

Development and Funding Officer (Peatlands)

Job Description

Post Title:	Development and Funding Officer (Peatlands)
Grade:	8
Term of appointment:	Permanent
Post No:	F-597-0001
Establishment /team:	Planning and Environment Service – Forest of Bowland AONB Unit
Responsible to:	AONB Manager
Responsible for:	Supervision of staff, sub-contractors, consultants and volunteers
Location:	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 landscapes 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).

Lancashire County Council – Environment and Climate Programme

In December 2020, the County Council adopted an ambitious carbon reduction and nature recovery resolution that seeks to '*transition the Lancashire economy away from carbon by 2030 and address the biodiversity crisis*'. Emerging new duties for the County Council in the Environment Bill complement this resolution.

To help implement the new responsibilities, a cross-directorate programme of environmental improvement and carbon reduction activity across Lancashire was adopted by the Cabinet in March 2021, including:

1. Carbon reduction from County Council buildings and property
2. Tree planting and woodland creation
3. Peatland restoration
4. Local air quality management
5. Nature recovery
6. Active travel
7. Strategy and programme management

Core Purpose

The purposes of the position are:

- To develop, commission and implement policies, projects and programmes which engage a range of stakeholders in delivery and implementation of the peatland restoration objectives of Lancashire County Council's Environment and Climate Programme and the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan
- To be responsible for the identification, acquisition and management of external funding to support the peatland restoration objectives of the Lancashire County Council's Environment and Climate Programme and the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan.

Core Tasks:

1. To proactively foster and manage partnerships with statutory bodies, landowners, farmers, local communities and interest groups in order to maximise support and funding for the delivery peatland restoration objectives of Lancashire County Council's Environment and Climate Programme and the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan
2. To initiate and deliver externally funded programmes and projects through supervision of project staff, contracts, outputs and budgets
3. To advise on, identify and deliver opportunities for wider community and volunteer engagement in peatland restoration activities
4. To develop and collate comprehensive peatland-related datasets and GIS mapping to be utilise for planning and preparation of restoration planning and funding bids
5. To work collaboratively with the Lancashire Peat Partnership and other national initiatives, such as the Great North Bog to maximise opportunities to support and fund peatland restoration in Lancashire
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

- Proven experience of securing funding and partnership support
- Significant experience of project management, including budget and resource management
- Experience of working with landowners, land managers and farmers
- Proven experience of producing high quality action plans, reports and budgets and funding applications
- Experience of working with a range of stakeholders, carrying out community consultations and conducting negotiations
- Experience of supervising consultants/contractors and directing work within a small team, including ability to delegate and track performance

Desirable

- Experience of contract management for land-based projects
- Practical experience of upland habitats - assessment, survey, restoration and management

Knowledge

Essential

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

Desirable

- Ecological field skills, particularly relating to upland habitats
- Understanding of community engagement and awareness-raising activities

Skills

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
- Good leadership and ability to motivate and support development of staff
- Good ICT skills, including confident use of GIS software and mapping technologies
- Current UK driving licence

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: Permanent

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