

# AONB Development and Funding Officer (Farming in Protected Landscapes)

## Job Description

<b>Post Title:</b>	AONB Development and Funding Officer (Farming in Protected Landscapes)
<b>Grade:</b>	8
<b>Term of appointment:</b>	August 2021 – March 2024, fixed-term contract
<b>Post Numbers:</b>	F-598-0001 (full time), F-598-0002 (part time 0.5FTE)
<b>Establishment /team:</b>	Planning and Environment Service, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit
<b>Responsible to:</b>	AONB Manager
<b>Responsible for:</b>	Supervision of staff, sub-contractors, consultants and volunteers
<b>Location:</b>	AONB Office, Dunsop Bridge

## 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.

## Core Purpose of the Job:

To assist the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership and the partner local authorities in delivering their statutory purposes of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB, as set out in the statutory Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan.

The purpose of this job is:

- To develop, commission and implement programmes and projects which engage a range of stakeholders in delivery and implementation of the AONB Management Plan objectives, in particular via '**Farming in Protected Landscapes**' programme
- To be responsible for the identification, acquisition and management of other external funding to support the delivery of the AONB Management Plan

## Core Tasks:

1. To initiate, deliver and manage externally funded programmes and projects by supervising project staff, contracts, outputs and budgets to timescale
2. To proactively foster and manage partnerships with farmers and land managers, statutory bodies, local communities and interest groups in order to deliver the 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' programme

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3. To provide a first point of contact for potential applicants to the programme, offer support to applicants and where necessary help guide subsequent delivery of funded projects.
4. To support the monitoring of progress towards the completion of funded projects in the programme
5. To support project and programme level reporting and evaluation, including reporting to Defra
6. To deputise for the AONB Manager in local, regional and national settings and report to the AONB Joint Advisory Committee as necessary

## Person Specification

This is a challenging yet exciting role, requiring the post holder to multi-task and often to work to deadlines or set budgets. It requires team-working and partnership development by a highly motivated self-starter who is also able to work alone and to a high standard of detail and precision.

### Experience

#### Essential

- Experience of working with a range of stakeholders, including farmers and landowners, community groups, businesses and volunteers
- Significant experience working with farmers and land managers to achieve conservation objectives, including through agri-environment schemes.
- Experience of project management, including budget and resource management
- Proven experience of producing high quality action plans, reports and budgets and funding applications
- Proven experience of working in partnership with key stakeholders to secure funding
- Experience of supervising consultants/contractors and coordinating work within a small team, including ability to delegate and track performance

#### Desirable

- Experience of working on environmental/heritage/farming for conservation projects
- Experience of community engagement and awareness-raising activities
- Direct experience of Protected Landscapes and their management.

### Knowledge

#### Essential

- Degree level qualification in a relevant subject, or substantial relevant work experience
- Current knowledge of relevant grant schemes (particularly current and historic agri-environment schemes) and funding sources
- Understanding of landscape-scale approaches to the conservation and enhancement of natural, cultural and built heritage

#### Desirable

- Knowledge of upland farming systems and other related land-based enterprises
- Knowledge of characteristic habitats and species of the Forest of Bowland AONB

### Skills and Personal Qualities

#### Essential

- Strong motivation, drive, initiative and creativity
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Strong sense of accountability and professionalism
- Good project development skills and ability to set, prioritise and meet targets on time

- Ability to negotiate and build relationships with farmers, land managers and landowners to enable them to collaborate for nature conservation
- Good ICT skills
- Current UK driving licence

**Desirable**

- Ability to use a variety of digital technology including social media, GIS and database/project management software

**Further information**

Office base: AONB Office, Dunsop Bridge

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, therefore access to a car is desirable. Travel expenses will be paid for use of own car.

Term of appointment: August 2021 to March 2024, fixed term contract

Salary: Lancashire County Council grade 8, starting £29,577 p.a.