

## Job description - Forest Resilience and Planning Manager

### Job summary

As the Forest Resilience and Planning Manager, you will lead Yorkshire District's forest planning work and drive our implementation of Forestry England's [Forest Resilience Strategy](#).

As an organisation, we are committed to bold, ambitious and evidence-based action that will ensure the nation's forests thrive for decades to come. We have long experience of building forest resilience and adapting our forests to changing threats and disturbance. But we are at a turning point. Never before have there been so many layered challenges, from climate change and biodiversity collapse to shifting societal demands and economic pressures.

The Forest Resilience and Planning Manager will embed forest resilience into our approach to forest planning and forest management. You will ensure Yorkshire District maintains up-to-date forest plan coverage by leading the development and coordination of forest planning specialists and actively designing and writing Forest Plans. Plans will aim to maximise natural capital, setting clear objectives for sustainable timber production, nature recovery, recreation and a wide range of other targets. All forest plans will meet the UK Forestry Standard and UK Woodland Assurance Standard.

You will also manage delivery of Forestry England's Defra-funded Resilience Programme in Yorkshire, being accountable for the delivery of timebound, high-profile projects. These projects aim to significantly accelerate the resilience of the nation's forests. You will have a leadership role within the Sustainable Forestry Team to accelerate the diversification of tree species and forest structure, using your expertise in forest resilience and knowledge of UK forestry.

This is a unique and exciting opportunity to lead our forest resilience and planning work, develop and manage a small team of forest planning specialists, and drive impactful change for the nation's forests in Yorkshire for decades to come.

### Key responsibilities & accountabilities

#### Strategic and Leadership

- Lead forest planning and forest resilience delivery programmes and support the development of future projects and programmes.
- Focus on natural capital approaches; more, bigger, better, connected habitats and integrated land management approaches.
- Manage a small team of forest planning specialists and contribute to the leadership of Yorkshire's Nature Recovery and Sustainable Forestry Teams.
- Support professional development of colleagues, fostering a culture of continuous improvement. Promote an understanding of forest resilience and associated silvicultural skills and practices.
- Work closely with other team managers in Nature Recovery, Sustainable Forestry, Public Engagement, Civil Engineering and other specialism to ensure a district aligned approach, clear communication, and H&S consistency across functions.
- Represent Forestry England with professionalism in strategic partnerships with key stakeholders such as Natural England, National Parks, and eNGOs.
- Lead the district certification audits and ensure compliance with key standards including UKFS, UKWAS and Operational Site Assessments.

#### Forest planning

- Maintain full coverage of Forest Plans by leading the plan renewal programme.
- Look to maximise natural capital through forest planning land management decision making in Yorkshire.
- Implement Yorkshire's Forest Resilience Programme.

- Support the Sustainable Forestry Team to plan for and deliver a programme of ancient woodland restoration.

### **Project Management**

- Develop project plans for Forest Resilience Programme projects and PAWS restoration projects
- Manage delegated budgets for the delivery of projects
- Coordinate project delivery teams, with clear responsibilities allocated and decisions/actions recorded
- Proactively manage project risk and stakeholders.
- Work with colleagues to identify future funding opportunities for projects and programmes

### **Spatial Data and GIS**

- Oversee management of the district spatial data sets, taking lead responsibility for the sub-compartment database and timber production forecasting driven by accurate surveys and inventory.
- Lead on new survey technology within Yorkshire district e.g. drones, LiDAR, other remote sensing.

Any other tasks, reasonably requested by your line manager (Yorkshire's Head of Environment) or the Yorkshire Director. You will be required to participate in the Duty Officer rota, being on call out-of-hours for three to four weeks of the year.

### **Location-specific information (optional)**

The post will be based at Forestry England's Pickering office, moving to Dalby Forest in Autumn 2027. Hybrid working is available. There will be regular travel around the district and occasional travel outside of the district, including overnight stays.

The duties of this post require the post holder 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**

- Experience and knowledge of UK forest management and a strong understanding of forest resilience principles and implementation.
- Experience leading the development of strategic and operational plans, with exceptional organisational and project management skills.
- Strong communication and analytical skills, with the ability to interpret policy and evidence, and translate it into clear, actionable advice.
- Working understanding of the UKFS and UKWAS
- Competent IT user with experience in MS Office suite of applications

### **Desirable professional and technical experience**

- Competent user of GIS

## **Qualifications**

### **Essential**

- Educated to degree level, with a degree in forestry, ecology or similar discipline, or equivalent professional experience.
- A full current driving license

### **Desirable**

- Professional membership of the Institute of Chartered Foresters or can demonstrate working towards chartered status.
- Qualification in project management.