

JOB VACANCY: LAND DRAINAGE OPERATIVE



37.5 HOURS PER WEEK

ANNUAL SALARY: £25,000 - £28,000

(Depending on qualifications and experience)

ATTRACTIVE BENEFITS PACKAGE

Due to retirement from within the team, an exciting opportunity has arisen for a Land Drainage Operative to join the Bedford Group of Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs). This opportunity is to work as a **Land Drainage Operative** within the Operations Team.

You will operate machinery and work efficiently to ensure watercourse & asset maintenance is carried out to alleviate flood risk within the catchment. As a member of the Operations team, you will undertake maintenance works as instructed and to the standard detailed to ensure the Boards assets & watercourses function adequately & in accordance with the Boards health & safety and environmental policies.

Although the Boards office is based at Stewartby, Bedford, you are often required to travel across the catchment area to working sites and vehicle allowances are provided.

The appointment offers and competitive salary depending on qualifications and experience together with local government pension and opportunities to progress and develop knowledge & skills.

For more information about the Bedford Group of Drainage Boards, please look at our website www.idbs.org.uk. For more information regarding this role, please don't hesitate to contact Phillip Lovesey, Operations Manager on **01234 767995** or **phillip.lovesey@idbs.org.uk**.

If you would like to apply for the Land Drainage Operative post, please email **contact@idbs.org.uk** attaching your up-to-date CV or post a paper copy of your CV, with a covering letter, to Bedford Group of IDBs, Vale House, Broadmead Road, Stewartby, Bedford, MK43 9ND.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 4pm on Wednesday 27th March 2024.

We look forward to receiving your application.



Job Description

Job title:	Land Drainage Operative
Team/Department:	Operations Team
Location:	Anywhere within Bedfordshire & River Ivel / Buckingham & River & Ouzel IDB districts with base set at Broadmead Road, Stewartby, Bedford, MK43 9ND
Responsible to:	Operations Manager
Responsible for:	No line management responsibilities
Grade/Salary:	£25,000 to £28,000 (dependent upon experience and overtime)
Duration:	Full time, Permanent, 37.5 hours per week

Context

The **Bedford Group of Drainage Boards** is a group of like-minded Internal Drainage Boards (“IDBs”) operating in the upper reaches of the River Great Ouse catchment, from North Oxfordshire, through Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and Bedfordshire to Huntingdon. Together they share vision, values and standards, and have chosen to jointly administer their affairs in order to reduce costs, strengthen their own organisations and increase influence at both a national and regional level.

Internal Drainage Boards (“IDBs”) are local public authorities that manage flood risk and land drainage within areas of special drainage need in England. Each IDB has permissive powers to undertake water management activities within their Internal Drainage District. The purpose of delivering this work is to reduce flood risk to people and property and to manage water in a way that meets the local needs of business and agriculture, including during times of drought, whilst also dealing with its obligations and commitments to the environment. IDBs exercise a general power of supervision over all matters relating to water level management within their district whilst conducting their work in accordance with a number of general environmental duties and promoting the ecological wellbeing of their districts.

The Operations Team works alongside the Board Engineers to ensure that the Board’s systems function adequately to manage the water levels within the Bedford Group’s Internal Drainage District and in accordance with the Board’s Health & Safety and Environmental Policies.

As a **Land Drainage Operative**, you will work across the whole district undertaking maintenance works to the standard detailed to you. Working together as part of a small team of operatives reporting to the Board’s Site Manager and Operation’s Manager.

Main Responsibilities

Weed Cutting/Flailing

- Cutting weed-growth from the banks of the watercourse using a tractor and flail/Aebi.
- Clearing weed-growth from the channel of the watercourse using an excavator and depositing material on drain bank top.
- Pruning and/or removal of trees and bushes on drain banks.

Reforming/De-silting Works

- Reprofilng/De-silting of watercourse to original design standard, using an excavator, as specified by the Board’s Engineering Department.

Plant and Equipment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all plant and equipment that you are using is safe and that the relevant checks are carried out and forms filled in and any concerns or issues immediately reported to the Operations Manager/Site Manager. • Liaise with the Operations Manager/Site Manager to ensure that you have all the necessary equipment and materials available to carry out your duties. • Loading/unloading of materials. • Completion of vehicle log sheets and plant log sheets. • Collection and transportation of materials to site. • Miscellaneous site duties.
Environmental
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that you undertake all works in an environmentally sensitive manner in accordance with the Board's policy.
Health and Safety
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend any Health and Safety training courses deemed necessary by the Board to fulfil the Drainage Operative role. • Comply with the Board's Health and Safety Policy at all times and actively carry out a dynamic risk assessment before performing any task. • Comply fully with the lone working procedures.
Other Requirements and Duties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurately log the condition of drains and structures, reporting any problems/damage (e.g. slips) to the Operations Manager/Site Manager. • Participation in the duty rota to ensure that 24/7 cover is provided during a flood event. • Undertaking any training required to enable the post-holder to fulfil the role. • Undertaking any other duties that may reasonably be required within the role of Drainage Operative and understanding that the list of duties outline above is not exhaustive and is subject to change/periodic review.

Person Specification	
Qualifications	
Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CITB/Land Based training on Tractors/Excavators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chainsaw/Strimmer/Power Tools certification • Forklift/Telehandler Certification
Experience/Skills/Knowledge	
Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Tractor and mower/flailing attachments. • Minimum 3 years work experience in the Agricultural, Construction or Water Industry. • Must hold a full/valid UK driving licence and be prepared to travel across the district for the purpose of Board business. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chain sawing or tree felling operations. • Strimming and cutting operations. • Be able to read and interpret scaled drawings and plans. • Environmental and sustainable knowledge/awareness in watercourses and the surrounding areas.

Person Specification

- Must have excellent interpersonal and diplomacy skills and be a team player.
- Must be a practical, pragmatic, individual that is keen to learn/undertake all aspects of the role.
- Must be able to work effectively using initiative and be a hard worker.
- Must be able to read a map.
- Must have excellent timekeeping, be prompt and have positive outlook on the day.

Other Job Information (e.g. any special factors or constraints)

- You must be able to work, walk around and access watercourse and drainage catchments in all weather conditions.
- All work performed/duties undertaken must be carried out in accordance with relevant Bedford Group, Board and Departmental policies and procedures, within legislation, and with regard to the needs of our customers and landowners.
- Work within the public and Flood and Water Management sectors can involve dealing with new and emerging legislation.

Declaration and acknowledgement

I confirm that as of the date stated below the information in this job description is accurate and reflects the requirement of the role. Please note the details of the job description will be updated should substantively changes to the role occur or be proposed.

Line Manager:	Phillip Lovesey
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Position:	Operations Manager
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Date:	28/02/2024
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