

Job Description

Job title: Farm & Tree Advisor

Team: Nature Recovery Team

Responsible to: Head of Nature's Recovery (Avon Wildlife Trust or Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust) plus Woodland & Nature Recovery Manager (Western Forest)

Salary: £29-32,000

Contract: Fixed term to March 2028, with possible extension

Working base: Main working base will be at either Avon Wildlife Trust or Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Offices at:

- Avon:
 - 17 Great George Street, Bristol BS1 5QT
 - Folly Farm, Stow, Pensford, Bristol BS39 4DW
- Gloucestershire:
 - Robinswood Hill Country Park, Reservoir Road, Gloucester, GL4 6SX

Along with regular travel to Western Forest office in Bristol and third-party sites across the project area. Some home working by prior agreement with your line manager.

Overall purpose of job

The Western Forest is a new initiative that is part England's National Forest Network, working to connect a greener future across Avon, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire to restore nature, improve wellbeing and drive growth.

Western Forest brings together a network of partners across six counties to achieve tree planting at scale. As a Farm and Tree Advisor, you will play a pivotal role in planning and delivering woodland creation for Western Forest and will contribute to achieving the ambitious target of creating 2,500 hectares of new woodland by 2030.

You will join the friendly, supportive team embedded in a network of partner organisations, while being directly supported by Avon / Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust expertise. This position requires a combination of technical expertise in farming and trees, stakeholder engagement and relationship building, and will be responsible for managing the development of on-site tree planting projects along with associated funding applications.

Main Responsibilities

Working with existing landowner contacts and developing new contacts, you will identify sites where new woodlands can be planted, or tree cover increased. You will work with landowners to develop woodland and tree planting plans, ensuring the right

trees are in the right places and that new plantings work within the landscape and complement land use.

You will act as an on-the-ground representative of Avon Wildlife Trust or Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and will deliver Western Forest in collaboration with partners within identified priority areas. You will deliver a simple 'one stop shop' for anyone who wants to plant trees. Offering:

1. Free site visits for tree planting projects, guided by what the farmer, landowner or land manager wants;
2. Support and advice on the planting design; identifying the most suitable grants for carrying this out;
3. Drafting and submitting grant applications and carrying out regulatory checks.

This role will focus on providing this service in Western Forest Priority Areas that sit within either Wildlife Trust's area of operation:

- Avon: in Bristol, Bath & North-East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (the old county of Avon);
- Gloucestershire: the county of Gloucestershire

Job Specification

Management and Supervision

- Being well organised, you will be able to run multiple site projects in parallel, delivering them on time, on budget and to scope. This will involve identifying, planning, mapping and costing work at the desk and on-site.
- You will simultaneously be progressing projects at different stages of development and reporting progress to colleagues.

Accountability and Resources

- You will work with Western Forest staff to identify suitable grants for your sites, managing all grant applications and delivery budgets. You will liaise with Avon / Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's fundraising team.
- You will coordinate the submission of grant funding bids with the farmers, landowners and land managers.

Job Impact

- You will lead a number of site-specific tree and woodland planting projects contributing to the Western Forests' overall targets.
- Using Avon Wildlife Trust's or Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's existing contacts, and in developing new contacts, you will identify sites where new woodlands can be planted, or tree cover increased.

Independence and Judgement

- You will act as an on-the-ground representative of Avon Wildlife Trust or Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and Western Forest, delivering a simple 'one-stop shop' for anyone who wants to plant trees.
- You will work with landowners to develop woodland and tree planting plans, ensuring the right trees are in the right places and that new plantings work within the landscape and complement land use.
- Through appreciating the challenges of running a farm or managing land, you will provide expert guidance to farmers to support them in developing environmentally- and economically-resilient farms.

People and Contacts

- You are a skilled communicator, comfortable with talking to a range of farmers or landowners and able to give clear advice about a complex funding landscape.
- You are able to communicate clearly and persuasively; building strong relationships with farmers and partners. Highlighting the benefits of trees and agroecological systems in farming and land management systems, to become a trusted advisor.
- You will work closely with forestry agents to deliver thriving woodlands.
- You will develop and hold strong relationships with Western Forest partners and other eNGO's working in the area to ensure work is complementary.

Creativity and Innovation

- You will develop project work sites, tailoring the woodland/tree planting design to the needs of the landowner and in line with potential funding sources, while maximising the benefits to nature and climate, in line with project targets.

Working Conditions

- You will be required to work from Avon Wildlife Trust / Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust hubs and at a range of third-party site locations around the West of England area.
- Some regional travel will be expected within Avon / Gloucestershire, and some travel to visit other project locations outside of Avon / Gloucestershire
- Work will be a mix of desk based and on-site, with periods of physical outdoor work and site visits in all weathers.
- Occasional out-of-hours support for events will be required, including weekends and evening for which TOIL is awarded.
- Optional home working by prior agreement with your line manager.
- You will not be required to work outside of the UK.

Person Specification

Please note - we have robust safeguarding procedures in place. This post may be subject to a successful enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check if applicable, and we will require two workplace references before appointment.

Experience

Essential:

- Experience of planning and implementing tree planting projects
- Experience advising farmers and landowners on agroecological schemes
- Project management experience, including keeping multiple projects on time, budget and scope
- Experience engaging with diverse stakeholders, including farmers, landowners/managers and communities
- Experience managing contractors and consultants; ensuring works are delivered on time and to budget
- Experience building partnerships with partner organisations
- Experience securing permissions ensuring adherence to regulations

Desired:

- Experience of the regulatory requirements for afforestation including Environmental Impact Assessments

Competence, knowledge and skills

Essential:

- Knowledge of practical, environmental and business challenges of developing resilient farming and land management approaches
- Knowledge of trees and woodland creation
- A relevant qualification in agriculture, forestry, land management or a related subject (or relevant professional experience)
- Competence in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), able to produce clear, accurate maps for landowners

Desired:

- Good knowledge of the Western Forest area

Personal qualities

Essential:

- Excellent communication skills – empathetic, persuasive, practical
- Highly organised, able to prioritise workloads to meet deadlines
- Ability to build effective relationships with people and organisations
- Excellent attention to detail, including with Health and Safety procedures
- A great team worker, with a strong track record of collaboration and relationship management

- Competent in using common IT packages, incl. Microsoft Office
- Full driving licence with own vehicle
- Interest in wildlife and nature conservation and supportive of the aims of the Wildlife Trusts.
- Aligned with Avon Wildlife Trust and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's values: we are determined, we get things done, we are collaborative.

Our commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Central to Avon Wildlife Trust and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's mission is that nature is for everyone. We want to ensure that access to nature is a right, not a privilege.

Our vision of *nature as the solution: a flourishing future for nature and people together* goes hand in hand with the creation of a diverse organisation that reflects the communities that we serve. The differences of thought, skills, ideas and experience brought by a diverse team of staff, trainees and partners is essential in tackling the future climate and ecological challenges we face across our region.

We are committed to building a working environment in which all individuals are free from discrimination and in which opportunities are equal to all.