The Duchy of Cornwall Estate

The Duchy of Cornwall is a private estate which funds the public, charitable and private activities of The Prince of Wales and his family. The Duchy consists of around 52,760 hectares of land in 23 counties, mostly in the South West of England.

The Duchy estate was created in 1337 by Edward III for his son and heir, Prince Edward, and its primary function was to provide him and future Princes of Wales with an income from its assets. A charter ruled that each future Duke of Cornwall would be the eldest surviving son of the Monarch and the heir to the throne.

The current Duke of Cornwall, HRH The Prince of Wales, is actively involved in running the Duchy and his philosophy is to improve the estate and pass it on to future Dukes in a stronger and better condition.

Forester

The Forester will be based in Herefordshire and will be responsible for the day to day management of the Hereford Estate woodlands but will also assist in the management of the trees, woodlands and forests across the Duchy of Cornwall Estate.

The post reports to the Head Forester.

The Forester will be based in Herefordshire, working from the Duchy’s Hereford Estate office, and will be responsible for the day to day management of the Hereford Estate woodlands, including the supervision of the Estate Woods Team which currently comprises three permanent staff and usually an apprentice.

The Forester will, however, be expected to become familiar with, and assist in the management of, the trees, woodlands and forests across the Duchy’s entire landholding; this will involve occasional periods away from home. Strong communication skills are required for this role as the Forester will be an advocate, both internally and externally, of the Duchy’s approach to woodland management.

The Forester will also be expected to assist with, or take full responsibility for, such matters as:

- Preparing and monitoring annual budgets for the different woodland accounts.
- Maintaining compartment databases, maps and records for the various woodlands.
- Preparing and managing woodland management plans for the various woodlands.
- Preparing, submitting and implementing grant schemes for the various woodlands.
- Undertaking inventory work across the woodland estate.
- Leading and Assisting in delivering the wide range of initiatives that the Duchy is involved with, which will include liaising with staff, tenants, members of the public and various organisations as well as hosting meetings and visits at the Duchy and representing the Duchy at other events.
- Marking for harvesting operations and supervising all aspects of forest management and harvesting operations, whether undertaken by staff or contractors.
- Maintaining all elements of the Duchy’s Health & Safety policies and procedures, as far as these relate to woodland activities.
- Maintaining all elements of the Duchy’s Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification scheme.
- Assisting with the Duchy’s TARM (Tree & Access Risk Management) project.

The list above is not exclusive but highlights the range of duties that the Forester will be involved with.

Relationships

You will need to work with and communicate effectively with colleagues and establish positive working relationships at all levels within the various Duchy offices. Outside the Duchy you must deal professionally with tenants, contractors, industry professionals, the general public and the media.

Reward package

The role will be full time, 35 hrs per week. It may be necessary to work additional hours to ensure the proper fulfilment of the role.

The salary range is £30,000-£35,000 per annum depending on experience.

The Duchy will contribute 12% of salary into its group pension scheme.

You will be entitled to 28 days holiday, plus 8 bank holidays for England and Wales.

Person specifications

Education, Experience & Qualifications

Educated to degree level or equivalent in forestry or a related subject and with subsequent experience working in the U.K. forestry sector.

Professional membership of the Institute of Chartered Foresters or another relevant professional body is desirable.

Expected to be familiar with all aspects of private estate woodland management.

Personal

As part of a wider Duchy team, regular and effective communication and collaboration are vital; at the same time, you will expected to be able to work alone and display self-motivation and initiative.

You will need to be able to conduct your affairs with absolute integrity and professionalism whilst fostering a co-operative spirit with the Duchy’s tenants, contractors, industry professionals and members of the public.

You will be an excellent communicator, being able to converse effectively with the Estate Woods Team, office colleagues, the broad range of tenants on the estate, contractors, industry professionals and members of the public as well as senior members of the Duchy’s staff, Duchy Council Members and personnel from HRH’s office.

You will need to have a strong empathy with the objectives of the Duchy of Cornwall and the implementation of the Duchy’s policies.