

Job Description - Wildlife Ranger (PB6A OP)

Job summary

To work as part of the District's Wildlife Ranger team, to deliver forest protection and habitat conservation objectives.

Key responsibilities & accountabilities

- Control and management of deer and other mammals to protect forest crop, regeneration, and biodiversity in line with district management plans.
- Delivery of carcasses to the highest standard in line with BQWVS
- Participate in and manage beat and wider district conservation projects and schemes.
- To build and maintain relationships with FC and external contacts, where this benefits collaborative wildlife management and the functioning of the district.
- Undertake regular liaison with forest district staff and assist with beat planning, monitoring and delivery.
- Undertake ecological and pre forest operation site surveys and advise district colleagues of protected species.
- Liaise and work closely with sporting rights holders and tenants.
- Advise and support Forest District staff in restock design, appropriate protection methods (including deer fencing) and tree species choice to aid reduction of deer damage.
- Support district colleagues to engage woodland users and promote positive behaviour for the protection of forest habitat and infrastructure.

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

Location-Specific Information:

East District are seeking two new Wildlife Rangers.

Both posts will work alongside the existing rangers in their respective beats.

One post will cover Kent and Sussex. (Please see attached map).

One post will cover in the Chilterns Beat. (Please see attached map).

The successful applicant for the Kent and Sussex post will be based within sensible travelling distance of our Abbots Wood deer larder near Hailsham. BN26 6SL

The successful applicant for the Chilterns post will be based within sensible travelling distance of our Wendover deer larder and office. HP22 5NF

The District:

East District, with over 150 directly employed staff, covers an area of 35,000 ha from North Norfolk to Brighton including Thetford Forest and the outlying beats of Sandlings, Kent, East Sussex, Chilterns and Thames Chase Community Forest.

The District has a varied landholding including the large pine forest at Thetford, community woodland on the outskirts of London and a range of mixed woodland, many of which are on sites of Ancient Woodland. There are numerous sites of conservation interest designated across the district, including SPA, SAC, SSSI, AONB, ASNW, CWS and Scheduled Monuments. The District offers outdoor recreation activities to hundreds of thousands of people each year at its recreation centres and the whole freehold estate is dedicated for public access on foot, with numerous small carparks and informal access points

The majority of the Kent and Sussex beat is PAWS woodland and as such is particularly vulnerable to

mammal damage, disperse blocks of woodland mean that collaborative culling and partnership working are key to delivery across this complex but hugely interesting and unique landscape.

East England Forest District Wildlife Team:

EEFD Wildlife team are focussed on efficient delivery and pride themselves on delivering high standards of wildlife management across a range of woodland, habitat and landscape objectives, although wildlife management can be traditionally a solitary profession we work together as a team and support each other to deliver Forestry England's goals for the woodlands in our care.

Skills, knowledge & experience

Essential professional and technical experience

- Experience of using effective communication skills to convey messages to a variety of audiences in a variety of settings
- Competent user of IT including Microsoft Office applications.
- Able to source and train a suitable dog to assist in deer management. The dog will be required to pass a skills test consisting of basic field obedience and have the ability to track wounded deer.
- Full UK Driving Licence.
- Experience of wildlife management in areas of high public access
- Experience of managing fallow, muntjac and Chinese Water deer
- Experience of effective time management focussing on efficient delivery while maintaining personal welfare

Desirable professional and technical experience

- A good understanding of woodland management and woodland ecology.
- Experience in wildlife conservation.
- Delivery of large scale trapping programmes
- Training delivery to a wide range of audiences.
- Building Management. Experience
- Experience of leading large scale collaborative and team culling events

Qualifications

Essential

- DMQ Deer Stalkers Certificates Levels 1 and 2 or relevant industry equivalent
- A current Police firearms certificate.
- A qualification in wildlife or conservation land management such as a BTEC National Diploma, or significant experience in a wildlife or conservation land management role.
- Full UK Driving Licence

Desirable

- ATV certification

Technical skills

We'll assess you against these technical skills during the selection process:

Firearms handling and safety - candidates will be asked to complete a skills test as part of the interview process.

Deer management and wildlife knowledge - candidates will be asked to complete a skills test as part of the interview process.