

Planning Projects Manager

The government's commitment to and society's interest in increasing England's tree cover and improving the condition of trees and woodlands has never been greater. The Forestry Commission works with forestry and environmental stakeholders nationally and locally on unlocking the full potential of woodlands, to expand, protect, improve, and connect England's valuable woodland assets. The Forestry Commission comprises Forest Services, Forest Research and Forestry England - all have exciting and diverse roles to play in this.

This role sits within the Policy Advice Team (PAT), part of Forest Services. PAT is a multi-disciplinary team that helps the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and other government departments to develop forestry and woodland policy that works. It does so by drawing on our wide range of tree, woodland and forestry experience, expertise, evidence and networks.

Job description

Reporting to the Planning Advisor in the Planning, Infrastructure & Built Environment team, the Planning Project Manager will co-ordinate and deliver a range of activities to gather data and information to support our engagement with the planning system, including projects relating to the impacts of development on woodlands. This role will include project management and reporting responsibilities, managing and interpreting data and information, and stakeholder engagement. You will work with colleagues across a number of departments including Defra, Natural England and DLUHC, and other government and non-government stakeholders. The data and information derived from this research will be used to inform both planning policy and FC operations where appropriate.

This role is part of FC's response to Project Speed, the government's agenda to build back better, greener and faster after the pandemic, and is closely tied to broader planning reforms.

KEY WORK AREAS

- Project managing the FC's 2-year Project Speed-funded research contract to investigate the impacts of development on ancient woodlands:
 - liaising with key stakeholders to develop the specification .
 - leading the procurement exercise.
 - overseeing contractors.
 - day to day project management of the contract.
 - reporting to Defra and DLUHC as required on Project Speed funding KPIs, milestones and expenditure as part of the project's management.
- Reviewing and consolidating the existing evidence base in relation to trees, woodlands and development, and using this to identify future research project proposals
- Helping to draw together various related evidence and research strands to make recommendations for and to develop appropriate policy and guidance relating to trees and woodlands in the planning system.
- Working with the Planning Advisor to provide evidence that supports FC's responses to planning consultations.

Responsibilities

ESSENTIAL criteria:

- Strong project management experience in delivering complex, time bound projects, ideally within the natural environment sector.
- Strong interpersonal and influencing skills, demonstrating the ability to build and maintain effective working relationships with internal and external colleagues and stakeholders.
- Experience of translating technical documents and information into non-technical language appropriate to a non-specialised audience.
- A good working knowledge of the planning system.
- Ability to prioritise and manage a varied workload.
- Competent IT user with experience of the MS Office suite of applications.
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Please clearly demonstrate how the above applies to you throughout all parts of your application. Failure to do so will mean that your application is automatically sifted out.

DESIRABLE criteria:

- A degree **or** significant equivalent experience in a relevant subject such as planning or environment land management
- Project management qualification
- Professional membership, or eligible for professional membership, of a relevant chartered body such as RTPI, Landscape Institute, Chartered Environmentalist, APM, ICF.

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: £35,870- £38,842

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

Closing date: Apply before 11:55 pm on Monday 28th November



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