

Summary

Job title	Estate Worker (Forestry/Woodland)
Division	University Administration and Services
Department	Estates Services – OGE
Location	Various based at Wytham Woods
Grade and salary	Grade 4: £27,838 - £31,459 per annum
Hours	Full time
Contract type	Permanent
Reporting to	Senior Estate Worker
Vacancy reference	177634

The role

The Oxford Green Estate (OGE) is part of the Asset and Space Management team within Estates Services. The OGE consists of twenty-six properties with the key sites being Wytham Woods, the Wytham Estate, Wolvercote Meadows and Park Farm. The role of the OGE is to maximise the potential usage of the estate for research, education and biodiversity whilst managing the land in a sustainable manner.

Working across the OGE, the Estates Worker will be responsible for all areas of woodland management and maintenance.

The post holder will be expected to use their own initiative and often undertake tasks with minimum supervision, provide a flexible on-site service which responds to changing demands and priorities and to keep up-to-date with new technologies and legislation as required.

The post holder will be expected to work across all or any sites as required but might be allocated a site for which they will take primary responsibility. The post holder will therefore be expected to be conversant with the Health and Safety aspects relevant to any site on which they are working.

Responsibilities

Security

- Liaise with the OUSS on general site security in accordance with University policy
- Maintain the security of the sites
- Identify maintenance failures
- Instruct, and manage minor contractor work



Maintenance

- Day-to-day liaison with contractors, researchers, and general public.
- Assist with the management of the Woodland visitors permit system
- Assist professional deer stalkers with the deer management program
- Assist with the management of the woodland boundary
- Maintain a close working relationship with local stakeholders, which include commercial, residential and agricultural tenants and neighboring landowners.
- Driving and maintenance of estate vehicles including tractors, All Terrain Bikes and 4WD pick-ups.
- Woodland management including planting, thinning, brushing, felling and pollarding.
- Construct and repair all types of stock and deer fencing and the maintenance of roads, rides and ditches using tracked excavators and rollers.
- Grassland management including the use of herbicide, mowing and fencing.
- Day-to-day application of Health and Safety procedures.
- To maintain estate buildings in a safe standard and compliance with Health and Safety and requirements.
- Ability to check equipment is operating efficiently as designed
- Ability to make adjustments / minor repairs to small pieces of equipment

Ad hoc duties

- Contribute to the development of OGE policies as required.
- Deal with a variety of stakeholders including permit holders, researchers and members of the public in a sympathetic and sensitive way
- Provide holiday cover for other members of the team as required
- Any other duties as directed by the Senior Estates Worker, Conservator or Senior Rural Surveyor

Selection criteria

Essential selection criteria

- Practical experience of estate management
- NPTC Chainsaw Certification
 - CS 30 Chainsaw Maintenance and Cross Cutting
 - CS 31 Chainsaw Felling Trees up to 380mm Diameter
 - CS 32 Chainsaw Felling Trees from 380mm to 760mm Diameter
 - CS 34 Chainsaw Felling Individual Windblown Trees
- Excellent communication skills
- Experience of tractors, 4WD pick-ups and All Terrain Bikes.
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to solve problems sensitively
- Knowledge of Health and Safety and Compliance requirements
- The ability to use tractor mounted flails and swipes.
- Ability to work flexible hours
- Advanced chainsaw training
- Experience in erecting a variety of fencing types

Desirable selection criteria

- NPTC Pesticide Certification PA1, PA6A and PA2A
- Ability to use a variety of specialist vehicles e.g. tracked excavators, mobile elevated platforms
- Experience of timber extraction

Pre-employment screening

Standard checks

If you are offered the post, the offer will be subject to standard pre-employment checks. You will be asked to provide: proof of your right-to-work in the UK; proof of your identity; and (if we haven't done so already) we will contact the referees you have nominated. If you have previously worked for the University we will also verify key information such as your dates of employment and reason for leaving your previous role with the department/unit where you worked. You will also be asked to complete a health declaration so that you can tell us about any health conditions or disabilities for which you may need us to make appropriate adjustments.

Please read the candidate notes on the University's pre-employment screening procedures at: <https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/pre-employment-checks>

Hazard-specific / Safety-critical duties

This job includes hazards or safety-critical activities. If you are offered the post, you will be asked to complete a health questionnaire, which will be assessed by our Occupational Health Service, and the offer of employment will be subject a successful outcome of this assessment.

The hazards or safety-critical duties involved are as follows:

- Lone Working
- Regular manual handling
- Working at heights

About the University of Oxford

Welcome to the University of Oxford. We aim to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford's researchers engage with academic, commercial and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts.

We believe our strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, while providing all our staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that enables everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is our strength, vital for innovation and creativity, we aspire to build a truly diverse community which values and respects every individual's unique contribution.

While we have long traditions of scholarship, we are also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities and we rank first in the UK for university spin-outs, and in recent years we have spun out 15-20 new companies every year. We are also recognised as leaders in support for social enterprise.

Join us and you will find a unique, democratic and international community, a great range of staff benefits and access to a vibrant array of cultural activities in the beautiful city of Oxford.

For more information, please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation.

Estates Services

Estates Services is responsible for the management and strategic development of the University's functional and commercial estate, comprising 440 buildings, and associated infrastructure. The University's functional buildings include specialist research buildings, teaching laboratories and lecture halls, sports facilities, libraries and museums, administrative and ceremonial buildings. Commercial properties include graduate accommodation, office space, warehouses and agricultural land and property.

The day-to-day responsibilities of Estates Services include managing the capital building programme, aimed at delivering world class new buildings; repairs and maintenance, including upkeep of some of the finest buildings in the city; facilities management for a number of University buildings; the provision of central services such as mail room services; maintaining a safe and secure physical environment; the allocation of space for departmental use; property acquisitions, disposals and leases; accommodation for graduate students at eight sites, as well as housing for key staff; conserving Wytham Woods and University Parks, and managing gardens and landscapes across the estate; carbon reduction strategies across the University and helping staff and students to make sustainable workplace and travel choices.

For more information please visit: <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates>

University Administration and Services

University Administration and Services (UAS) is the collective term for the central administrative departments of the University. UAS comprises structures to:

Support the University's core academic purposes of teaching, learning and research;

Ensure the University can meet the requirements of government, funding bodies and other external agencies; and

Facilitate the attainment of the objectives set out in the University's Strategic Plan.

How to apply

Applications are made through our online recruitment portal. Information about how to apply is available on our Jobs website <https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/how-to-apply>.

Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how you demonstrate that you meet the selection criteria stated in the job description.

As part of your application you will be asked to provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them now.

You will be asked to upload a CV and a supporting statement. The supporting statement must explain how you meet each of the selection criteria for the post using examples of your skills and experience. This may include experience gained in employment, education, or during career breaks (such as time out to care for dependants)

Please upload all documents **as PDF files** with your name and the document type in the filename.

All applications must be received by **midday** UK time on the closing date stated in the online advertisement.

Information for priority candidates

A priority candidate is a University employee who is seeking redeployment because they have been advised that they are at risk of redundancy, or on grounds of ill-health/disability. Priority candidates are issued with a redeployment letter by their employing department(s).

If you are a priority candidate, please ensure that you attach your redeployment letter to your application (or email it to the contact address on the advert if the application form used for the vacancy does not allow attachments).

If you need help

Application FAQs, including technical troubleshooting advice is available at: <https://staff.web.ox.ac.uk/recruitment-support-faqs>

Non-technical questions about this job should be addressed to the recruiting department directly uashr@admin.ox.ac.uk

To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: www.recruit.ox.ac.uk.

Please note that you will receive an automated email from our online recruitment portal to confirm receipt of your application. **Please check your spam/junk mail** if you do not receive this email.

Important information for candidates

Data Privacy

Please note that any personal data submitted to the University as part of the job application process will be processed in accordance with the GDPR and related UK data protection legislation. For further information, please see the University's Privacy Notice for Job Applicants at: <https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/job-applicant-privacy-policy>. The University's Policy on Data Protection is available at: <https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-protection-policy>.

The University's policy on retirement

The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for very senior research posts at **grade RSIV/D35 and clinical equivalents E62 and E82** of 30 September before the 70th birthday. The justification for this is explained at: <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>.

For **existing** employees on these grades, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>.

There is no normal or fixed age at which staff in posts at other grades have to retire. Staff at these grades may elect to retire in accordance with the rules of the applicable pension scheme, as may be amended from time to time.

Equality of opportunity

Entry into employment with the University and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. No applicant or member of staff shall be discriminated against because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Benefits of working at the University

Employee benefits

University employees enjoy 38 days' paid holiday, generous pension schemes, flexible working options, travel discounts including salary sacrifice schemes for bicycles and electric cars and other discounts. Staff can access a huge range of personal and professional development opportunities. See <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/staff-benefits>

Employee Assistance Programme

As part of our wellbeing offering staff get free access to Health Assured, a confidential employee assistance programme, available 24/7 for 365 days a year. Find out more <https://staff.admin.ox.ac.uk/health-assured-eap>

University Club and sports facilities

Membership of the University Club is free for University staff. It offers social, sporting, and hospitality facilities. Staff can also use the University Sports Centre on Iffley Road at discounted rates, including a fitness centre, powerlifting room, and swimming pool. See www.club.ox.ac.uk and <https://www.sport.ox.ac.uk/>.

Information for staff new to Oxford

If you are relocating to Oxfordshire from overseas or elsewhere in the UK, the University's Welcome Service includes practical information about settling in the area, including advice on relocation, accommodation, and local schools. See <https://welcome.ox.ac.uk/>

There is also a visa loan scheme to cover the costs of UK visa applications for staff and their dependants. See <https://staffimmigration.admin.ox.ac.uk/visa-loan-scheme>

Family-friendly benefits

We are a family-friendly employer with one of the most generous family leave schemes in the Higher Education sector. Our Childcare Services team provides guidance and support on childcare provision, and offers a range of high quality childcare options at affordable prices for staff. In addition to 5 University nurseries, we partner with a number of local providers to offer in excess of 450 full time nursery places to our staff. Eligible parents are able to pay for childcare through salary sacrifice, further reducing costs. See <https://childcare.admin.ox.ac.uk/>. We also subscribe to the Work+Family Space, a service that provides practical advice and support for employees who have caring responsibilities for dependants of all types. See <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/my-family-care>

Supporting disability and health-related issues (inc menopause)

We are committed to supporting members of staff with disabilities or long-term health conditions, including those experiencing negative effects of menopause. Information about the University's Staff Disability Advisor, is at <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/disability-support>. For information about how we support those going through menopause see <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/menopause-guidance>

Staff networks

The University has a number of staff networks including for research staff, BME staff, LGBT+ staff, disabled staff network and those going through menopause. Find out more at <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/networks>

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club is run by volunteers that aims to assist the partners of new staff settle into Oxford, and provides them with an opportunity to meet people and make connections in the local area. See www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk.

Research staff

The Researcher Hub supports all researchers on fixed-term contracts. They aim to help you settle in comfortably, make connections, grow as a person, extend your research expertise and approach your next career step with confidence. Find out more <https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/support-researchers/researcher-hub>

Oxford's Research Staff Society is a collective voice for our researchers. They also organise social and professional networking activities for researchers. Find out more <https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/support-researchers/connecting-other-researchers/oxford-research-staff-society>