

Job Profile

Job Title: Tree and Landscape (Planning) Officer

Job Grade: Level 4 Zone 1

Salary Range: £40,652 - £46,779

About Camden

'Camden is building somewhere everyone can thrive, by making our borough the best place to live, work, study and visit. Because, we're not just home to UK's fast-growing economy. We're home to the most important conversations happening today. And we're making radical social change a reality, so that nobody gets left behind. Here's where you can help decide a better future for us all.

In 2019, Camden declared a climate and ecological emergency and held the UK's first Citizens' Assembly on the climate crisis. Trees are an essential part of the fight against climate change. Trees not only capture carbon, they prevent flooding, reduce city temperatures, reduce pollution and keep soil nutrient-rich. Whilst planting new trees is essential, we also need to protect the ones we have.

About the role

The Tree and Landscape Officer (Planning) post will lead on the assessment and determination of Tree Preservation Order notifications and Section 211 notification under delegated authority within set timeframes. They will be responsible for investigating unauthorised works to trees, establishing whether a breach of legislation has taken place and providing formal advice on planning applications and pre-application enquiries. They will ensure that all reports, correspondence, written and telephone enquiries and complaints are dealt with within target response times and that quality and content meet required standards. The post-holder will take responsibility for effective negotiation, stakeholder involvement and conflict resolution to ensure high quality and innovative outcomes that reflect Council wide objectives and policies. To negotiate planning obligations and/or contributions through CIL/S106. The post-holder will take personal responsibility to ensure all Development Management decisions relating to tree and landscape issues comply with relevant legislation, statutory and other Council plans, policies and guidelines and that these decisions can effectively defended in planning appeals as necessary. This will include taking responsibility for the preparation of evidence for appeals and giving verbal evidence for the Council at Planning appeals and court proceedings. The role will be responsible for customer and Councillor enquiries and complaints relating to tree enquiries and ensuring responses are provided in

accordance with Council policy and procedures. This will include undertaking meetings with external stakeholders in relation to pre-application requests and planning applications and internal departments in relation to proposed tree works.

The role will undertake monitoring and check that replacement tree planting has taken place following the felling of TPO trees, advising on the size, location and species of replacement tree planting. The post-holder will be responsible for managing and responding to 5-day notice for dead or dangerous trees. This will include taking responsibility for managing inquiries submitted to the Council under High Hedges legislation.

The role will be responsible for Identifying trees requiring protection and make new Tree Preservation Orders. This will include taking responsibility for projects seeking to secure the greater protection of trees within the Borough working with other internal department and external stakeholders. This may including lobbying action or other proactive projects

The role will involve advising and mentoring Planning Technicians undertaking tree validation and consultation work including monitoring their work.

The post holder will play a role in leading on digital improvements and maintenance of the Councils register of tree decisions and existing Tree Preservation Orders to provide accurate reporting of tree data for Council searches and monitoring purposes. This includes analysis and presentation of data for Freedom of Information requests and reports, independently or with the Team Manager.

About you

- Ability to assist with the Council's Rapid Response Unit for reports of unauthorised works to trees and attendance at evening meetings, as required
- You will hold a minimum level 3 Arboricultural qualification, a working knowledge of BS5837:2012 and have experience of working within Development Management in a local authority environment
- You will have knowledge of current Arboricultural & landscaping best practice
- Ability to self-allocate work, take personal responsibility to make your own informed and robust decisions complying with legislation and preparing reports under delegated authority within timeframes.
- Ability to undertake enforcement investigations to establish if a breach of legislation has taken place, determining appropriate course of action, serve formal notices include replacement notices and reviewing whether there is a case for prosecution action in line with Camden's Enforcement Plan.

- Ability to prepare written evidence and give verbal evidence for planning appeals and prosecution action.
- Ability to be an expert witness at a planning appeal and prosecution procedures.
- You will be calm under pressure, identify tree amenity levels, assess the potential loss and/or damage if consent and potential financial liability to the Council in any future claims and deal with urgent enquiries.
- You will be able to prioritise a caseload of time-sensitive notifications, enforcement investigations, enquiries and consultation requests whilst undertaking project work.
- Experience of Northgate/M3 planning system is desirable.
- You will be able to review evidence to determine whether trees are dead or diseased within tight timeframes and have experience of identifying tree species and common pests and diseases.
- Ability to analyse legal claim reports in relation to TPO applications.
- Experience of interpreting and applying the Town and Country Planning Act in relation to trees and the Antisocial Behaviour Act for High Hedges.

Work Environment:

Predominantly office based with external meetings and site visits. Willingness to work outside normal office hours on occasion is essential.

People Management Responsibilities:

- None

Relationships:

- Reports to an area Development Management team manager and Head of Development Management Service.
- Partnership working with other regulatory services within the council and elsewhere eg pollution control, transport planners, private sector housing, street environment services, major land owners, developers and applicants; with residents/amenity groups and elected members.

Over to you

We're ready to welcome your ideas, your views, and your rebellious spirit. Help us redefine how we're supporting people, and we'll redefine what a career can be. If that sounds good to you, we'd love to talk

Is this role Politically Restricted?

Some posts at Camden are politically restricted, which means individuals holding these posts cannot have active political role. For a list of all politically restricted roles at Camden [click here](#).

Diversity & Inclusion

At Camden, we value and celebrate difference and encourage diversity in all respects. Our diverse workforce ensures we represent our communities to the best of our ability and enables us to make better decisions. Because of this, we particularly welcome applications from Black, Asian and other ethnic groups, those who identify as LGBT+, neurodiverse and disabled people. Click [Diversity and Inclusion](#) for more information on our commitment.

Agile working

At Camden we view work as an activity, not a place. We focus on performance, not presenteeism. We create trusting relationships, we embrace innovation rather than bureaucracy and we value people. Collaboration is the Camden way, silo working isn't.

At Camden we are proud to be one of Hire Me My Way's inaugural campaign supporters. Hire Me My Way is a national campaign led by Timewise, designed to increase the volume of good quality jobs that can be worked flexibly in the UK (www.HireMeMyWay.org.uk). Hire Me My Way aims to treble the number of available good quality flexible jobs to 1 million by 2020.

Asking for Adjustments

Camden is committed to making our recruitment practices barrier-free and as accessible as possible for everyone. This includes making adjustments or changes for disabled people, neurodiverse people or people with long-term health conditions. If you would like us to do anything differently during the application, interview or assessment process, including providing information in an alternative format, please contact us on 020 7974 6655, at resourcing@camden.gov.uk or post to 5 Pancras Square, London, N1C 4AG.