Job Description – Forest Works Supervisor – Ecology (PB6a)

Job summary

Central England Forest District encompasses 30,000ha of the nation's forests within a triangle formed by Preston, Grimsby and Milton Keynes. The area comprises a range of habitats and designated sites; from woodland and wetland, to grassland and heathland. As well as supporting a range of wildlife, the District produces approximately 150,000 tonnes of timber annually and manages seven visitor centres, attracting over 2.5 million visits a year.

Working within the district's Environment Team, you will utilise your forestry and ecological expertise to facilitate operations in line with Forestry England objectives, whilst ensuring compliance with environmental legislation, policy and regulatory standards.

Reporting to the District Ecologist, the post holder will work alongside district-based staff, including ecologists, foresters, planners and civil engineers, as well as national colleagues

Key responsibilities & accountabilities

- Support District Ecologists with provision of appropriate ecological advice to facilitate operations.
- Complete site assessments and data gathering to inform operational planning; such as eDNA testing, habitat suitability assessments and protected species surveys.
- Facilitate management interventions required to maintain designated sites, priority habitats and Scheduled Monuments.
- Lead on site supervision of Forestry England staff and contractors, ensuring best practice is implemented in line with environmental legislation and policy.
- Monitor health and safety practices of contractors and Forestry England staff to ensure high standards of safety.
- Support with procurement and management of contracts, in line with Forestry England regulations.
- Manage ecological GIS data and survey permits.
- Alongside district and national colleagues, build and maintain relationships with relevant stakeholders including landowners, non-governmental organisations, charities and academia.
- And any other tasks, reasonably requested by your line manager.

Skills, knowledge & experience

Essential professional and technical experience

- Relevant experience in the forestry sector and /or conservation land management sector.
- Good wildlife identification skills, especially for protected species.
- Understanding of health and safety in forestry or land management operations.
- Experience of engagement with internal and external stakeholders.
- Practice of working to deadlines, meeting objectives and problem solving.
- Team worker, able to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team and taking ownership of the responsibilities of the role.
- Adaptable in the face of changing situations.
- Excellent communicator, both written and verbally, able to adapt to a range of audiences.
- Competent using information technology, and sound knowledge of Microsoft Office suite.

Desirable professional and technical experience

- Experience in contractor supervision.
- Knowledge and / or experience of procurement and contract management.
- Experience using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), such as Forester Web and Field Maps.
- A working knowledge of environmental legislation and UFKFS / UKWAS requirements, including their practical application.

Qualifications

Essential

- A full and current driving licence that enables you to drive in the UK.

Desirable

- Qualification in ecology / forestry or similar discipline and/or experience in conservation and/or land management.
- A member (or working towards membership) of a relevant professional body, e.g. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Institute of Chartered Foresters.