

Shadow Volunteer

Role Name: Sustainable Land Management Volunteer

Forest: National Forest and North Staffordshire

Country	England
Location	Cannock Chase Forest Centre, Birches Valley, Rugeley, WS15 2UQ
Supervisor	Kate Owen
Position Type	1-3 days per week for 6 months
Salary	Voluntary
Closing date for applications	7 th July 2024

Background Information

Forestry England are the country's largest land manager, caring for the nation's forests for people, nature, and the economy. The foundation of our organisation is our world-class sustainable management of the nation's forests.

The Central Forest District has responsibility for the management of some 30,000ha of the Nation's Forests within a triangle formed by Liverpool, Hull, and Milton Keynes. This gives rise to a large diversity of users, customers, neighbours, and pressures, all of which are interacting on a varied backdrop of land uses.

We are proud to be able to offer a range of shadow volunteer opportunities for individuals with an interest in pursuing a career in recreation, community engagement, conservation, site management, forestry, working with volunteers and the public and wanting to gain experience in the sector.

This Shadow volunteer role will be based at **National Forest and North Staffordshire** and **focused on forest management**.

Shadow Volunteers

Successful applicants will be given training and development opportunities by work shadowing our experienced team. Through this opportunity you will develop on the job skills, including development of practical site management, working within communities, volunteer management and forestry management. The placement at National Forest enables individuals to gain experience of managing mature woodlands and new planting schemes.

What we offer

- Training relevant to the role from your experienced member of staff you are shadowing along with gaining knowledge from wider colleagues.
- Guidance and support in applying for further training or employment opportunities.
- Genuine out of pocket expenses which includes travel expenses beyond your reporting station.
- Volunteer parking pass after 35 hours of volunteering.
- Volunteer uniform.
- Formal training opportunities - first aid, risk assessment, and manual handling.

Purpose

Experience, encourage and support forestry work in Cannock Chase Forest; through shadowing sustainable land management team, participating in woodland management and learning about harvesting operations. Learn how to involve local people in the decision making and management of their local environment.

Working as part of the team assist, support, and help empower local communities to become actively involved in the care and management of woodlands & countryside sites in The National Forest and North Staffs. Assist and provide support to a diverse range of people, experiencing a range of tasks, activities and procedures that craftspeople undertake within their role.

Key work areas

Work towards ensuring our forests are sustainable

- Assist in forest maintenance including but not limited to vegetation control, hand weeding, tree planting & tariffing, fence building & repairs.
- Liaise with other teams such as recreation & ecology to ensure tasks are completed within given timescales

Embed a safety-first culture in our teams

Shadow Volunteers

- Report all incidents & accidents to mentor or supervisor, collating all relevant information.
- Ensure personal safety at all times by following job risk assessments and by carrying out PPE and safety checks, in compliance with policy guidance.

Person Specification

Read this section carefully as it will help you complete the online application form.

We are not expecting you to have qualifications or previous experience in the environment sector. The Shadow Volunteer program is about giving you that experience. We are looking for enthusiasm, curiosity, ability to listen and learn, ask questions, show initiative, and take responsibility for the people and environment where you work.

The application form will ask you questions based on the person specifications below. You don't need to give examples related to the environment sector or forestry. They can be relevant examples from other experiences you have had.

Experience

Essential

An interest in forestry, land management or Forestry England.

Experience of practical conservation, working outdoors, environmental management; through previous employment, voluntary work, or study.

Seeking a career in the environmental sector; craftsperson, forestry, countryside ranger, environmental.

Work with Other People

Essential

Be approachable, open, polite, and helpful to others.

Respect diverse backgrounds, views, and approaches.

Willingness to work as part of a team as well as the ability to work on your own.

Desirable

Willingness and enthusiastic to lead groups and activities.

Communication

Essential

Ability to listen and communicate with people from a variety of age groups, abilities, behaviours, and backgrounds.

Ability to deal with difficult situations with tact, diplomacy and in a constructive manner.

Deliver Results

Essential

Motivated and capable of working under own initiative.

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Prioritise and organise your time and resources effectively to meet agreed deadlines and objectives.

Desirable

Understand and apply current legislation, rules, and procedures relevant to the job (e.g., Health & Safety, Risk assessment).

Learn and Apply

Essential

Be open to change and show a willingness to undertake appropriate training to develop new skills and confidence.

Take responsibility for own work, learning from experience, mistakes, and constructive feedback.

Other

Able and willing to work 1-3 days per week, Monday - Friday.

This post may require you to hold and continue to hold, a full current driving licence. Duties will require you to be fit and able to negotiate rough terrain. However, Forestry England is willing to consider any proposal put forward by applicants that would allow them to do the role by other means.

This role will require a DBS check.

How to apply

Please apply online by completing the [application form](#) on the website.

Make sure when applying, you type 'SLM Shadow Volunteer' as the role which you are interested in.

For the Forest, please select "National Forest and N. Staffs Beat".

If you are interested in multiple roles, you will need to complete multiple applications. You can, however, use the same information and answers for each so feel free to copy the information from one to the other, if you are happy this is correct.

If you have any problems with the application or questions please email victoria.tofte@forestryengland.uk and state which opportunity you wish to apply for and what your requirements are to enable you to apply.

If you consider yourself to have a disability the application form will ask you to provide details of any support you may need or reasonable adjustments we can make to enable you to fulfil the role (as outlined in the role description for the placement you are interested in). If you are selected for a Shadow Volunteer role based on your skills and experience this will allow us to assess whether support can be safely and practically put in place or whether other alternative solutions are a possibility, in discussion with you.

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Closing date for applications: 7th July 2024
Interviews: Between the 22nd July and 9th August 2024
Induction day: 3rd September 2024