

Job Description - Forest Planner (PB5)

Job Summary

A Forest Planner at Forestry England plays a key role in shaping the long-term future of the nation's forests. Forestry England manages over 1,500 forests, each guided by a detailed forest management plan that sets out how the woodland will be cared for over the next 30 years or more. As a Forest Planner, you will develop these plans, working collaboratively with colleagues from across the organisation and drawing on their specialist knowledge to inform evidence-based decisions.

The role involves carefully balancing multiple objectives, including conserving wildlife and biodiversity, supplying sustainable, home-grown timber, and ensuring forests remain welcoming and accessible for people to enjoy. Ensuring forest plans are UKFS compliant and that Forestry England maintains its UKWAS certification is also an important part of Forest Planner's responsibilities.

Forest Planners consult widely, both internally and with external stakeholders and partners, to gather expertise, build support, and meet statutory requirements, such as the protection of scheduled monuments and designated sites. They are also responsible for maintaining accurate data systems and use a range of digital tools, including GIS and standard office software, to underpin both operational and longer-term planning work.

Forestry England's Central District covers an area from Liverpool, across to Hull and down to Bedfordshire. As Forest Planner you will work across Central England, helping to deliver our goals for biodiversity, forest resilience, timber production and more. You'll be supported with tailored development and training, opportunities for coaching and mentoring, and you will sit within a wider national network of forest planning specialists.

You can expect to spend around a quarter of your time outdoors, often working on your own. You will usually be expected to manage your own time to maximise efficiency and effectiveness.

Find out more about being a Forest Planner here: [Forest planner | Forestry England](#)

Key Responsibilities & Accountabilities

Forest Planning -

- Collect and verify data relating to Forest Plan areas to inform the forest planning process.
- Design and prescribe long term forest management which delivers resilient forests in industry best practice Forest Plans ensuring that Forestry England land is managed for people, wildlife and timber.
- Communicating, consulting and consensus building with a wide range of Forestry England staff, statutory and non-governmental organisations to ensure proposed plans are in compliance with policies, UK Woodland Assurance Standard and UK Forest Standard.
- Monitor and report on progress with delivery.

Data, mapping and monitoring -

- Interrogate and manage of Geographic information Systems.
- Provide support in areas of data analysis to inform business decisions, including timber production and long-term financial models.

- Undertake forest surveys to improve data and maintain monitoring programme.

Operational support-

- Support the district team in areas of survey, data management and mapping to support forest operational planning to ensure all opportunities and constraints are fully considered.
- Provide support to colleagues in areas of specialism such as UKWAS, regulatory approvals, GIS, and production forecasting as training and skills allow.
- Champion high standards of health and safety within the team resource, ensuring compliance with relevant legislation and guidance.

Project management -

- Project manage a range of small to medium-sized projects related to forest planning, biodiversity, and forest resilience programmes, including project planning and the management of delegated budgets.
- Contribute to other project teams as a forest planning specialist.

Location-Specific Information (optional)

There are two posts available. One post will be based at our Central District office in Sherwood, Nottinghamshire. The other will be based at our Cannock Office, Rugeley. Regular travel around Forestry England's estate in Central England will be required. There will be occasional trips outside of in Central England for training and meetings, which may require an overnight stay.

The duties of this post require the applicant to sometimes travel to remote locations that are not accessible by public transport. You will therefore need to hold a full and current driving licence that enables you to drive in the UK and be willing to stay away from home. We are willing to consider any proposals put forward by applicants that would allow them to do the job by other means.

Skills, Knowledge & Experience

Essential Professional and Technical experience

- Good team worker with the ability to work alone and use own initiative as necessary.
- Excellent written communication skills.
- Excellent verbal communication skills with an ability to bring people together and gain consensus.
- Experience working in forestry, conservation, or other land management areas.
- Experience with Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to manipulate and analyse spatial data.
- Competent IT user with experience in MS Office suite of applications.
- A good understanding of Health & Safety in the workplace.

Desirable Professional and Technical experience

- Knowledge and understanding of forestry industry standards and best practice, including UKWAS and UKFS.

Qualifications

Essential

- Degree or Higher National Diploma (HND) or significant equivalent experience in forestry or land management, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), geography or environmental sciences.
- Full driving license that allows you to drive in the UK.

Desirable

- Membership of the Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) or a commitment to achieve membership.