

Job Description - Woodland Surveyor (PB6a)

Job summary

Reporting to the Planning and Environment Officer within the Planning Team, the Woodland Surveyor will deliver and supervise a programme of woodland inventory and mensuration surveys across South England Forest District.

The role is responsible for collecting, maintaining and quality assuring woodland inventory data to support Forest Planning, sustainable forest management and operational decision-making. Working closely with colleagues, contractors and operational teams, the Woodland Surveyor will ensure that survey information is collected consistently, managed accurately and incorporated into Forestry England's inventory systems in a timely manner.

Information derived from surveys will be used to inform Forest Plans, timber forecasting, operational programmes and wider Forestry England activities.

Key responsibilities & accountabilities

Key Work Areas

- Survey agreed woodland areas using Forestry England survey methodologies, ensuring that relevant mensuration variables such as basal area, stocking, crop condition and other stand characteristics are accurately recorded.
- Collate inventory information and prepare maps and survey packs for field-based survey work.
- Process, analyse and summarise survey data ready for incorporation into Forestry England's inventory systems.
- Update the sub-compartment database with mensuration data and other crop or component changes identified through survey work.
- Carry out natural regeneration and plant density assessments.
- Work with the Harvesting and Marketing Team and other colleagues to develop annual survey programmes and ensure inventory data is available to support operational planning and Operational Site Assessments.
- Monitor, supervise and quality assure contractor-delivered survey programmes, providing technical advice as required and ensuring work is completed safely, on time and to the required standard.
- Audit the quality of survey data and survey outputs produced by contractors and share findings with the Planning Team.
- Maintain accurate survey records and ensure all data is managed in accordance with Forestry England procedures.
- Contribute to the continuous improvement of inventory and survey processes across the district.

Responsibilities

- Take personal responsibility for health, safety and wellbeing and work in accordance with Forestry England health and safety policies and procedures.
- Build effective working relationships with colleagues, contractors and partners.
- Ensure work is delivered to a high standard of accuracy and attention to detail.

- Manage competing priorities to deliver survey programmes within agreed timescales.

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

Skills, knowledge & experience

Essential professional and technical experience

- Competent user of IT systems, including Microsoft Office applications, particularly Excel.
- Experience of forest mensuration, woodland inventory and field surveying techniques.
- Good knowledge of tree species identification and woodland silviculture.
- Familiarity with a range of forest mensuration equipment and the ability to demonstrate competence in its use.
- Experience of collecting, managing and analysing field survey data.
- Ability to work independently and efficiently while maintaining high standards of accuracy.
- Excellent attention to detail and record-keeping skills.
- Full UK driving licence and willingness to travel throughout the district.

Desirable

- Experience of GIS software, such as ArcGIS or QGIS.
- Advanced Excel skills, including data analysis and reporting.
- Experience of managing or supervising contractors.
- Knowledge of Forestry England inventory systems and forest planning processes.
- Experience of working within a forestry, woodland management or land management environment.

