



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 in the first 6 months of delivery upon project aims.

The FCO will be responsible for the coordination and delivery of a catchment wide electrofishing programme to provide the evidence baseline and inform the next phase of project interventions. They will also help deliver the largest fish passage project ever undertaken in the Wyre Catchment comprising two fish passes on the River Calder, along with further fish passage works on the River Wyre should funding become available. There will also be the opportunity to deliver a smolt emigration study on the River Calder, providing data pre & post the fish passage works to evaluate success.

The role will be split between home-based working in the north Lancashire area and the Wyre RT Offices in Thornton, 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.

Fisheries Conservation Officer – Job Description

Job Title	Fisheries Conservation Officer
Salary	£32,000.00 - £36,000.00
Benefits	Stakeholder pension scheme (9% employer, 6% employee) Life assurance scheme Flexible working Laptop and phone provided Mileage at 0.45p per mile
Hours	Full-time. 3-year fixed term from start date

Job Purpose:

The Fisheries Conservation Officer will support the delivery of the Wyre Rivers Trust and Wyre Waters Catchment Partnership Integrated Catchment Plan by managing a comprehensive fisheries monitoring programme to provide the evidence base for a suite of projects promoting freshwater fish species across the Wyre catchment. The officer will also be responsible for supporting the delivery of two large fish passes on the River Calder, along with habitat creation and restoration within the catchment.

Person Description:

The successful candidate will be a graduate and an exceptional self-starter with the motivation, vision and passion to make the River Wyre a cleaner and healthier environment. They must be a good communicator with a passion for conservation and knowledge of freshwater and estuarine environments. The candidate should have a good working knowledge of:

- Native British fish species, especially salmonids
- Fisheries survey techniques including but not limited to electrofishing and seine netting
- Methods used to restore or create habitats within a typical UK catchment
- Mitigation measures for weirs and other in-river structures.
- Partnership working and relevant legislation. The candidate will also be required to deliver detailed reports.
- Data recording, storage (in accordance with relevant legislation) and its use to develop projects for funding bids.
- Knowledge of smolt trapping or the operation of a rotary screw trap would be beneficial

Responsibilities:

- To report the day-to-day delivery to the Wyre Rivers Trust General Manager and prepare reports for programme sponsors.
- Develop and manage a catchment scale electrofishing study of key tributaries aligned with the collection of Before After Control Impact (BACI) data, production of supporting documents and recommendations for restoration of watercourses.
- Deliver an annual smolt emigration study on the River Calder, gathering key baseline data to support the delivery of two large fish passes.
- Work closely with the Wyre RT General Manager to deliver two large fish passes on the River Calder, along with other priority fish passage projects as they arise.
- Produce an annual Wyre RT fisheries report focussing on key species, their current population status and the main factors which should be addressed to increase and protect those populations.
- 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 and delivery of project plans.
- To work with the Wyre Rivers Trust General Manager to develop funding bids.
- To work with Wyre Rivers Trust Staff to deliver an ambitious programme of Education and Engagement within the Wyre Catchment.
- To undertake relevant safeguarding training for work with children and adults at risk.

Individual Requirements:

Essential:

- Degree level qualification in fisheries management, aquatic environmental science, catchment science, or similar.
- Detailed experience of delivering ecological surveys with a focus on fisheries management, including electrofishing, seine netting, walkover surveys and river habitat surveys.
- Significant experience in the identification of native UK fish species.
- Detailed knowledge of matters relating to fish welfare.
- Detailed knowledge of catchment science, aquatic habitats and species that are likely to be found within NW England.
- Experience of working with landowners and a good understanding of the importance of stakeholder engagement in the delivery of habitat restoration.
- Experience of working within the environmental sector, ideally with a focus on catchment management or river restoration.
- Experience in the management and coordination of contractors and volunteers.
- Good presentation and interpretation skills with the ability to get complex information across simply and concisely to a wide range of audiences.
- Possessing good inter-personal skills, both face to face and over the phone.
- Self-starter able to work on their own without day-to-day supervision.
- Reliability, good attendance, and work performance.
- Excellent organisational and administrative skills with the necessary attention to detail.
- 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:

- Experience of delivering smolt studies and/or the management of rotary screw traps.
- Experience of assessing fish stocks and producing detailed data relating to fish and fisheries.
- Completion of electrofishing training via a recognised provider.
- Knowledge of the project area.
- Based near the project area.
- 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@wyreverstrust.org

Closing date: **Monday 22nd April 2024**

Interviews are planned for week commencing 6th May 2024 and will be held in-person near Garstang.