

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Job Title: Farm Advisor/ Project Officer**

**Purpose:** To deliver two main projects: Providing farm advice, support and training for the ‘Help for Forgotten Farms’ project; Starting up and developing a project for riparian woodland creation.

**Reports to:** Trust Manager

**Location:** Currently home-based, but once CV-19 restrictions allow, working from the Lune Rivers Trust office in Morecambe. Frequent site work will be required, at locations across the Lune catchment, particularly the Tebay and Upper Wenning areas.

**Hours:** Full-time 37.5 hours per week.

**Contract:** 12 month fixed term contract (with potential to extend)

The Lune Rivers Trust is a charity dedicated to the conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvement of the River Lune throughout its whole length and its associated tributaries in Cumbria, Yorkshire and North Lancashire. **Our aim is to protect and improve the riverine habitat to encourage the biodiversity of the River Lune and its tributaries.**

Originally starting out as the Lune Habitat Group in 2000, the Lune Rivers Trust was formed in 2008. We are also the Defra Catchment Based Approach host organisation for the Lune catchment.

The Lune Rivers Trust is a small but ambitious environmental charity, with three full time staff (including the Farm Advisor/ Project Officer) working on a range of projects addressing environmental issues affecting the River Lune and its tributaries.

Amongst these projects, in 2019 the Trust was successful in securing Water Environment Grant funding for number of activities, including the Help for Forgotten Farms project. This project focuses on addressing failing water bodies in the Upper Lune and Upper Wenning areas by working with farmers to understand the issues and to address some of the root causes. This project is in its final phase (due to finish in September 2021) and the Farm Advisor/ Project Officer will be key in delivering a successful conclusion to the project.

In early 2021, the Trust was also successful in securing funding for the development of a programme of riparian woodland creation focusing on Lancashire. This is a new project, and the Farm Advisor/ Project Officer will be responsible for its development.

The Farm Advisor/ Project Officer will split their time between these two projects. This split will be flexible, and expected to vary during the duration of the projects (as workload demands vary). But in broad terms, the split between the two projects is expected to be roughly 50:50.

**DUTIES AND RESPOSIBILITIES**

Help for Forgotten Farms

* Work with farmers in the Upper Lune and Upper Wenning to oversee the delivery of priority actions to reduce diffuse pollution issues identified by Soil and Nutrient Management Plans and Farm Infrastructure Reports commissioned for the area.
* Provide farm advice and training events to improve farmers’ knowledge around diffuse pollution and support the delivery of measures identified.
* Contribute to and support the maintenance of a database of farm visits and opportunities identified
* Keeping and providing information for evaluation reports

Riparian Woodlands

* Develop a prioritisation of where riparian woodland creation would have the most impact in terms of multiple environmental benefits. This will involve close liaison with neighbouring Rivers Trusts.
* Based on this prioritisation, develop new woodland creation projects, including contacting, visiting and working with Landowners.
* To help in identifying and applying for funding for woodland creation schemes, including Forestry Commission woodland creation grant schemes.
* Preparing and submitting applications to obtaining necessary consents and permissions (including Environment Agency permits, and landowner legal agreements).

General

* Develop and maintain effective liaison with other catchment partners involved in these areas (Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Forest of Bowland AONB, Environment Agency, Natural England, Forestry Commission, Woodland Trust, Lancaster City Council and local stakeholder groups).
* Undertake site visits to monitor progress of works, keeping records and reporting onward.
* To work with and help the wider Trust team to engage with local communities.
* Work with the Trust Manager to ensure project costs are in line with overall project budgets.
* Work with the Trust Manager to develop future funding bids.
* Complete all necessary reports, and keep suitable records in line with the funding requirements and document retention policy
* Assist with other LRT projects as necessary.

**PERSON DESCRIPTION**

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate that they are exceptionally self-motivated and are passionate about improving the environment and working with farmers and land owners. They must also be a good communicator with a strong background in project development and delivery within the environmental sector, or the potential to develop this skill. A good knowledge of the Lune catchment and the functioning of river catchments would be beneficial.

Essential

* Degree level or equivalent related experience in agriculture/land management or relevant environmental topic.
* Experience of successful project delivery, including producing reports.
* Knowledge and understanding of agriculture and farming practices.
* Knowledge of agri-environment schemes, particularly relating to woodland creation.
* Understanding of how woodlands are meant to perform in relation to ecology and river restoration.
* Training and experience in the use of GIS (preferably ArcGIS).
* Ability to work on the differing tasks identified in the Job Description at the same time.
* Ability to work both on their own initiative and as part of a team.
* Excellent presentation skills and communication skills for a wide range of audiences.
* Good interpersonal skills, both face-to-face and over the phone.
* Reliability, good attendance and work performance.
* Valid driving licence and own car, insured for business use.
* Strongly motivated to continue to learn, and develop new skills.
* Willing to pitch in and help out on other projects, as needed.
* Excellent organisational /admin skills and attention to detail:
  + Good IT skills / maintaining a filing system
  + Keeping records of work undertaken
  + Keeping records of expenses incurred
  + Awareness of the need for confidentiality

Desirable

* Knowledge and experience of upland management systems and upland habitats.
* Experience in woodland creation.
* Experience of Catchment Sensitive Farming capital grants.
* FACTS and/or BASIS qualified.
* Experience of preparing funding applications.
* Knowledge of the project area.
* Knowledge and experience of a range of catchment processes and how they interact.
* Lives in, or is relocating to, the Lune catchment.