

## The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) Job Description

### Introduction

The Food and Environment Research Agency's over arching purpose is to support and develop a sustainable food chain, a healthy natural environment, and to protect the global community from biological and chemical risks. Our role within that is to provide robust evidence, rigorous analysis and professional advice to Government, international organisations and the private sector.

### Post details

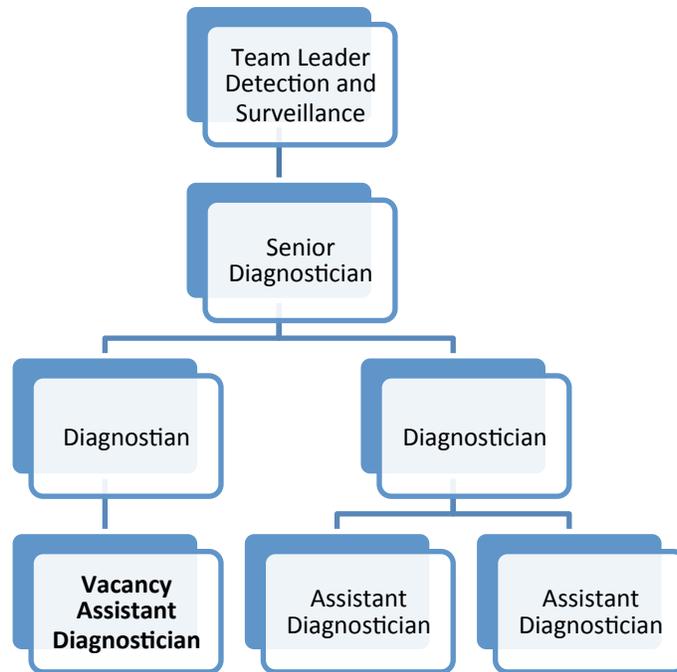
<b>Job Title:</b>	Assistant Diagnostician (4 posts)		
<b>CSP ref:</b>	CSP 3951	<b>Closing date:</b>	17 February 2014
<b>Band:</b>	2	<b>Location:</b>	Sand Hutton, York
<b>Status:</b>	Fixed Term Appointment (2 Years)		

### This vacancy is within the Plant Protection Programme

The Plant Protection Programme provides multidisciplinary research, diagnosis and advice in support of plant protection within the UK and overseas. The Detection and Surveillance team are part of this Programme providing pest and disease identification service for the UK Plant Health and Seeds Inspectors, to other research teams within Fera and to commercial customers from both the UK and overseas.

The scientific teams work closely together and are supported by a number of centralised facilities: the Molecular Technology Unit (MTU), glasshouses and business support.

## Organisation Chart



### Purpose of job:

To assist with diagnosis within the Plant Protection Programme at Fera in support of statutory and commercial diagnostic work.

### The post holder will:

Prepare and test samples for specified plant pathogens across a range of plant pathology disciplines and report on work to line manager and senior staff as appropriate. In addition to the day-to-day service delivery work, this role involves assistance with maintenance of laboratory consumables, equipment and facilities as well as working within quality systems, required as part of official accreditation schemes such as ISO 17025.

### Specific tasks include:

- Providing diagnostic assistance to identify plant pathogens on samples arriving in the plant clinic.
- Assist with survey work to monitor for the presence of specific plant pathogens, key elements include:
  - Preparation and labelling of consumables
  - Processing samples in support of diagnostic analysis by morphological, cultural, serological or molecular techniques.
  - Stock control/ordering consumables used in diagnostic work
- Assist in validation and implementation of improvements in diagnostic and detection methods.
- Be responsible for helping to maintain routinely used facilities and equipment.
- Work to ISO17025 and ISO9001 quality accreditation standards.
- Assist with the production of media and buffers where necessary.
- Provide support for other work in the Plant Protection Programme as required.

## Benefits of working at The Food and Environment Research Agency

The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) offers an attractive benefits and salary package. This includes a minimum of 25 days leave plus 8 bank holidays plus an additional day off for the Queen's Birthday, generous maternity and paternity entitlements, flexible working hours and a pension package.

Starting salaries depend on the skills, experience and qualifications that you bring to the post.

The following are some of the benefits that our employees enjoy:

- Competitive salaries.
- Pension: A choice of a Civil Service defined benefit scheme or stakeholder defined contribution arrangement.
- 25 days annual leave, rising to 30 days with five years' service. A further eight days of Bank Holidays and an additional day off for the Queen's Birthday.
- Generous maternity and paternity leave
- Salary sacrifice: childcare vouchers & cycle to work scheme.
- On-site nursery (*Sand Hutton, York site only*).
- Learning and development opportunities.
- Flexible working practices.
- Flexible working patterns: Fera encourages flexible working patterns, such as part time, job share, term time working and working from home where appropriate.
- Subsidised staff restaurant: There is a subsidised staff restaurant serving high quality breakfast, snacks and lunches on the Sand Hutton site.
- Welfare and Health & Wellbeing service.
- Subsidised Sports and Social Club, including on site gym (*Sand Hutton, York site only*).
- An extensive Information Centre (*Sand Hutton, York site only*).

For more detailed information on the Fera benefits package, please see information pack provided or visit our website.