

Job description - South District Land Agent (PB3) April 2026

Job summary

You will provide an estate management service to the Forest Management Director, district staff and national office.

Key responsibilities & accountabilities

Leadership & Management

- Along with the other Area Land Agent, lead and manage the district's Estate team including our building surveying function. This will include direct line management of an Assistant Land Agent, the Building Surveyor and the Estates Officer
- Contribute effectively as a member of the senior leadership group within the District
- Work collaboratively with District professionals such as foresters, recreation managers and ecologists to support their delivery and gather their expert advice
- Develop good working relationships with stakeholders and Forestry England's landlords / their agents to ensure that we are in the best position to jointly develop proposals on leasehold land to mutual advantage
- Provide support to wider business functions on land related matters, handling legal and compensation claims made against Forestry England, working with solicitors where appropriate

Managing Our Portfolio

- Plan and co-ordinate the management of the non-forest estate, acting as cost centre manager for the preparation of the Estates Business Plan and the Estates annual and 5-year budgets.
- Managing our portfolio for commercial return and public benefits
- Manage the portfolio of lettings, leases, licences, agreements and built assets across the District. Manage the licencing of access and other activity on Forestry England land
- Negotiate and renew all lettings, leases, licenses and agreements
- Maintain the district's-built estate including operational facilities and housing and related services (including private water supply and waste disposal systems) to agreed budgets
- Negotiate buying, selling and disposing of surplus land, woodland and buildings achieving the best possible price
- Identify and pursue development and income-raising opportunities in the nation's forests in line with government policy
- Manage legal issues in the district (including instructing and liaising with solicitors) covering litigation, compensation claims made against or by Forestry England, and property transactions
- Valuation work for internal purposes
- Provide legal advice to operational staff on legal matters for Forestry England properties.
- Support the Forestry England Energy Strategy and aspirations around a low carbon business model.

And any other tasks, reasonably requested by your line manager.

Location-specific information

The role will primarily operate within Surrey, West Sussex, Hampshire and Berkshire, but with scope to cover activity across the Forest District including Dorset, Wiltshire and the Isle of Wight.

For work in the New Forest, developing an understanding of the New Forest, its laws, the relationships with various other interested parties and how these impact on Forestry England and management of the Forest.

Skills, knowledge & experience

Essential professional and technical experience

- Experience in rural or general practice estate management

Desirable professional and technical experience

- Competent IT user with experience in MS Office suite of applications & GIS systems
- Understanding of sustainable forest management

Qualifications

Essential

- Full chartered membership of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (MRICS or FRICS)
- Degree or equivalent in Rural (or other relevant) Estate management

Desirable

- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Registered Valuer status
- Fellow of the Association of Agricultural Valuers

Interview Format / what it will test

- A scenario exercise
- Professional Expertise & Experience
- [Civil Service Success Profiles](#): Behaviours
 - Making effective decisions
 - Managing a quality service
 - Communicating & Influencing
- [Civil Service Success Profiles](#): Strengths