Job Title: Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer

Grade 9

**Our Vision**

An innovative, ambitious and sustainable county, where everyone has the opportunity to prosper, be healthy and happy.

Our Outcomes

We want everyone in Staffordshire to:

* Have access to more good jobs and share the benefit of economic growth
* Live in thriving and sustainable communities
* Be healthier and more independent for longer

Our Values

Our People Strategy sets out what we all need to do to make Staffordshire County Council a great place to work, where people are supported to develop, flourish and contribute to our ambitious plans. Our values are at the heart of the Strategy to ensure that the focus is on what is important to the organisation and the people it serves:

* Ambitious – We are ambitious for our communities and the people of Staffordshire
* Courageous – We recognise our challenges and are prepared to make
courageous decisions
* Empowering – We empower and support our people by giving them
the opportunity to do their jobs well.

About the Service

The Cannock Chase National Landscape Partnership brings together five local authorities, statutory agencies, NGOs and community bodies. Its role is to conserve and enhance the Cannock Chase National Landscape, an area of heathland, forest and farmland in the heart of the West Midlands. The National Landscape team works with partners to develop and deliver the statutory management plan for the National Landscape, providing input to plans and strategies affecting the area and proactively developing initiatives to conserve and enhance its special qualities into the future. The National Landscape Partnership is hosted by Staffordshire County Council and is based within the Environmental Advice Team in Rural County as part of the Economy Infrastructure and Skills Directorate.

**About the Role**

An opportunity has arisen to support the delivery of Defra’s Farming In Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme on behalf of the Cannock Chase National Landscape Partnership. Created by Defra, and managed by National Landscape and National Park teams, FiPL helps farmers, land managers and others to deliver work on the farmed landscape under the themes of climate, nature, people and place. You will provide advice and guidance about the programme to applicants/potential applicants and support a panel created to assess applications to ensure that they meet the funding criteria and conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area.

This post is designated as a Casual car user

Reporting Relationships

Responsible to: National Landscape Team Leader

Responsible for: N/A

Key Accountabilities:

1. To provide a first point of contact between the Cannock Chase National Landscape Partnership and potential applicants to the FiPL programme.
2. To lead on conservation, land management and access advice and guidance to promote high quality applications to the programme.
3. To support applicants with their applications (and where necessary help guide subsequent delivery), especially those applicants that are ‘harder to reach’, or cluster/ group applications.
4. To support the work of the FiPL Local Assessment Panel, including the provision of summary reports and recommendations on applications.
5. To ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of support offered under the programme, including the management of multi-year agreements.
6. To support the monitoring of progress towards the completion of funded projects.
7. To support project and programme level evaluation, including reporting to Defra and the Cannock Chase National Landscape Partnership.
8. To help to ensure that action undertaken through the Programme is consistent with the established purposes and complementary to the statutory purposes of the Cannock Chase National Landscape Partnership.
9. To undertake other duties as required, consistent with the responsibility level of the post.

Other Information

**Professional Accountabilities:**

The post holder is required to contribute to the achievement of the Council objectives through:

**Financial Management**

Personal accountability for delivering services efficiently, effectively, within budget and to implement any approved savings and investment allocated to the service.

**People Management**

Engaging with People Management policies and processes

**Equalities**

Ensuring that all work is completed with a commitment to equality and anti-discriminatory practice, as a minimum to standards required by legislation.

**Climate Change**

Delivering energy conservation practices in line with the Council’s climate change strategy.

**Health and Safety**

Ensuring a work environment that protects people’s health and safety and that promotes welfare, and which is in accordance with the Council’s Health & Safety policy.

**Safeguarding**

Commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of vulnerable groups.

The content of this Job Description and Person Specification will be reviewed on a regular basis.

**Person Specification**  A = Assessed at Application

I = Assessed at Interview

T = Assessed through Test

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| **Minimum Criteria for Disability Confident Scheme \*** | **Criteria** | **Measured by** |
| **employer_small** | **Qualifications/Professional membership*** Degree or equivalent level qualification (essential)
* Degree in an environment, ecology or land management related subject (desirable)
 | AA |
| **employer_small** | **Knowledge and Experience*** Knowledge and understanding of current farming and rural policy in England, agri-environment schemes and emerging opportunities through ELM (essential)
* Significant knowledge and experience of lowland farming systems and rural land management practices (essential)
* General understanding of Protected Landscapes and their conservation and enhancement of natural beauty (desirable)
* Broad knowledge and experience of strategic management for landscape, the natural environment, cultural heritage and public access (essential)
* General understanding of ecosystem services, climate change mitigation and adaptation, land-based businesses and their management, and the needs of communities (essential)
* Experience of working with lowland farmers, land managers and communities to achieve environmental and access objectives (essential)
* Experience of delivering grant support for activities including environmental outcomes, access, farm sustainability, skills development (desirable)
* Project management experience (essential)
* An understanding of working in a partnership environment (desirable)
* Knowledge and experience of using GIS and general IT packages (essential)
 | A / I / TA / I / TA / I / TA / I / TA / IA / IA / IA / IA / IA / I |
| **employer_small** | **Skills*** Excellent interpersonal skills with ability to understand, motivate, persuade and influence people especially farmers and land managers (essential)
* Excellent verbal and written communication skills with numeracy, literacy and interpretive skills to articulate and win support for environmental and access outcomes (essential)
* Proven ability to plan and prioritise work and to meet deadlines with an organised and flexible approach (essential)
* Ability to push forward new ideas and methods of working (essential)
* Self-confidence, reliability and self-reliance and the ability to work without close supervision (essential)
* Ability to represent the AONB at all times, including at public and other meetings (essential)
* Ability to efficiently access areas out of reach of public transport. This post is classed as a casual car user. NB The post holder will be expected to use their own vehicle on most occasions. (essential)
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**** If a disabled person meets the criteria indicated by the Disability Confident scheme symbol and provides evidence of this on their application form, they will be guaranteed an interview.

We are proud to display the Disability Confidence Symbol, which is a recognition given by Job centre plus to employers who agree to meet specific requirements regarding the recruitment, employment, retention, and career development of disabled people.

If you need a copy of this information in large print, braille, another language on cassette or disc, please ask us by contacting

Talent & Resourcing Team 01785 278300