

Arboricultural Officer

Grade 9

About the Service

Based in the Economy, Infrastructure & Skills Directorate, Environment & Countryside is responsible for the management and development of Staffordshire County Council's country parks and green spaces, 4500km of statutory public rights of way and the associated definitive map, the provision of high-quality environmental advice across SCC functions and externally, the conservation of Staffordshire's natural and historic environment and the management of environmental data and spatial information. The service hosts the Cannock Chase AONB Partnership and is involved with other strategic environmental partnerships across the county.

About the Role

As the Arboricultural Officer for Staffordshire County Council Environment and Countryside Service you will play a pivotal role in the management and conservation of trees within the County, focusing on Country Parks and the Rights of Way network. You will be responsible for ensuring the health, safety, and sustainability of our tree assets, contributing to the overall enhancement of our public spaces. The role will deliver:

- A specialist customer focused arboricultural advice service
- Surveying, managing and maintaining the tree inventory database
- Advising customers and colleagues on the management of the Council's tree stock
- Specifying and contracting works

Duties may also include, from time to time, the need to assist in non-arboricultural operations, such as landscape advice and providing support to other departments on large scale projects.

Reporting Relationships

Responsible to: County Ecologist / Country Parks Manager

Responsible for: N/A

Key Accountabilities:

1. Responsible for the management and maintenance of the Tree Risk Management programme for the council's tree stock as individual trees, groups and woodlands (as set out in the Corporate Tree Management Strategy).
2. Develop and implement comprehensive arboriculture management plans, local policy and procedures for Country Parks and Greenways, ensuring the protection and conservation of biodiversity and landscape.
3. Advise on arboricultural management on the Rights of Way network and implement approaches and solutions for tree maintenance to enhance accessibility and safety for the public.
4. Maintain accurate records of tree assets, inspections, and maintenance activities using tree inventory software to evidence management and inform future work programmes.
5. Undertake / review inspections and provide recommendations relating to management measures for any and all high value amenity trees in accordance with all relevant national standards and local policies to ensure safe and sustainable management.
6. Advise and liaise on tree preservation orders (TPOs), conservation areas and other environmental and ecological protection issues, ensuring compliance with relevant legislation and guidelines.
7. Provide expert guidance on planning applications involving trees and participate in the decision-making process to ensure sustainable management.

8. Prepare regular reports on the condition of trees within Country Parks and the Rights of Way network for internal and external stakeholders to promote safe and sustainable management.
9. Engage with the local community and stakeholders to raise awareness of the importance of trees and promote responsible tree management practices.
10. Commission remedial and proactive tree work, ensuring value for money and work is carried out to recognised arboricultural industry standards.
11. Represent Staffordshire County Council and offer technical advice on arboricultural matters at public meetings, site inspections, consultations, etc as required.
12. To support the wider work of the Environment & Countryside service as required and commensurate with the post.

Person Specification

Qualifications/Professional membership

- Arboricultural qualifications to a minimum of level 5 (HND/FdSc)
- LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection qualifications

Knowledge and Experience

- Demonstrable knowledge and understanding of the legal, strategic and operational requirements needed to provide a tree management and maintenance advice, including all relevant Planning and Health and Safety legislation
- Demonstrable broad knowledge of UK and European habitats and wildlife protection legislation, including SSSI and SAC-related law
- Experience with on-site surveying and associated report writing
- Knowledge and experience of Visual Tree Assessment
- Experience of using tree inventory software
- Experience of working with the public, volunteers, contractors, stakeholders and external organisations

Skills

- Ability to interpret and present data to a wide range of audiences
- Analytical skills
- Organisational and planning skills
- Range of IT software skills, including MS Word, Excel and MS PowerPoint including GIS
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills for engaging with internal and external stakeholders
- Ability to work independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team
- Driving licence or the ability to meet the mobility requirements of the role (e.g. to undertake surveys, inspections etc.) through other means.

This post is designated as a Casual Car user

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