

Shadow Volunteer

Role Name: Community Shadow Ranger

Forest: Sutton Manor, Northwest Community Woodlands

Country	England
Location	Sutton Manor, Jubits Lane, St Helens, WA9 4BB
Position Type	1-3 days per week for 6 months
Salary	Voluntary
Closing date for applications	9 th July 2023

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.

The District has three Community Woodland areas, in Nottinghamshire, The National Forest and the North West covering Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Lancashire. We are looking for an individual to fulfill the shadow volunteer role predominantly situated within Merseyside, covering woodlands in the St Helens and Warrington area including Sutton Manor, Wheatacre, Brickfields and Upper Moss side.

The main reporting station for this role will be at Sutton Manor, where you will meet your mentor before travelling to other locations if required.

Community Woodlands are a key element of the land holding Forestry England manages, providing woodland for local communities to enjoy, for nature to thrive and timber to grow.

The Community Woodlands vary in size and facilities and are managed by dedicated and motivated teams. Forestry England celebrated its centenary in 2019 with a varied cultural engagement programme reflecting the past achievements of the organisation and vision for the future. As well as strengthening and celebrating our volunteer networks, we will build on the data collection collated during the Big Forest Find (BFF) and use it for the ongoing improvement of our woodland management.

Shadow Volunteers

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

Successful applicants will be given training and development opportunities by work shadowing current community ranger staff. They will shadow staff and develop on the job skills, including development of practical site management, working within communities, volunteer management, engaging and working with the public, schools, and colleges. The Northwest Community Woodlands Shadow Ranger positions enables individuals to gain experience of managing our restored Community Woodlands and surrounding mature woodlands.

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 active community and volunteer involvement on countryside sites within the Northwest Community Sites; through site checks, litter picking, practical, outdoor maintenance work, visitor experience and safety and community involvement. Learn how to connect the community with their local forest.

Working as part of the Community Ranger team assist, support and help empower local communities to become actively involved in the care and management of urban fringe woodlands & countryside sites. Assist and provide support to a diverse range of people, experiencing a range of tasks, activities and procedures that rangers undertake within their role.

You will be expected to travel to the woodlands in one of the three areas specified above for the majority your time as shadow ranger, some additional travel to Delamare and other locations will be required for training and consolidation of your learning.

Person Specification

Experience

Essential

An interest in the environment, Forestry England, woodland management, or recreation.

Desirable

Experience of practical conservation, environmental education, working with young people or environmental management; through previous employment, voluntary work, or study.

Seeking a career in the environmental sector; countryside ranger, environmental or visitor services management.

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.

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

Listen to and observe your mentor and rest of the team, demonstrate willing to learn and repeat tasks to build experience.

Shadow Volunteers

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, predominantly weekdays although may occasionally include evenings and weekend working.

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 'Community Shadow Ranger' as the role which you are interested in. For the Forest, please select 'Sutton Manor'.

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.

Closing date: 9th July 2023