

Job description - Tractor driver/Forest craftsperson (PB6b)

Job summary

You will drive a tractor carrying out flailing & mowing, post knocking & light timber forwarding operations for approximately 80% of the time.

The other 20% will be spent working with the other forest craftsperson using a range of practical and countryside skills including chainsaw/clearing saw work, grass strimming, fencing, planting, applying herbicides, path maintenance and basic surveying.

Key responsibilities & accountabilities

- operate the district tractor to carry out a range operation including mowing & flailing of roadsides, post knocking for fences & barriers, and lightweight small scale timber forwarding.
- carry out a diverse range of practical estate maintenance to a high standard meeting health and safety and environmental guidance, including planting trees, felling trees, repairing fences and barriers, maintaining signs, weeding and cleaning.
- work effectively as part of a small team and responding quickly to unexpected work and issues raised by supervisors and foresters.
- deliver essential plants, materials, consumables, etc. to work sites.
- maintain, restore, and create various habitats for ecological benefit and to improve the landscape. The work will include the felling and planting of trees and shrubs and the management of vegetation, which will include fencing, chainsaw use and the application of pesticides.
- monitor and collect data such as general surveying, fence-line and boundary inspections and assessing tree densities on restocked and newly planted sites.
- represent Forestry England well when talking to contractors, customers, visitors, stakeholders and when working with volunteers.

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

Location-specific information (optional)

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Skills, knowledge & experience

Essential professional and technical experience

- experience of operating tractor base units and the use of tractor mounted tools
- experience of practical work in the countryside and a general understanding of forestry, nature, conservation and countryside-related issues
- a familiarity with a variety of hand tools and ability to demonstrate competence in their use
- full UK driving license
- experience with a flail, grapple or post knocker

Desirable professional and technical experience

- all-terrain counterbalance forklift
- experience in carrying out tractor maintenance to a high standard and following manufacturers instructions

Qualifications

Essential

- a GCSE in Maths and English or functional skills equivalent.

Desirable

- qualification in First Aid at Work or willing to be suitably trained
- NPTC Forest Machine Operator's Certificate (FMOC) in base machine (wheeled rigid)
- NPTC Forest Machine Operator's Certificate (FMOC) in mechanical flails and mulchers
- NPTC (or Lantra equivalent) in the safe use of pesticides using trailed or vehicle-mounted equipment
- NPTC certification for the use of chainsaws, clearing saw and handheld application of pesticides