

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

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

**Post Grade:** 3.0

**Purpose:** To deliver one main project: Providing farm advice, support and training for our United Utilities farmer engagement project.

**Reports to:** Trust Manager

**Location:** Currently a mixture of home-based working and in the Lune Rivers Trust office in Morecambe. Frequent site work will be required at locations across the Lune catchment, particularly in the Kirkby Lonsdale area.

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

**Salary:**  £22,724

**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 four full time and two part time staff working on a range of projects addressing environmental issues affecting the River Lune and its tributaries.

Amongst these, in 2022 the Trust was successful in securing funding from United Utilities for a new farmer engagement project. The overall objective of this project is to improve water quality in the River Lune by working with farmers in the Lune catchment. The project will look at how changes to farm infrastructure, land use and farming practices could benefit the environment whilst also supporting the farm businesses. As part of this project, and building on our other ongoing projects, we are looking for a second Farm Advisor/ Project Officer to work alongside our current team.

We are just at the start of this project, and have yet to design in detail where and how the project will be carried out. It is envisaged that part of the project will be continuing the work that we have been doing for the past several years with farmers in the Tebay and Wenning areas of the catchment. We also plan to launch farmer engagement activities in other areas of the catchment, and are particularly interested in the Kirkby Lonsdale to Lancaster area. It is this second aspect which will be the key responsibility of the new Farm Advisor/ Project Officer.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

UU Project

* Work with the Trust Manager and current Farm Advisor to choose the new operational area and scope of activities for the project.
* Establish contact with farmers in the operational area and enrol interested farmers onto the project.
* Work with specialists to undertake assessments of farms enrolled onto the project (e.g. Farm Infrastructure Audits, Nutrient Management Plans).
* Work with farmers to select priority actions to reduce diffuse pollution issues identified by the farm assessments and oversee implementation of activities to address these.
* 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
* Coordinate with LRT’s Woodlands Officer to ensure enrolled farmers are aware of woodland creation opportunities, and assist them where necessary with accessing funding.

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.
* 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 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.