

Job Description: Farming & Wildlife Officer

Post Title	Pendle Hill LP & AONB Farming & Wildlife Officer
Function	To oversee biodiversity activity in the LP scheme and across the wider Forest of Bowland AONB
Post Type	Full time 37hours/week, 4 year fixed term contract
Responsible to	LP Scheme Manager
Responsible for	Sub-contractors, volunteers, and consultants

Purpose of the post

This post is part of the LP delivery team and it will be responsible for delivering the 'Wild about Pendle Hill' project and overseeing the Traditional Boundaries project and 'Pendle WINNS' the Woodlands and Invasive non-native species project which will both be delivered by key partners.

For three days a week this post holder will also work for the main AONB Unit, continuing the delivery of our biodiversity priorities, currently: upland hay meadow and peatland restoration activity (strategy and delivery) and to act as a facilitator for the Pendle Hill Farmer Network.

Forest of Bowland AONB

The Forest of Bowland AONB was designated in 1964 with a primary purpose to conserve and enhance 800 square kilometres of important upland landscape within Lancashire and North Yorkshire. An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is designated and protected under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, with protection further enhanced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The AONB is managed by a partnership of landowners, farmers, voluntary organisations, wildlife and recreation groups, local councils and government agencies. Representatives from these groups sit on the Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC). The JAC is supported by a number of themed working groups that assist in the delivery of the AONB Management Plan.

Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

Pendle Hill is an iconic landmark to many Lancastrians, yet it has two very different sides and its summit acts as a divide between places, people and economic activity. This exciting programme looks to gather together the two sides of the hill and re-connect people with their landscape and their past, to safeguard the area's wildlife and heritage and to improve people's access to this popular countryside area. We will do this by providing opportunities for training and volunteering; by supporting research and devising digital interpretation to inspire a new generation about our heritage; by restoring important wildlife and landscape features, and by working with communities to re-tell the stories of radical Pendle people. This programme will increase pride in this special place and raise aspirations amongst communities, and it will bring in new investment to support the environment and the economy.

Main responsibilities

To deliver the 'Wild about Pendle Hill' project, a key biodiversity project of the LP scheme which seeks to restore a number of important wildlife sites and to engage the community in wildlife projects and surveys. To also deliver the AONB's upland hay meadow restoration projects, working in partnership with farmers and landowners; to lead on strategy and delivery of peatland restoration works on the Bowland Fells; and to organise and deliver a training plan for Pendle Hill farmers and to support collaborative working across their farms to deliver landscape scale natural heritage outcomes.

Project Development

- I. To identify sites and develop conservation/management plans for delivery in years 2, 3 and 4 including ecological and condition surveys, negotiation with landowners and managers and development of management plans. This will include the provision of advice and technical guidance, and the development and application of best practice
- II. Develop a number of community wildlife activities including organising the surveying, identification and recording of key species; and the creation and management of wildlife habitats. To collate, analyse and interpret this data for the development of future activity and as information for a public audience
- III. To identify, apply for and secure additional funds as required to deliver the planned outputs of the project
- IV. To identify potential for agri-environment scheme support for project delivery, and to secure this where possible through the provision of technical support, informal training and guidance for landowners
- V. To identify suitable donor and receptor sites for field scale hay meadow restoration activity in the AONB; and to train, support and liaise with landowners, contractors and students in the delivery and monitoring of schemes, including providing technical advice and the procurement of capital works
- VI. To manage peatland restoration projects, identifying funds and activity, and ensuring continued commitment to peatland restoration from statutory agencies, land managers and the public by maintaining existing and building new relationships, sharing information and ensuring a strategic approach
- VII. To oversee the establishment and development of the Pendle Hill Farmer Network, as an effective group including devising a training plan and encouraging collaborative activity amongst existing and new members of the group

Project Delivery

- I. To oversee delivery of the peatland restoration works for the 'Pendle Summit' project in 2018/19 of the LP scheme; and elsewhere in the AONB 2018-22 as required. Preparing detailed site plans and tenders, procuring and commissioning contractors and monitoring the delivery of works
- II. To deliver the planned site-based projects for year 1 of LP Scheme
- III. Organise and supervise volunteer activity on wildlife sites and projects as appropriate
- IV. Supervise and mentor the work of a Graduate Trainee in year 1 and 2 of the LP Scheme with a focus on community wildlife, GIS and traditional boundary work, providing appropriate technical support and on-the-job training
- V. To oversee new hay meadow restoration activity and the monitoring of existing sites within the AONB
- VI. To deliver and commission technical training packages for the farmer network and to provide advice and support to groups of farmers on applying for and delivering agri-environment schemes locally

Project Liaison

- I. To liaise with and supervise the lead partners delivering the other two environment projects in the LP scheme. This will include sharing knowledge; advising on biodiversity, heritage and landscape issues regarding sites and activity proposed by the Traditional Boundaries and the Pendle WINNS projects, and monitoring their delivery via the analysis of their quarterly financial claims and activity reports, and interpreting these for the LP scheme manager
- II. To commission small scale ecological surveys and biodiversity activity by partner organisations where their specialist skills and knowledge are required
- III. To liaise with and support artists working on ecosystems and biodiversity commissions via the Gatherings project

Person Specification

Experience

Essential

- Project management including financial management and delivery of outputs to time
- Organisation and delivery of practical nature conservation activity with farmers, landowners, volunteers, contractors and specialist advisors
- Working with farmers and landowners
- Proven experience of partnership working

Desirable

- Working with volunteers
- Contract management
- Site-based habitat management planning

Knowledge

Essential

- Thorough knowledge of nature conservation and land management techniques (including peatland, woodland and grassland restoration and management)
- Degree in appropriate discipline plus broad practical experience
- Knowledge of ecological survey techniques, habitat management plans and citizen science
- Knowledge of tendering, procurement and commissioning processes with both partner organisations and skilled contractors

Desirable

- Knowledge of the Pendle Hill area
- Understanding of agri-environment funding and policy

Skills

Essential

- Ability to influence others based on your technical and professional expertise
- Ability to work alone and as part of a small busy team
- Excellent communication and negotiation skills, plus an ability to build and maintain effective networks and relationships
- Training and mentoring of less experienced staff and of project partners

Desirable

- Use of GIS mapping software

Further Information

Office base: to be arranged

Working hours: 37 hours a week, some evening and weekend work will be required for which time off in lieu can be taken.

Reasonable travel is expected as part of the job, expenses will be paid for use of a private vehicle which you will be expected to provide and drive

Term of appointment: four year fixed term contract

Salary: Lancashire County Council grade 7 (from £23,866)