

Job description - Planning and environment officer (PB5)

Job summary

As Planning and Environment Officer, you will join five other colleagues in South District's planning and environment team. The Planning and Environment team is involved in all aspects of the districts work, such as woodland management, timber production, road construction, open land and habitat conservation management, habitat restoration and the management of tree pests and diseases. The team are responsible for producing our forest plans, and plans for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and scheduled ancient monument management plans. A forest plan for each local forest area sets out how we aim to manage the woodlands in our care over the next 30 or more years.

Working closely with others, you will help design the forests of the future, protecting and restoring natural habitats, whilst seeking to maximize productivity and enable programmes that meet a wide range of multiple objectives. This is a diverse and dynamic role that involves balancing financial, social and environmental delivery benefits from each plan area.

Sustainable forest management is at the heart of everything we do, as part of the planning team you will contribute directly to achieving this. Your role will safeguard forest activities guaranteeing they have full approval for felling and restocking and that our UKWAS accreditation is maintained. Working at the forefront of the latest policies, legislation and best practice you will lead the way in revising the forest plans, ensuring they are fit for purpose and assist in the delivery of land management across the estate in its widest sense.

Key responsibilities & accountabilities

- prepare Land Management Plans (LMPs) based on a thorough understanding of the land and analysing environmental, silvicultural, financial and social impacts - plans are required to meet the UK Forestry Standard and the UK Woodland Assurance Standard
- assist colleagues with the planning, delivery and monitoring of programmes for felling, restocking and habitat management
- undertake site visits and collaborate with relevant colleagues to explore land management and implementation options, identify silvicultural requirements, creatively address key problems identified and develop efficient and practical solutions to meeting land management objectives over the required timeframe
- build and maintain excellent working relationships with stakeholders such as community groups and statutory consultees
- forest planners prepare screening information for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) determination, full EIAs, and amendments to plans for regulatory approval as required

And any other task reasonably requested by your line manager.

Location-Specific information

The job will be located at the South District office, The King's House, Lyndhurst, Hants SO43 7NH or Bucks Horn Oak, Farnham, Surrey GU10 4LS. There will be scope to consider blended working arrangements once the candidate has settled in.

Full UK Driving License. Travel within the district will be essential to the role.

Skills, knowledge & experience

Essential professional and technical experience

- relevant knowledge and experience of forest management or land management in the United Kingdom
- experience of building strong working relationships with internal colleagues and a wide range of external stakeholders and regulators
- good facilitation, communication and engagement skills
- ability to think strategically and identify consequences of proposals, analyse and solve problems creatively
- a full UK driving license
- competent IT user with experience in MS Office suite of applications

Desirable professional and technical experience

- experience of producing woodland management plans
- understanding of UK forest or land management planning guidelines, regulations and legislation
- competent user of Geographical Information Systems, spreadsheet and writing software

Qualifications

- a degree or HND in forestry, or equivalent land management discipline, or extensive relevant experience
- membership of the Institute of Chartered Foresters