



**Plant Operator / Senior Plant Operator**  
**Brighton and Hove**  
**Salary: £24,054 - £26,845**  
**Job reference: orbis/TP/1548/30717**

### **Job introduction**

Are you skilled at using a mechanical excavator and/or dumper truck?  
Are you experienced undertaking precision groundwork excavation?  
Have you a conscientious approach to health and safety in the workplace?  
Do you have an empathetic and caring nature?  
Are you looking for a responsible job role with a sense of satisfaction?

If so, then this could be the job for you. Brighton & Hove City Council is seeking to appoint a plant operator to undertake the specialist role of grave digging within their cemeteries' grounds maintenance team.

The post of Plant Operator in cemeteries is a responsible and challenging one that requires the post holder to have a diverse skill set: the abilities to operate a mechanical excavator and a dumper truck with dexterity, to carry out heavy, manual work in all weathers, to deal sympathetically with the recently bereaved and to complete paperwork relating to burials accurately.

### **About the role**

Within the city of Brighton & Hove the council owns and manages seven cemeteries, covering an area of almost 170 acres, to the highest standard possible and in accordance with the requirements of statutory law, bylaws and customs, including religious and ethnic considerations.

We are seeking to appoint a plant operator to join our cemeteries' grounds maintenance team. The successful candidate must be able to operate a mechanical excavator and a dumper truck with a high degree of dexterity and able to carry out heavy, manual work should graves need to be dug or back filled by hand.

Duties of the role include measuring and marking out grave spaces, using mechanical equipment and/or hand tools to dig and prepare graves and keeping graves tidy. Other duties include checking headstones for damage and removing those that are unsafe and maintaining lawns, verges and plants around the cemetery.

The post holders must have conscientious approach to health and safety in the workplace, particularly in and around graves where they will erect shoring, to safeguard against grave collapse, and set out matting and boarding for bearers to stand on at the graveside.

The successful candidate will be diligent, enthusiastic, willing to learn and a good team player and willing to do whatever is required to get the job done. The candidate must be prepared to work outdoors in all weathers and in challenging conditions. Working with other funeral and cemetery staff is vital to the role, as good communication skills and a caring and compassionate nature for dealing with the bereaved.

Grave digging will be the primary purpose of the role but, when not performing interment duties, post holders are to assist the grounds maintenance team with grass and hedge cutting and any other duties required to maintain cemetery grounds to a high standard.

Candidates are required to hold and a full UK driving licence and ideally have carried out CPCS excavator training or equivalent.

Contracted working hours are 37 per week, Monday to Friday.

We are seeking an experienced, dedicated and responsible plant operator who can demonstrate the following qualities:

- Detailed knowledge of grave digging techniques including shoring.
- Experience of operating a mechanical excavator and dumper.
- Able and willing to work as part of a small team.
- A conscientious approach to personal health and safety and that of colleagues and the public in the workplace.
- Basic knowledge of burial legislation.
- Ability to deal courteously and sensitively with the recently bereaved.
- Some knowledge of requirements of various faiths.
- Basic knowledge of horticulture.

Closing date: 5 March 2023.

Interview date: week commencing 13 March 2023.

For an informal discussion, please contact David Cooper - Operations Manager at [david.c.cooper@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:david.c.cooper@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

#### **Encouraging a diverse workforce**

Our city is known and loved for its diversity. Not only is the mixture of people, culture and skills vital to the economic and social development of the city, it's what makes Brighton & Hove such a great place to live, work and visit. We are committed to developing and retaining a workforce that is representative of the diverse communities we serve so we welcome applications from individuals from all backgrounds. In order to achieve our aims of proportionate representation, we particularly encourage applicants from a BME or White Other background as well as those who identify as disabled, male or trans.

Find out more about our commitment to being a fair and inclusive place to work where everyone can achieve their potential by reading about our [fair and inclusive](#) actions, our [anti-racism strategy](#) and the work we are doing to [encourage a diverse workforce \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](#).

**Apply link:** [https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/jobs/job-details?job\\_id=30719](https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/jobs/job-details?job_id=30719)