry sector's stewardship of the region's woodland resource and its resilience.

If you are passionate about the role that forestry has in creating a better future for England, and you want to play a key part in leading and realising our ambitions for the Southwest region, we want to hear from you.

By joining the Forestry Commission, you will become part of a team of passionate, committed colleagues, and be able to utilise a wealth of expertise to deliver our aims for woodland expansion and bringing more woodlands into management. You will be able to make your mark by helping the Forestry Commission to revolutionise how we work together and reach new stakeholders.

Our staff engagement levels are consistently well above average, and staff turnover is well below, for the Civil Service. We value our people, we look after them, and we will look after you. We hope you will join us for the challenge.

Further information on this opportunity and operating in the post

The post offers blended working within Southwest government region with a combination of virtual and office based flexible working. Successful post-holder will be expected to work in the Bullers Hill Area Office near Exeter, EX6 7XR on average one day per week and meeting staff or stakeholders at workplaces or site visits on 1-2 days per week. Occasional travel across England will be required.

The Area Team is planned to expand to 50 posts by March 2023. The Area Director will directly manage 5 management roles covering Operations, Partnerships and Expertise and Regional Promotions. Two thirds of the Team comprise operational field and support roles, with Woodland Officers occupying most of these as the locally-based operational face of the Forestry Commission enabling regulations and incentives services. In addition, there are a range of specialist adviser and business development roles, all working closely with the field teams. The team is supported by Business Manager, Administration and Technical Support posts. The main focus for Area Team operations is Bullers Hill near Exeter, with the FC National Office in Bristol being located in the Area.

Job description

The post has an overall purpose to lead and inspire the Southwest Area team to be part of an outstanding organisation, working as one Forest Services with a dynamic, high-performing and inclusive workforce. As an operational delivery leader you will be passionate about enabling and supporting the forestry sector to protect, improve and expand the region's woodland resource and resilience. You will also be leading the team in connecting people with trees and woodlands as well as supporting the green economy. You will focus on providing a clear sense of purpose and direction for the team, managing change implementation and increased resources.

Area Director led teams are successfully delivering many of the benefits of the England Trees Action Plan 2021-24, including helping create a successful timber and ecosystem services market. In leading an expanded Southwest team that is tasked to deliver larger programmes you will ensure that our main delivery tools are our expertise and professional advice, partnerships, incentives and regulations, all underpinned by the UK Forestry Standard, the Tree Health Resilience Strategy and provision of training and development for our staff.

Our values set out how we deliver: through teamwork, professionalism, respect, communication, learning and creativity. We have a strong network of partners and stakeholders helping us to develop innovative and practical solutions.

The key work areas of the job are:

- Leadership and direction of the Area Team, promoting the team's purpose, actions, and decisions. Communicate and provide direction on the management of changes and uncertainty. Manage and develop individual and team performance and business capabilities; support learning and development; manage corporate responsibilities including health and safety and local incident control.
- Plan, direct and report on Southwest Area business programmes for protect, improve, connect and expand woodland outcomes. Promote the England Woodland Creation Offer to encourage significant woodland creation, woodland management and new funding offers, and tree health incentives.
- Direct and influence Area partnerships, strategic relationships and local engagement. Handle media activity in close association with Defra group communications leads.
- Manage and develop the activity of the Southwest Forestry and Woodlands Advisory Committee (Chair and 11 members) to support Area delivery. Maintain a strong collaborative relationship with Forestry England and Forest Research managers across Southwest business opportunities and issues.
- Contribute to the wider work of the Forestry Commission, its key national projects and business plan delivery. Work as part of the Area Directors' group providing and demonstrating a strong and corporate senior leadership contribution.

Southwest Forest Services Area contains some 250,000 ha of woodland of which 83% is in private ownership. The Area is of exceptional landscape quality, encompassing all or part of fourteen AONB's, Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks and the UNESCO North Devon Biosphere Reserve. Tree health and responding to Phytophthora ramorum disease and the impact of Chalara ash dieback are high priorities in the Area. The Trees Action Plan and the ambition already set by Government to increase woodland creation in the UK to 30,000ha per year by 2025, places woodland creation as a key delivery priority for the Area team and our partners.

Responsibilities

You will need to be an experienced team manager with a proven track-record of delivering successful business plan and leadership outcomes; you will also have:

- Relevant experience and knowledge for the effective planning, communication and delivery of forestry and woodland priorities in the Southwest Area.
- Experience in leading and encouraging opportunities for business improvement change whilst maintaining delivery performance for customers.
- Excellent and inspiring leadership and strong inter-personal and presentational skills to build and manage teams, embedding a culture of inclusion and equal opportunities for all.
- Experience and proven track record in building credible external stakeholder relationships in line with corporate values.
- Business management experience including budgetary, forecasting and analytical skills combined with strong judgement and decision-making capability.

Professional membership of the Institute of Chartered Foresters or another relevant professional body is desirable

Professional and Technical expertise – essential criteria:

- A professional qualification and/or extensive relevant experience in forestry, or a discipline concerning land-based enterprise, or environmental management.

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: £52,500- £58,130

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

Closing date: Apply before 11:55 pm on Sunday 9th October



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