

## Wyre Rivers Trust – Brock and Calder Landscape Recovery - Trainee Agriculture Advisor

37.5 Hours Per Week



### Background

The Wyre Rivers Trust is a registered charity with a remit to improve the ecological status of the river Wyre and its catchment.

Founded by three angling clubs and supported by many community groups, the Trust started small with localised projects to improve habitat, especially spawning conditions, for all fish species and completed with contractors and volunteers. However, since 2013 the Trust has grown, became host of the Wyre Waters Catchment Partnership and is now delivering works at the catchment scale with a host of far-reaching benefits.

Projects address a range of issues impacting upon biodiversity, water quality, and water quantity, and tackle these with solutions such as natural flood management, habitat creation and habitat connectivity. The Trust has recently created an Integrated Catchment Plan containing a comprehensive list of priorities within the Wyre catchment, reviewed, and agreed by our partners. Following this process, the trust was successful in securing funding to support the Brock and Calder Landscape Recovery Project, one of a number of national projects working to deliver the highest tier of the Environmental Land Management Schemes. Within this project, there are five posts which WRT will recruit for within the first 6 months of the project development phase.

To help develop skills within the project area, we have elected to employ a trainee agriculture advisor as part of the project development phase. Finding candidates with the correct skills for agricultural advice often proves difficult, so we would like to employ a candidate who wishes to develop their skills in order to become an effective farm advisor. The role would suit a candidate based in the local area, particularly a young farmer or a someone from a farming background. The candidate will be provided with training opportunities to build their skills and will effectively shadow the Senior Agriculture Advisor for the last 18 months of the development phase, further developing their skills via peer-to-peer learning and by gaining experience on the ground, working with farmers as part of the project.

The role will be based at the Wyre RT Offices at Myerscough College, Lancashire. The candidate will be expected to work across the entire catchment and a large amount of time within any given week will be spent outside. The officer will report to the Brock and Calder Landscape Recovery Project Manager & Wyre Rivers Trust General Manager.

## BCLR Trainee Agriculture Advisor – Job Description

<b>Job Title</b>	Brock and Calder Landscape Recovery Trainee Agriculture Advisor
<b>Salary</b>	£25,000.00 - £28,000.00 per annum
<b>Benefits</b>	Stakeholder pension scheme (9% employer, 6% employee) Life assurance scheme Flexible working Laptop and phone provided Mileage at 0.45p per mile
<b>Hours</b>	Full-time. 18 months fixed term from the start date.

### Job Purpose:

The Trainee Agriculture Advisor (TAA) will be responsible for working with the senior agriculture advisor to gather data and information which will be used to develop the implementation plans. This role is integral to the delivery of the development phase, and it will help to develop skills within the local community. It has become exceedingly difficult to recruit skilled farm advisors, therefore it is one of the aims of this development phase to recruit, train and upskill a local farm advisor with an excellent working knowledge of the project area. This will ensure that the project has and continues to have a long-lasting connection to the local community. As the candidate develops within the trainee farm advisor role, they will assist other project team members with the production of other plans required in the development phase.

### Person Description:

The successful candidate will be an exceptional self-starter with the motivation, vision and passion to help and advise farm businesses on how to become more sustainable and resilient and make the river Wyre a cleaner and healthier environment. They must have a willingness to learn on the job, expand their horizons and undertake training courses. They must be a good communicator with a passion for conservation and some knowledge of catchment science. The candidate should have a good working knowledge of:

- The agriculture sector, ideally in NW England and Lancashire including upland beef, sheep, and dairy farming.
- The ability to engage with farmers in a manner which is beneficial to them, their families and their businesses.
- The importance of confidentiality and diligence when dealing with farmers, landowners and land managers.
- UK food production and the importance of a functioning natural environment to sustainable and resilient food production.

### Responsibilities:

- To report the day-to-day delivery of the Brock and Calder Landscape Recovery Project Development Phase (BCLR PDP) to the Brock and Calder Landscape Recovery Project Manager and assist in the preparation of reports for programme sponsors.
- Work closely with the senior agriculture advisor to develop relationships with participating land managers and to develop your knowledge of farm advice on a range of topics.
- Assist in the development and delivery of the land management plan as part of the BCLR PDP, working closely with key project staff, consultants, land managers and project partners.
- Working closely with the BCLR PDP Delivery Team, ensure that all key deliverables as outlined in the project plan are delivered on time and to a gold standard.
- Ensure that all key elements of risk are managed in accordance with instruction from the BCLR PDP Project Manager
- Shadow the Senior Agriculture Advisor during the reporting phases of the project, expanding your knowledge of on farm reports and project reporting.

- To ensure that project plans are adhered to and that the works are delivered in accordance with all relevant legislation and the aims of the project.
- Work in close conjunction with partners and community groups to evaluate opportunities for multiple benefit projects within the Wyre catchment.
- Use data and other information to inform the development of key deliverables as part of the BCLR Development Phase
- To undertake relevant safeguarding training for work with children and adults at risk.

#### **Individual Requirements:**

##### **Essential:**

- Qualification in land management, catchment management or other appropriate agriculturally focussed subject or an aspiration to gain a qualification at degree level or higher in the aforementioned subjects.
- A willingness to undertake training courses as part of the role and a willingness to learn on the job.
- Based in or near the project area, with a knowledge of the area and its surrounds.
- Some experience of working with farmers, landowners and land managers, either whilst living and working on a farm, or through your education/interest.
- A knowledge of the tools and resources available to farm advisors when working with farmers.
- An appreciation of the funding streams which are available to farmers and a willingness to learn more about them in order to
- A good understanding of the importance of stakeholder engagement in the delivery of landscape scale projects.
- Some knowledge of catchment science, soil management techniques, freshwater and upland habitats and species.
- A willingness to develop good presentation and interpretation skills.
- Possessing good inter-personal skills, both face to face and over the phone.
- Reliability, good attendance, and work performance.
- Excellent organisational and administrative skills with the necessary due diligence.
- Excellent IT skills to include record keeping, filing and have the awareness of confidentiality and general data protection rules.
- A passion for the restoration and conservation of catchments and the flora and fauna which reside within them.
- Valid driving licence and full access to a vehicle which is insured for business use.
- **This post is subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service check at an enhanced level.**

##### **Desirable:**

- GIS skills.

Anyone we appoint is expected to support policies on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion, Health & Safety, IT, GDPR and contribute to a respectful and inclusive working culture.

If you have any questions which aren't answered on our website or in this job description, please contact Thomas Myerscough at [tom@wyriverstrust.org](mailto:tom@wyriverstrust.org)

The role will be based at the Wyre RT Offices at Myerscough College, Lancashire. The candidate will be expected to work across the entire catchment and a large amount of time within any given week will be spent outside. The officer will report to the Wyre Rivers Trust General Manager and Chairman.

**Closing date: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

Interviews are planned for week commencing **Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024** and will be held in-person in Lancashire.