



Ribble Life
Together



LOTTERY FUNDED

Job Description

Farm Advisor

Ref: RLTJD006

Job Title:	Farm Advisor
Purpose:	To deliver a farm advisory, training and events programme
Reports to:	Chief Executive Officer
Location:	Clitheroe
Hours:	Full-time 37.5 hours per week, Part-time may be considered
Salary:	£24,000 - £27,500 p.a.
Contract:	24 month fixed term contract (with potential to extend by up to 5 years)

The Ribble Rivers Trust (RRT) is the lead partner in the Ribble Life Together project, which as a catchment scale project is delivering a range of activities to improve the condition, management and awareness of the Ribble Catchment. The project brings together over 20 stakeholder and interest groups to deliver a catchment action plan that will bring immediate and lasting benefits for people and the environment.

As part of this project the Trust is looking to recruit a technically competent, dynamic and enthusiastic person to deliver farm advice, as well as training courses and events aimed at improving partners and farmers (particularly our Facilitation Fund supported River Loud Farm Group) knowledge around diffuse pollution and how to reduce it.

The role will provide farm advice and training direct to farmers to identify potential opportunities for delivery that will aid in reducing diffuse water pollution (such as agri-environment schemes). And where appropriate it will support farmers to develop and submit applications for funding, such as, Countryside Stewardship and Woodland Creation. It is expected that this role will work alongside partners to create a central hub for farmers to access information such as training, grant schemes, events, issues and solutions.

The training and events this role will provide is linked to a 'skills gap' within the environment sector, and a social divide between conservation and agriculture. This gap was identified by the Ribble Life Partnership as part of the development of the Catchment Action Plan. The training courses will provide the necessary skills to environmental students and environmental professionals to engage with farmers and land managers effectively, enabling better land management and farming practices that will provide benefits to people and the environment whilst maintaining farm business sustainability.

We are therefore looking for a confident and clear communicator with extensive experience in engaging and working with farmers & landowners, as well as delivering events and diffuse pollution training. The successful candidate will have experience of agriculture and land management, agri-environment schemes (applying for, amending and delivering), the Water Framework Directive, and catchment/landscape-scale conservation, including how to apply the Natural Capital and ecosystem services approaches to land management.

The role will be responsible for:

- Delivering farm advice and producing “Pinpoint plans”.
- Producing reports for any farm advisory visits
- Working with the Capital Works Officer to deliver capital improvement projects
- Working with partners and colleges to deliver a series of short duration training courses & events that will provide skills to reduce diffuse pollution from agriculture;
- Evaluation of the training
- Working with partners to create a central hub for farmers to access key relevant information
- Maintaining a database of farm visits and opportunities identified, and delivered
- Contributing and assisting in the production of publicity, marketing and monitoring materials
- Any other duties as reasonably required by the RRT.

The post holder will be based principally within RRT offices in Clitheroe. The post will report to the CEO.

Person Description

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate that they are exceptionally self-motivated and are passionate about working with farmers, and managing and improving the environment. They must also be a good communicator willing and able to undertake cold calling and building relationships with farmers. The role will also require the candidate to demonstrate ability to hold constructive discussions and negotiations with farmers. The person is expected to have a strong background in the agri-environmental sector and the delivery of projects. A good knowledge of the Ribble Catchment and the functioning of river catchments will also be beneficial.

Essential –

- Valid driving licence and own car, insured for business use
- Degree level or equivalent related experience in land management and conservation
- Knowledge and experience of a range of catchment processes and how they interact
- In-depth knowledge of agriculture and farming practices
- Knowledge and experience of agri-environment schemes
- Demonstrable experience of delivering training activities
- Ability to work on the differing tasks identified in the Job Description at the same time
- Excellent presentation skills and communication skills for a wide range of audiences
- Possessing good interpersonal skills, both face-to-face and over the phone
- Reliability, good attendance and work performance
- Ability to set performance objectives and ensure these are achieved
- Excellent organisational /admin skills and attention to detail –
 - Good IT skills / maintaining a filing system
 - Keeping records of work undertaken
 - Keeping up to date timesheets
 - Keeping records of expenses incurred
 - Awareness of the need for confidentiality

Desirable

- FACTS / BASIS trained or working towards qualification
- Knowledge of the project area
- Based near or in the project area.
- Training and experience in the use of GIS (preferably ArcGIS)