

## Job description - Nature Recovery Officer - Westonbirt (PB5)

### Job summary

Forestry England's vision is that the nation's forests will provide the most valuable places for wildlife to thrive and expand in England. The Nature Recovery Officer - Westonbirt will play an important role in achieving this vision by providing evidence-based guidance to inform management on native tree species of conservation concern. Key responsibilities include producing guidance on habitat pruning (veteranisation) on native trees, working in collaboration with partners including Action Oak and the Ancient Tree Forum. The Nature Recovery Officer will also lead the production of guidance on woodland management to support the conservation of threatened native whitebeams, rowans and service trees (*Sorbus* spp.) as part of the Global Conservation Consortium for Whitebeams, Rowans and Services Trees, which Westonbirt leads. The role will also facilitate trialling of innovative ecological techniques in ancient woodland at Westonbirt.

The role will also provide ecological advice to ensure that events and associated activities at Westonbirt are managed in accordance with wildlife legislation, policy and best practice guidance.

Line managed by the Westonbirt Curator, you will have the opportunity to work with experienced colleagues, passionate about their contribution to nature conservation and the organisation's overarching strategy. You will help to connect everyone with the nation's forests, caring for them for people to enjoy, wildlife to flourish and business to grow.

The role is funded by DEFRA rather than Forestry England generated revenue and is therefore subject to government spending reviews. While DEFRA has indicated long-term support for Forestry England's Biodiversity Programme and we expect funding to continue, it is possible that funding levels may change at the end of any financial year depending on DEFRA's budget allocations. In the event of funding changes, we would prioritise retaining staff posts wherever possible. This approach is consistent for roles within publicly funded organisations. We are committed to keeping staff informed and supported through any changes.

The position is a fixed term appointment to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2029, with the possibility, but no guarantee, of extension or permanency. The position is a full-time post to work 37 hours per week.

### Key responsibilities & accountabilities

#### Native tree conservation:

- Work in collaboration with industry partners including Action Oak and the Ancient Tree Forum to lead the production of guidance for informing management of native trees for habitat creation and conservation
- Work with partners within the Global Conservation Consortium for Whitebeams, Rowans and Service Trees (*Sorbus* spp.) to lead the production guidance to inform woodland management for trees belonging to this group
- Work with Forestry England colleagues to inform and support habitat conservation across the nation's forests
- Represent Westonbirt and Forestry England at meetings and conferences both internally and externally
- Proactively liaise with communications and marketing colleagues so as to champion success and promote our work
- Contribute to publications for a range of audiences

#### Westonbirt ecology:

- Identify, develop and implement the trialling of innovative ecological techniques in the ancient woodland of Silk Wood, Westonbirt
- Provide ecological expertise and support at Westonbirt to facilitate efficient, effective and compliant forest operations as well as feed into forest plans, planning applications, event planning, building maintenance and development

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

## Skills, knowledge & experience

### Essential professional and technical experience

- Strong knowledge and experience of arboricultural techniques, including habitat pruning
- Strong knowledge of identification of native tree species
- Organisational, communication and independent working skills
- Up-to-date knowledge of environmental legislation, particularly biodiversity, and experience of its application to land management
- Strong team and partnership working
- Experience balancing ecological requirements with commercial and social objectives

### Desirable professional and technical experience

- Practical woodland conservation with a range of native tree species
- Ecological knowledge and understanding of the key ecosystems and species present in UK woodlands
- Able to analyze data and evaluate evidence to produce reports
- Experience of cross-sector collaboration

## Qualifications

### Essential

- Relevant degree or diploma (or equivalent) in woodland conservation, arboriculture, ecology or another relevant discipline