Additional Role Information

As Assistant Harbour Master & Wye Navigation Officer, you will hold a dual remit.

The role combines hands-on operational work, navigational responsibilities, and stakeholder engagement. One day may involve practical maintenance or assisting harbour users; the next could be assessing tidal or weather impacts, updating navigational safety, writing reports, attending meetings, or responding to an incident.

This is a varied role providing the opportunity to play a key role in Harbour and Navigation operations and safety, and combine practical, office-based, rivers, marine, and hybrid-working responsibilities

What We Offer

- An attractive and competitive benefits package including an uplift for working non-sociable hours.
- Full training and professional development
- Some travelling for training, meetings, and co-working will be required (which may include overnight stays on occasions).

For a discussion about the role or for further information please contact Zie.Kalsi@environment-agency.gov.uk

The team

West Midlands Waterways is a small, dedicated and collaborative team, responsible for Navigation in the West Midlands Area. We are committed to keeping Lydney Harbour safe, compliant and efficient as per the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) and complying with our responsibilities to manage navigation as per The Wye Navigation Order - 2002.

The role has a strong degree of independence and requires initiative but also working close working with colleagues across operations and navigation.

The role

Key Responsibilities

- Assist in the safe and efficient operation of the harbour
- Oversee navigational safety, ensuring full compliance with maritime regulations and standards
- Monitor and respond to navigational factors including tides, weather conditions, and marine traffic
- Support the implementation and ongoing delivery of the Port Marine Safety Code and the Wye Navigation legislation
- Perform manual and operational duties
- Planning, reporting, and stakeholder communication by producing professional reports and engaging effectively with customers, colleagues, and external partners
- Respond to emergencies and on-call/out-of-hours duties

Working closely with our National Navigation Team and key stakeholders, you will play a pivotal role in shaping the long-term strategy of the site and support the implementation of new navigation standards. You will also support the professional delivery of Water, Land and Biodiversity asset management across the West Midlands Area.

Employee testimonials

“I have been employed by the Environment Agency since 2018, I am currently working within one of the field teams in HNL (Herts & North London).

My role involves maintaining many of the assets and flood storage areas within this region. Dealing with flood and pollution events is the primary function, acting as a category 1 responder.

This role has opened so many opportunities, not just within my professional life but also personal, having the chance to learn how to cut a tree or to drive a tractor were things I would have never thought about, let alone achieve and carry out with confidence.

This has impacted my life as I have realised I’m at the point where I often think what else am I capable of…”

Capabilities for the role

- Health & Safety awareness - Strong understanding of safe working practises and risk awareness in a marine or operational environment
- Experience in navigation—whether professional or recreational—and familiarity with port, harbour, or other safety-critical operational environments is preferred, alongside a strong awareness of the marine environment and its operational implications
- Knowledge of statutory frameworks e.g. Port Marine Safety Code, Wye Navigation Legislation is desirable (or a strong ability to learn quickly)
- Willingness and flexibility to travel to the River Wye and River Lugg (as operational needs require)
- Practical ability - physically capable of manual work such as lifting, carrying, and small-scale maintenance/repairs
- Communication and people skills – confident engaging with customers, colleagues, and external stakeholders
- Problem-solving & decision-making – proactive, adaptable, and able to take initiative, especially in time-critical or emergency situations
- Stakeholder Management - ability to build constructive relationships with local users, partner organisations, and regulators
- Commitment to continuous learning- both technical and practical
- Deputising for the Harbour Master when required
- IT & admin skills – competent in MS Office, able to write clear reports and keep accurate records
- Flexibility – willing to work some evenings weekends and out of hours including emergency response
- Driving - Full UK driving licence
- Distance - able to reach Lydney Harbour within one hour