

Ardent



CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

Associate – Land Services (Land & Utilities)

Location: Cambridge

Presented by Joshua Robert on behalf of Ardent.



About Ardent

Ardent is an infrastructure and regeneration specialist whose purpose is to deliver life-improving change for communities and future generations.

The business supports major infrastructure projects across the UK and Ireland, working with clients in the energy, transport, and renewables sectors, city and town regeneration, as well as offering comprehensive services in land referencing, promotion, implementation, and compensation, delivering technical excellence in all aspects of the land and consents services that are provided.

Ardent has the largest team of CPO surveyors in the UK and Ireland and is the market leader in both Land Assembly & Compulsory Purchase and Development Consent Order (DCO) land advice. Their track record speaks for itself with over 35 years in business, 100+ DCOs submitted, involvement in more than 150 major DCO, CPO and TWAO projects, and experience acting as the property expert at over 100 DCO examinations to date.

The business has recently moved to a regional operating model, with presence in the East of England, London & South East, South West, Midlands, North West, North East and beyond, bringing its former valuation & compensation and land assembly teams together into a single Land Services function in each region.

Where Ardent is Going

Ardent's growth isn't just a future ambition, it's already well underway, having grown into the largest CPO team in the UK and Ireland and the market leader in Land Assembly & Compulsory Purchase Advice. That growth is set to accelerate further, with Ardent having set out a 10-year plan to 2035.

This means real scope for career progression as the business scales, and influence over how a region gets built. Building out Cambridge and the East of England is part of Ardent's growth in action. That makes this a key hire for the business, and an exciting opportunity for the successful candidate to help establish one of its newest regional teams.

35

Years
Experience



15,000

New Homes
Supported



15

Million Homes Powered
by Ardent Projects



The Opportunity

An experienced Land & Property professional to help build Ardent's presence in Cambridge and the wider East of England.

Job Title	Associate - Land Services (Land & Utilities)
Location	Cambridge (hybrid)
Reporting to	Senior Associate Director & Regional Head, East of England
Salary	Highly Competitive + Car Allowance
Seniority	Associate Level

Ardent's East of England office is new and follows the wider move to a regional structure. The business is looking for an Associate to join its Land Services team, as an opportunity has arisen in Cambridge for someone capable of leading the land and utilities interface on a major rail infrastructure project.

The Associate - Land Services (Land & Utilities) - role exists to ensure the office has a commercial and technical head for its day-to-day delivery. This isn't therefore simply a business-development appointment, there's deliberate breadth built into the role with exposure to regional projects across the solar, wind, transport, and utilities sectors.

As the region builds from the ground up, there's also an expectation to mentor and develop junior team members over time, and to support the Senior Associate Director in managing the overall regional workload so they can focus on winning work and growing the office.

It's worth noting that several of Ardent's current senior leaders joined as graduates or junior surveyors and have progressed to Senior Associate Director and Director level. This route to senior leadership is achieved faster than what's typically available at larger, more traditional firms. For the right candidate, joining a region at this early stage carries that same kind of career growth opportunity.

The successful candidate will:

- Manage land, property and utility workstreams across nationally significant infrastructure and utility projects
- Pick up work across regional projects (across the solar, wind, transport, and utilities sectors)
- Build their own network in the early weeks and months, with the candidate encouraged to spend time in both the Cambridge and London offices
- Contribute to bids and business development to support the region's growth targets
- Mentor and develop more junior hires as the team grows from the ground up

The Ideal Candidate

The preferred candidate will have the following experience and attributes:

- Experience delivering land services on infrastructure, utilities, energy or transport projects
- Strong understanding of land acquisition and access processes, including negotiating voluntary agreements, rights and easements
- Experience managing stakeholder relationships with landowners, occupiers, legal teams, local authorities and statutory undertakers
- Knowledge of compulsory purchase, compensation and associated statutory frameworks
- Ability to lead project workstreams, manage programmes and coordinate multidisciplinary teams
- Comfortable taking responsibility for project financial performance, resource planning, risk management and budget control
- Strong report writing, analytical and advisory skills, with the ability to provide strategic client advice
- Experience negotiating commercial agreements and securing land rights to support delivery
- An understanding of planning, consenting and environmental processes in infrastructure development
- Chartered status (MRICS, FRAAS or equivalent) preferred but not essential
- An Associate with the potential to rapidly progress
- Client-side professionals are also considered
- A commercial mindset, with the ability to spot opportunities with existing and prospective clients, and genuine interest in helping build and shape a growing regional team



Why Join Ardent?

Ardent's purpose is straightforward: delivering life-improving change for communities and future generations.

It's a mission the leadership team treats as something to be lived, not just communicated. The business has grown on the strength of being a market leader in land and consents advice, and is now working to a defined plan for 2035, while keeping the personal, collaborative culture it was built on.

That culture is shaped by five values Ardent asks everyone to live by day to day: a thirst for knowledge, owning what you do, being the difference, enjoying the journey, and adapting as the business and its markets change.

Career development is treated as a genuine priority. Ardent invests in structured training and development, supports people toward the qualifications they need, and has a strong record of promoting from within, with several current directors and senior consultants starting as Assistant Surveyors or Assistant Consultants.

For someone joining a region during its build-out phase, that same commitment to backing people applies just as much to building a team locally. Ardent's people also point to the variety and significance of the projects on offer, from HS2 and Sizewell C to major regeneration schemes like the Brentford Football Club stadium redevelopment, and to a deliberate effort to give people breadth across sectors rather than siloing them on one scheme.



Benefits Package

- Highly competitive salary, positioned ahead of the market
- Car allowance
- Standard bonus scheme linked to business and team financial performance
- Smart (hybrid) working policy
- Private healthcare through Benenden Health, including 24/7 GP and mental health helplines, physiotherapy, and cancer support
- Wellbeing care and support, plus discounted health and lifestyle benefits
- Cycle to work scheme
- Regular company and social events, and a genuine culture of charity and community involvement
- Broad exposure across wider sectors and projects
- A collaborative, values-led culture with real investment in developing people



Contact

For a confidential discussion about this opportunity please contact:



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