

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>Post title</b>	Arborist Climber
<b>Division / Section</b>	Parks and Greenspace
<b>Department</b>	Forestry Service
<b>Responsible To</b>	Forestry Manager
<b>Number of post holders</b>	
<b>Acting up/ Secondment</b>	Full Time Post

**Purpose of Job**

A key member of a small specialist arborist team carrying out potentially hazardous arboricultural and forestry operations, including working at height. Generally works under the direction of the Lead Arborist and on a regular basis may be required to make decisions about how works are implemented. The postholder is responsible for carrying out works in accordance with health and safety procedures in relation to themselves, other squad members and the general public while on site.

Act up into the Lead Arborist role as required.

## Major Tasks

1. Assist the lead arborist in co-ordination, planning and execution of day to day operations for forestry / arboricultural protection, maintenance and enhancement to the highest appropriate standards, assisting appropriate council officers with enforcement of tree legislation when required. (60%)
2. Ensure compliance with Health and Safety standards and manage day to day safety of the workforce and the public. (20%)
3. Assist in the achievement of performance targets and contribute to an effective and efficient forestry team. (15%)
4. Assist squad members in preparing for training and assessments which enhance and develop their arboricultural skills. (5%)

## Job Activities

**Assist the lead arborist in co-ordination, planning and execution of day to day operations for forestry / arboricultural protection, maintenance and enhancement to the highest appropriate standards, assisting appropriate council officers with enforcement of tree legislation when required.**

- Assist the Lead Arborist to execute all appropriate aerial and ground arboricultural operations as described in work instructions.
- Fell large trees greater than 760mm diameter.
- Work at heights to carry out aerial arboricultural works from a rope and harness.
- Carry out aerial arboricultural works from a MEWP, with or without a chainsaw.
- Carry out Arboricultural dismantling operations.
- Process multiple windblown trees.
- Collection, transportation, storage and disposal of arboricultural forestry arisings;
- Hedge cutting and laying, and pruning;
- Riparian vegetation protection, maintenance and enhancement, working in or next to water upon completion of relevant certification and training making sure that all relevant PPE is utilised;
- Carry out road side tree safety works, making sure that all appropriate council departments or outside agencies are timeously informed of planned activities;
- Maintain general site tidiness and cleanliness including depot offices and facilities;
- Drive vehicles as required, including tractors and towing of trailers with and without lifting equipment to support operational activity;
- Operate a range of specialist machinery, technology and equipment as required for the range of forestry services, including chainsaws, pole saws, chippers, stump grinders, forestry tractors, winches, timber trailers and lifts, MEWP's, lowering equipment, leaf blowers, powered hand tools and plant, hedge cutters, brush cutters, weed and pesticide applicators.
- Other duties appropriate to the grade as required.

**Plan and execute tree establishment works to the highest British or industry standards:**

- Plant a wide range of planting material, including trees and shrubs.
- Transport plant material safely in accordance to best practice.
- Beating up operations including tree protection correction, staking and tying, digging, weeding by hand or chemical, mulching, watering and application of fertilisers
- Take remedial action to control, weeds, pests and diseases
- Undertake minor construction and fencing works

**Ensure compliance with Health and Safety standards and manage day to day safety of the workforce and the public.**

- Work as part of a team of arborists and trainees (and where appropriate, neighbourhood workers and horticultural staff, volunteers, students and work placements) in relation to arboricultural and forestry work and on site Health & Safety.
- Set up and use appropriate work equipment effectively, efficiently and safely in accordance with training received and HSE Arboricultural and Forestry Group (AFAG) guidance.
- Read and sign forestry service risk assessments for all work sites. Write out risk assessments
- Carry out routine maintenance and safety checks of all work equipment, keeping accurate up to date records for each work item. Make sure all any item not fit for work use is properly tagged / removed from service and that the Forestry Supervisor is notified of any defects.
- Required to carry out an aerial rescue for squad members undertaking climbing operations.

**Assist in the achievement of performance targets and contribute to an effective and efficient forestry team.**

- Contribute to the review and redesign of service delivery arrangements that result in continuous improvement of performance.
- Complete appropriate and relevant paperwork accurately and timeously.
- Investigate Trees and Woodland Officer issued customer service requests / enquiries, providing feedback and take appropriate direction.
- Gather data and report on any issues affecting successful tree establishment
- Contribute to development of site management plans and proposals for parks, streets, gardens and schools as they relate to the tree stock.
- Lead by example and positively promote environmental policies, practices and initiatives including Biodiversity action plans, Greenerways, green waste recycling and other initiatives.

**Assist squad members in preparing for training and assessments which enhance and develop their arboricultural skills.**

- Assist in the training of staff, including ability to pass on skills and give direction to colleagues, including other team members, trainees and apprentices.

## **Supervision and Management of People**

Required to work within a squad generally consisting of postholder plus 3 members (see organisation structure):

1 X Lead Arborist – Grade 5. Shares tree climbing duties with Arborist Climber and acts as buddy for the postholder when engaged in climbing operations.

1 X Arborist Groundsman – Grade 3. Operates machinery and carries out work only on the ground. May be required to carry out an aerial rescue for squad members undertaking climbing operations.

1 X Arborist Apprentice / Trainee – Grade 2. Trainee who works under supervision to the level of his/her certified competence. Following training may be required to carry out an aerial rescue for squad members undertaking climbing operations.

The day-to-day make-up of the squad may however vary in composition and number depending on staff availability and other constraints.

The postholder is required to plan and prioritise his/her own workload on a daily basis under the direction of the Lead Arborist, and may on occasion be required to use his/her own initiative.

The postholder will report to a Lead Arborist with whom they will discuss any difficulties relating to their workload/management responsibilities and well as review progress against agreed objectives and seek advice on complex or unusual issues.

## **Creativity and Innovation**

The postholder is required to:

Recognise generic service delivery issues and opportunities and actively respond to these on-site without prompt or specific instructions.

Use arboricultural and forestry skills to identify opportunities for advancing quality standards.

Assist the Lead arborist to organise and monitor the workload and performance of other squad members.

Be prepared to vary the approach to service delivery as required to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.

Required to maintain an up-to-date understanding of best and innovative practice in arboriculture and forestry operations and make use of this understanding to support the Lead Arborist in the development and delivery of effective, efficient and innovative operational tasks.

## **Contacts and Relationships**

Working in a front-line service within public places and at public events, the Arborist Climber will be meeting and responding to the public on a daily basis, and as such is expected to be an ambassador for the Council. This will specifically involve assisting in the promotion of policies, practices and initiatives associated with the Forestry Service.

Contacts will be at officer level within the Council, including colleagues within the department and local and centralised level; as well as site users. The postholder will be required to represent Service for Communities and/or the Council as appropriate.

Share ideas and skills with other members of the team and be willing to give and receive feedback.

## **Decisions (Discretion)**

Generally, the postholder works under the direction of the Lead Arborist, but may from time to time be called upon to:

- decide on the safe method of felling trees and the method of implementing other potentially dangerous site operations such as limbing, working at height, machinery movements, working near to roads, transport, watercourses etc.
- interpret legislation to determine and decide on compliance with technical standards, codes of practice in specified areas of work and provide advice to others in this regard.

Use knowledge and skills to resolve problems and deal with problems quickly, seeking help from colleagues when required.

Responds to issues and queries from members of the public and community representatives in line with service delivery obligations.

Assists in identifying potential breaches of legislation relating to: Unauthorised work in Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Area; Felling Licences; Health and Safety and takes appropriate action.

Actions might also involve reporting environmental problems to the Lead Arborist and where appropriate resolving issues themselves, these include:

- Arboricultural and forestry maintenance issues
- Invasive vegetation
- Graffiti removal
- Fly tipping
- Waste accumulations
- Lighting defects
- Signage defects
- Issues which may be associated with community safety (e.g. abandoned cars)

## **Decisions (Consequences)**

Generally, decisions on site will be taken by the Lead Arborist, but on occasion the postholder may be required to make decisions, which have the following impacts:

- Decisions made will impact on the implementation of forestry and arboricultural work, and the extent to which this is carried out in a safe and effective manner, and whether, at this level, the Council's duty of care is discharged.
- Decisions made relate to leading and on site management of staff.

## **Resources**

Shared responsibility for a range of specialist equipment, machinery and works vehicles including but not exclusively, trucks, tractors, trailers with and without lifting equipment, arboricultural and forestry machinery, arboricultural climbing equipment, motorized and hand held cleaning equipment, horticultural equipment and handheld IT equipment up to a value of circa £250,000.

Valtra 4WD Tractor with a roof mounted crane

Timber Trailer

Grain Trailer

Telehandler

4WD Tractor with a front mounted grab

Timber Winch

Drives 7.5 trucks with towing capabilities of over 12000kg on a LGV Licence

Must hold a CPC drivers card

## **Environment – Work Demands**

The post holder will be required to deliver work safely and to schedule in a potentially hazardous working environment and in doing so to manage risk effectively.

Assist the Lead Arborist with responsibility for safety of the work force and public on the work site, which are usually parks, streets and woodlands where the public generally have free access.

Out of hours working and being a part of a standby rota will be required to deal with emergencies and severe weather. Standby and Call-out and Overtime - see modernising pay handbook page 20.

Tree Work must be completed timeously to minimise disruption for those affected by the works and on many occasions fixed deadlines must be met, e.g. working in conjunction with traffic control measures where tree work must be completed between fixed times. Time constraints would also be of relevance when working in partnership with other departments, organisations or the public.

The postholder is required assist the Lead Arborist to plan the squads daily work programme organising plant and equipment with minimum supervision. On occasions, difficult decisions may referred to the Lead Arborist e.g. where unexpected complications or risks have arisen. Take responsibility for on site Health & Safety when Lead Arborist is engaged in aerial operations.

## **Environment – Physical**

The nature of the work required to carry out the duties of the post, requires the postholder to sustain a high level of physical effort for prolonged periods of the working day.

- 50% Duties involve lengthy periods of heavy manual work and include removing and cleaning waste arboricultural and forestry materials on a daily basis. Work will include the manual lifting of irregular sized and shaped forestry products. The carrying and dragging of large quantities of heavy loads (logs / branches) across all terrains. (slopes, water courses, fences, walls, & stairs).
- 20% On a daily basis the postholder will be required to perform aerial operations within the crown of a tree from a rope and harness or MEWP.
- 20% There is extensive use of and maintenance of motor manual equipment (chainsaws, hand tools and other associated forestry equipment) which requires physical strength and manual dexterity.
- 10% Periods of walking significant distances carrying equipment and / or loads is required.

## **Environment – Working conditions**

The majority of work required by the post involves the use of machinery. (Chainsaws, wood chippers, tractors & stump grinders). The postholder is required to work outside in all weather and ground conditions and in moving traffic on a daily basis. The postholder may be required to work near or in water courses. The postholder may be exposed to vibration, noise, dust, dirt, fuels and oils, fumes, rubbish and contaminated waste including syringes & faeces. The postholder will be exposed on a daily basis to vibration, noise, dust, dirt, fuels and oils, fumes, rubbish and contaminated waste including syringes & faeces.

## **Environment – Work Context**

The postholder will be expected to operate a range of vehicles, machinery and equipment associated with protecting, maintaining, and enhancing the City of Edinburgh's Trees & Woodlands.

Constant vigilance while works are being executed is of paramount importance. There is a substantial risk of serious injury or death to the postholder, staff, and/or members of the public if correct health and safety procedures are not followed. The postholder on occasion may have to operate under dangerous conditions in order to make a hazardous problem safe

The physical and repetitive nature of the post can place the postholder under increased pressure. Extra care must be taken to manage fatigue whilst making routine important decisions. This may become more pronounced during adverse weather conditions.

Traffic management and access or egress to work sites involve to postholder to deal with enquiries and complaints. This may require on occasion the postholder to cope with agitated or aggressive people with an appropriate level of calmness and professionalism.

## **Knowledge and Skills**

Requires up-to-date knowledge of relevant legislation, best practice, council policies and procedures.

SVQ level 3 in Arboriculture / Forestry or equivalent or commit to secure certification within 36 months of appointment. In exceptional cases this requirement may be satisfied through relevant experience and demonstrated competence.

Evidence of continuing professional development and a broad understanding of current issues in arboriculture and forestry to be kept on record.

The Arborist Climber must have a Lantra Basic Tree Survey and inspection certificate and NPTC's 30, 31, 32, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 44, 45, 47, and 48 or give a commitment to secure certification within 36 months of appointment. The Arborist Climber must have a LANTRA Basic/ Professional Tree inspection certificate and NPTC certificates 201, 202, 203, 301, 302, 206/306, 305, 307, 308, 309, 42, 46, 47, and 48, AO6 Branch Chipper, AO7 Stump Grinder, or give a commitment to secure certification within 36 months of appointment

Hold a current NPTC Certificate of Competence in use of Pesticides PA1 + PA6a, or give a commitment to gaining these certificates within 36 months of appointment.

Current, full driving licence and hold a C1 / C1E Medium sized vehicles, with or without trailers licences or give a commitment to secure certification within 36 months of appointment.

### **Experience required**

A minimum of 2 years arboricultural experience is required, preferably including management and supervision of employees and trainees.

Experience of working with members of the public is essential.

Experience of interpreting and implementing Health and Safety procedures and policy.

Experience of planning and delivering quality customer services.



During the working day the postholder is required to use their initiative to organise competing work demands. This may be at very short notice i.e. to attend emergency tree work sites. These events can take place throughout the year and are most frequent during severe weather conditions.

William Fraser  
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