

Shadow Volunteer

Recreation & Conservation Ranger

New Forest, Lyndhurst

Country	England
Location	The New Forest The King's House, Lyndhurst, SO43 7NH
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.

South Forest District manages 46,000ha of land across West Sussex, Surrey, Berkshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Dorset and South Wiltshire. The District is at the hub of some of the most highly populated parts of the country and the nation's forests here deliver a significant range of public benefits from a diverse range of places and activities. Over 60% of our land is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and over 70% of our land lies within protected landscapes - National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We therefore manage some nationally-prized places which are a unique blend of forest and rare open habitats. We host over 20 million day visits to our forests every year and local communities have a strong connection with our forests; delivering multi-purpose objectives across these heavily designated and heavily used landscapes has its challenges, but we have an inspired team who take great satisfaction in delivering high quality land management and memorable experiences for our visitors.

We are proud to be able to offer shadow ranger volunteer opportunities for individuals with an interest in pursuing a career in conservation, community engagement, recreation,

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site management, working with volunteers and the public and wanting to gain experience in the sector.

We have 2 Shadow Ranger voluntary positions available in the New Forest.

Successful applicants will be given training and development opportunities by work shadowing the current ranger team. They will shadow staff and develop on the job skills, including development of practical site management, working within communities, volunteer management, supervision of visitor hubs such as Bolderwood Information Unit, engaging and working with the public, delivering targeted conservation campaigns in collaboration with partner agencies. The New Forest Shadow volunteer positions enable individuals to gain experience of managing recreation in a protected landscape and promoting conservation of a diverse range of habitats and species through targeted campaigns such as our Deer Rut campaign.

What we offer

- Training relevant to the role from the experienced member of staff being shadowed, 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

Working as part of the team to deliver key Forestry England messages through recreation and visitor services. Experience the range of tasks, activities and procedures that rangers undertake daily within their role including inspections of trails, keeping visitor areas tidy and well maintained, carrying out small maintenance tasks, litter picking, visitor engagement and facilitating learning visits and activities. Deliver a high-quality visitor experience; learn how to connect the community with their local forest, empowering visitors and locals alike to contribute to the conservation of protected habitats and species.

This role would suit someone with an interest in conservation seeking a career in the environmental sector; visitor services, countryside ranger, community work, environmental or outdoor education.

Person Specification

Experience

Essential

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

Desirable

Experience of taking part in or managing an environmental, educational or community project or activity 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.

Desirable

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

Able to deliver a result for others or personal goal

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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.

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

Desirable

Take responsibility for own work, learning from experience, mistakes, and constructive feedback and apply what you have learnt

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 **New Forest Recreation & Conservation Shadow Volunteer** as the role which you are interested in. For the Forest, please select **New Forest Beat Wide**.

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

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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