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Ribble Rivers Trust
c/o Heidelberg Materials
Ribblesdale Works
Clitheroe
BB7 4QF

JOB DESCRIPTION: WOODLAND CREATION OFFICER

JOB TITLE:	Woodland Creation Officer
PURPOSE:	To deliver activities supporting the creation of targeted woodlands to improve the Ribble Catchment
REPORTS TO:	Senior Woodland Officer
LOCATION:	Clitheroe
HOURS:	Full-time 37.5 hours per week
SALARY:	£27,500 - £33500p.a. dependant on experience
CONTRACT:	24 months (with possibility of extension, subject to funding)

Ribble Rivers Trust (RRT) is a local charity set up to conserve the Ribble Catchment, particularly its rivers and streams. The Trust works at catchment and project scales by delivering a range of activities to improve the condition, management, and awareness of the Ribble Catchment. In 2020 the Trust launched a decade long campaign, Lancashire Woodland Connect, to deliver 500 Ha. of new woodland by 2030 in targeted locations that will improve the rivers of the catchment, seeking to restore and improve ecosystem functions (including woodland networks) that will provide ecological and socio-economic benefits.

As such, the Trust is looking to recruit a competent, dynamic, and enthusiastic person with a passion for woodlands and rivers. The successful candidate will join a vibrant and talented team of 28 delivering a diverse portfolio of projects improving rivers in the Ribble Catchment. Specifically, the role will be working within the Land Management and Conservation Team, supporting the Senior Woodland Officer in achieving the aims of the Lancashire Woodland Connect campaign. As such this person should have experience in woodland (including riparian) creation development and delivery, from approaching landowners, to supervising contractors.

The role requires a confident and clear communicator with experience in engaging and working with farmers, landowners, partners, contractors, and volunteers, as well as a proven track record in practical woodland project delivery. The successful candidate will have knowledge of woodland ecology, landscape-scale conservation, Natural Capital, and ecosystem services. It is desirable that the candidate has a good understanding of the Water Framework Directive and Catchment Management. Knowledge of agriculture and wider land management would also be beneficial.

WORKING TO IMPROVE, PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE RIBBLE AND ITS CATCHMENT FOR WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE.

TRUSTEES: Cllr. J. Alcock, J. Bleasdale, D. Bradley, J. Cowburn (Chair), M. Ellacott, J.P. Lord, C.H. Marchbank, J. Rawkins, A.T. Rowntree, D. Wilmot, J.L. Yates.

CHARITY NUMBER: 1070672 COMPANY NUMBER: 3498691 ENTRUST REGISTRATION NUMBER: 600122

Registered Address: c/o Heidelberg Materials, Ribblesdale Works, West Bradford Road, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 4QF

The Woodland Delivery Officer will support the development and delivery of woodland creation projects from concept through to delivery and as such the duties will include:

- Supporting the delivery of new woodland creation projects, including:
 - Contacting, visiting, and working with landowners
 - Consulting with partners
 - Woodland design
- Assisting with applications to obtain necessary consents and permissions (including Environment Agency permits, and landowner legal agreements)
- Assisting the procurement of works and services associated with woodland creation
- Supervising contractors
- Liaising and co-ordinating with the Volunteer Supervisors to assist successful delivery of volunteer based woodland creation activities
- Communicating with other project managers and officers
- Undertaking site visits to monitor progress of works, keeping records, and reporting onward
- Assisting with all necessary reports, and keep suitable records in line with the funding requirements and document retention policy
- Work with RRT to ensure that project costs are in line with project budgets
- Assisting the wider Trust team to engage with local communities
- Identifying and applying for funding for woodland creation schemes, including Forestry Commission woodland creation grant schemes
- To maintain and develop partnerships with stakeholders, including the Forest of Bowland National Landscape, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, The Woodland Trust, Environment Agency, Natural England, United Utilities, and other related partners
- Contribute to and assist in the production of publicity and marketing materials
- Any other reasonable duties as required by RRT

The post will report to the Senior Woodland Officer.

PERSON DESCRIPTION

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate that they are exceptionally self-motivated, a good communicator and are passionate about improving the environment, particularly woodlands and rivers. A good knowledge of the Ribble Catchment will also be beneficial.

ESSENTIAL

- Valid driving licence and own car, insured for business use
- Degree level, or equivalent related experience, in a relevant environmental topic
- Knowledge of UK woodland ecology and ecosystems
- Understanding of the interactions between woodlands and rivers and how this can be used in river restoration
- Experience in woodland creation design
- Experience in working with contractors relating to woodland creation
- Experience of successful project delivery, including producing reports
- Basic use and knowledge of Geographical Information System (GIS)

- Ability to work on the differing tasks identified in the Job Description at the same time
- Good presentation and communication skills for a range of audiences
- Good interpersonal skills, both face-to-face and over the phone
- Working within a collaborative team
- Reliability, good attendance, and work performance
- Ability to set performance objectives and ensure these are achieved
- Excellent organisational /admin skills and attention to detail including:
 - 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 of agri-environment schemes particularly woodland creation schemes
- Experience of developing and delivering volunteer events
- Knowledge and experience of a range of catchment processes and how they interact
- Knowledge of the project area
- Based near or in the project area

Please note that the closing date for this position is the 12th July 2024 with interviews in the week commencing 22nd July 2024.