

Tree Health Pilot Woodland Officer

Location

London (region), South East England

About the job

Protecting the health of our forests and trees from pests and disease is vital. This is because as they provide around £5bn per year of societal and environmental value through non-market public goods such as carbon sequestration, air pollution absorption, biodiversity, recreation landscape value, noise, flood and heat reduction and a whole range of other benefits that cannot easily be monetised, as well as commercial value. Delivering and enhancing the public goods delivered by healthy trees is a top priority for the Forestry Commission and Defra as demonstrated in the 25 Year Environmental Plan and the Tree Health Resilience Strategy.

The Forestry Commission (FC) are the Government's forestry experts delivering the protection, improvement and expansion of England's trees, woods, and forests. It achieves this through regulation, incentives, and advice. The Forestry Commission is providing end-to-end delivery of the pilot due to their extensive experience of delivering grant schemes, expertise in tree health and established networks and relationships with key stakeholders.

The objective of the three-year Tree Health Pilot is testing and refining new elements of a future tree health scheme that will launch in late 2024, building on the existing Countryside Stewardship Woodland Tree Health grants. The aim of the future scheme is to support land managers in building the resilience of England's trees, woods and forests, whilst enhancing the benefits trees provide, by mitigating and minimising the impact of pests and diseases and improving the capacity of our trees to adapt to changing pressures. Key Principles of the pilot are:

- Being trialled within targeted locations across the South-East England and North-West & West Midlands Forest Services Areas
- Focussing on new and novel approaches to supporting tree and woodland owners and managers with tree health issues
- Primarily aimed at owners and managers of small woodlands, farmers with trees, and managers and owners of tree outside of woodland
- Trialling collaborative group approaches to responding to local tree health issues
- Taking a flexible and open approach and incorporating learning in a programme of continuous improvement
- Providing support to fell and/or treat diseased trees
- Providing support to restock following a pest or disease issue.

This role is based in the South East & London area, within or with easy access to the pilot target areas of: East Sussex, Kent and London.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the post holder to shape and influence a future incentive scheme. More details on the pilot can be found in the recent news release published in February 2023, and additional information on how it fits into the broader programme work can be found in the [Environmental Land Management Update](#), also published in February 2023 listed here:

[Environmental Land Management \(ELM\) update: how government will pay for land-based environment and climate goods and services - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Job description

Working with their Area Team, the Tree Health Pilot Team and Tree Health colleagues, the post holder will facilitate and deliver the Tree Health pilot grant to land managers and groups of land managers to help manage tree pest and disease outbreaks and support restocking of trees.

KEY WORK AREAS

1. Promotion and engagement:

- Lead targeted promotion and engagement of the Tree Health Pilot to stakeholders and potential applicants within their pilot area, where alternative support to existing grant schemes is required
- Encourage landowner collaboration to deliver tree health resilience at a landscape scale
- Use contacts, data and evidence to identify pest and disease outbreaks and suitable pilot case studies
- Provide advice and promoting tree pests and disease management as part of wider woodland and tree management

2. Protecting and improving trees and woodland in England:

- Supporting woodland and tree owners and managers in responding to the challenges of pests and diseases including - ash dieback, OPM, Phytophthora ramorum, Sweet Chestnut Blight and Ips
- Support woodland and tree owners to increase resilience to climate change and tree pests and diseases through restocking of trees and woodlands after tree health issues
- Assessment and scoring of tree health pilot applications to ensure they can deliver maximum impact / value for money and significant learning for the pilot's evaluation
- Identify opportunities to work across the supply chain and forestry sector with utilisation of trees felled for tree health / resilience reasons
- Ensure tree health management meets other environmental legislation requirements and advising on the regulations
- Promoting best biosecurity practice to the sector

3. Support the learning from the tree health pilot:

- Contribute to FC and Defra project meetings to capture lessons learned from the pilot, to shape the future incentives package for land managers

4. Interaction with other schemes:

- Support land managers after they have responded to tree pests and diseases, promoting woodland management and further support opportunities.
- Work closely with partner organisations and stakeholders to ensure tree health pilot fits within the wider sector support for tree health
- Work closely with other FC teams delivering environmental land management support to land managers to ensure join up of government support to the forestry sector.

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

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, with 1 additional day for each years' service up to 5 years (pro rata)
- Ability to buy or sell 5 days annual leave
- 3 days volunteering per year (pro rata)

We aim to provide a great place to work, whichever location you work from. Blended working forms part of our flexible and inclusive approach to future ways of working. It is an informal arrangement which gives you the option to work some of the week from home, and some of the week from our Forestry Commission workplaces, subject to role requirements, business needs, and regular review. Informal blended working arrangements will be available as agreed with the line manager.

Salary £32,612 - £35,343

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

Closing date: Apply before 11:55 pm on Sunday 21st May 2023



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