

Woodland Officer(s) - West Midlands

Location

West Midlands (England)

The successful candidate will be expected to live in the West Midlands Area and their parent office will be Worcester. There will be flexibility for some optional blended working between the FC office/s and home (see further details below). Our area team operates from 5 offices distributed across the area. Applicants will be asked to specify whether they would prefer a permanent position or Secondment / TRRA – this should be made clear in their personal statement but will also be asked in interview if successful.

About the job

Never has there been a more important time for trees and forests to help tackle the climate emergency and provide a much-needed sanctuary for people and wildlife. Our Prime Minister and our government are committed to creating 30,000 hectares of woodland a year across the UK, of which 7,500 ha per year are anticipated to be in England, by the end of this Parliament. This acceleration in current planting rates in England will contribute to meeting the net-zero by 2050 ambitions, and to government's wider environmental targets. This was supported by the announcement in the 2021 budget of £640m for a new Nature for Climate Fund 'to support natural habitats like woodland and peat' and the publication of the England Tree Action Plan.

Job description

The Woodland Officer role can be seen as the 'face' of the Forestry Commission to landowners, managers and stakeholders. The Woodland Officer role represents Forest Services front-line woodlands and forestry expertise. Each Woodland Officer generally has their own geographic area of primary responsibility, enabling them to develop a strategic view of the local landscape, a network of local stakeholders and understanding of the challenges and opportunities.

You will be at the forefront of delivering the Forestry Commission's incentives and regulations, and able to provide advice and support to the private forestry sector in addition to Local Authorities and Defra colleagues. Internal team working is also integral in the Woodland Officer role, for example across the Area Team (e.g. assisting others in 'alleged unlicensed felling' investigations) and the wider Forestry Commission (e.g. opportunity for review of national guidance and procedures).

Responsibilities

- Protect our existing trees and woodlands:
 - Administer Forestry Regulations to include:
 - Forestry Act – Felling Licences to ensure tree felling is carried out legally in accordance with the principles of the UK Forestry Standard as appropriate;
 - Environmental Impact Assessments – afforestation, deforestation, forest roads and forest quarries, and Habitats Regulations – re forest operations within Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation;
 - Advise on the links with other legislation such as those pertaining to European Protected Species; and Provide specialist advice to planning authorities re the impact of proposals on existing woodland and how new trees and woodland could be used to enhance new
 - Support the administration and delivery of Statutory Plant Health Notices and Tree Health initiatives.

- Improve the condition and resilience of our existing woodlands and wider treescape:
 - Champion the benefits of actively managed woodland and support the delivery of grants and incentives to support this work

- Support woodland owners and managers in responding to key challenges of pests and diseases including Chalara ash dieback, Phytophthora ramorum, deer and grey squirrels;
 - Work to increase resilience within woodlands to the challenges of a changing climate; and - facilitate closer working across the forestry sector – for instance between markets, contractors, managers, etc.
- Expand Woodland Cover:
 - Champion the multiple benefits of new woodland as business opportunities for land owner and as natural capital (including biodiversity, water quality, flood management, carbon sequestration/substitution, etc.) for the wider environment and society;
 - facilitate the design and delivery of new woodlands optimising the benefits they can deliver to the owner and as natural capital;
 - administer the forestry Regulations relating to woodland creation (Environmental Impact Assessment); and
 - administer/process applications for grants.
 - Engaging partners, stakeholders and the public: -
 - Encourage, enthuse and support key partners and stakeholders to help facilitate the expansion, protection and improvement of our woodlands and treescape; and - champion the many values of trees and woodland to the wider public helping them understand and appreciate the importance and values of active management.

Benefits

- A Civil Service pension
- A range of family friendly benefits
- An environment with flexible working options
- Learning and development tailored to your role
- A culture which promotes a diverse and inclusive work environment
- A range of wellbeing benefits including discounted Civil Service Healthcare, access to an Employee Assistance Programme 24/7, Bike to Work Scheme, plus many more.
- 25 days annual leave, with 1 additional day for each years' service up to 5 years (pro rata)
- Ability to buy or sell 5 days annual leave
- 3 days volunteering per year (pro rata)

Professional membership of the Institute of Chartered Foresters or another relevant professional body is desirable.

Salary £32,612 - £35,343

To apply, please visit [here](#).

Closing date: Apply before 11:55 pm on Sunday 23 April 2023



Institute of
Chartered Foresters

e icf@charteredforesters.org
 t 0131 240 1425
 w www.charteredforesters.org
 59 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2JG
 Incorporated by Royal Charter 1982

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