

Job Description

Job title: Woodland Advisor – Teme Catchment

Location of job: Home-based

Post holder reports to: Head of Land Management

Overall purpose of the job:

The Woodland Advisor will take the lead on delivering our new, ambitious woodland creation objectives, to help build ecological resilience within the catchment. Initially, the role will be centred around our new Woodlands for Water scheme, a landscape-scale project within the River Teme catchment. You will identify and develop woodland creation opportunities within the catchment and help landowners to access the English Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO), administered by Forestry England.

You will look to forge strong working relationships with our project partners, i.e. The Rivers Trust, Forestry England, The National Trust and Beaver Trust to achieve our contribution towards the 3150 hectares of new woodland, that the scheme is intending to create nationally.

In addition to encouraging uptake of the EWCO with landowners, you will work with colleagues, and partner organisations, to develop opportunities for SRT, and the landowners we are working with, to access carbon trading platforms, to facilitate the sale of carbon credits. You will strive to engage land managers to work with the Trust, cultivating relationships that facilitate the smooth delivery of our projects and lays the foundations for a long term SRT presence within one of our key strategic areas.

Alongside the above, you will work collaboratively with our Head of Land Management and other SRT colleagues, to develop new woodland –based opportunities within the catchment, to help expand our influence and impact.

Salary: £21,869.00 – £27,336.00 pro rata (9% employer pension contribution)

Position type: Permanent

Working hours & annual leave: This is a full-time role (37.5 hours per week)

28 days annual leave plus bank holidays. This will increase to 30 days, plus bank holidays, after successful completion of two years' service.

You may be occasionally required to work evenings and weekends. Overtime is not paid but time off in lieu may be taken.



Organisation Overview

About Severn Rivers Trust

The River Severn is longest river in the United Kingdom, stretching 220 miles from its source in the Cambrian Mountains in Powys Wales, through the counties of Shropshire, Worcestershire and into Gloucestershire to the iconic estuary. The culture and economies of the historic settlements across the catchment have been intertwined with the river through commercial navigation, fishing, water supply and trade. Today, the Severn's rivers continue to play an essential role in supporting wildlife, wellbeing and economies of the region.

We are living through a time of great change. We are in the middle of a biodiversity crisis, and a climate emergency. We are witnessing disastrous loss of habitat, collapse of ecosystems, erosion of precious soils, increased flooding and devastating drought. At Severn Rivers Trust we are fighting for a future where our children and grandchildren can enjoy healthy vibrant rivers teeming with diverse and wonderful life – from Atlantic salmon to white clawed crayfish, and from freshwater pearl mussels to European eel.

The Severn Rivers Trust's vision for the Severn is:

A healthy, resilient river Severn for everyone.

The Severn Rivers Trust is the only organisation that works across the entire River Severn Basin area in both England and Wales, some 11,500 square miles! We are a proactive and adaptable team of dedicated staff. Our motto is “*We get our feet wet*” – meaning we make things happen on the ground and constantly strive to make a real and positive difference for the river and its communities

About the Woodlands for Water Project

Woodlands for Water is the first project developed by the Rivers Trust Riverscapes partnership which, with support from Defra, aims to create 3,150 hectares of trees in six river catchment areas from Devon to Cumbria by March 2025.

Supported by Defra, the project will be carried out by the ‘Riverscapes’ Partnership comprising of experts from The Rivers Trust, National Trust, Woodland Trust and Beaver Trust, which will be on hand to provide expert assistance in the selected river catchment areas across England, ensuring there is pipeline of projects for riparian planting in future years.

To create these woodlands, farmers and landowners will be able to get advice and support from local land management advisers to apply for funding through the England Woodland Creation Offer grant, plus a simple carbon trading offer, which provides greater financial incentives for landowners and farmers to plant and manage trees along rivers, watercourses, and wider catchments.



Role Purpose

Project management

- Prepare work programmes for assigned projects to ensure effective management of resources, making decisions as to where best to deploy volunteers and where to use external contractors
- Manage individual workload and make day to day decisions as to where best to allocate your time, to ensure pre-agreed targets, for landowner uptake into the EWCO, are achieved
- Manage delegated project budgets to ensure expenditure remains on track and within the allocated budget
- Write clear and concise reports and presentations on the progress of delegated projects, for funders, partners and stakeholders
- Work with colleagues, and partner organisations, to develop new woodland-based initiatives that will attract further funding to enable us to deliver our woodland creation objectives

Landowner engagement & project delivery

- Engage with landowners in the Teme catchment to identify opportunities to plant and manage woodlands, for the benefit of the water environment
- Lead on establishing routes to market to enable landowners to interact with carbon trading platforms, which can be used as an incentive to accelerate woodland planting
- Grow the Trust's presence and credibility within communities, focusing attention on pre-agreed priority areas within the Teme catchment.
- Provide sound professional advice to landowners on a range of environmental priorities including, woodland creation, riparian woodland, woodland carbon offsetting, carbon markets and selling carbon credits
- Proactively promote your allocated projects, other SRT catchment projects and the projects of our partners, and foster landowner support for their delivery
- Keep up to date with evolving agricultural support and regulations that will shape the future of British farming



Partnership working & collaboration

- Forge strong working relations and establish SRT as the 'go-to' delivery partner with a range of organisations, most notably including, Forestry England, Beaver Trust, The Woodland Trust, The National Trust and the wider Rivers Trust
- Where necessary, mentor junior colleagues and share knowledge throughout the Trust
- In partnership with the Head of Land Management, contribute to the development of the Teme Catchment Partnership, with a focus on woodland creation

Sustainable funding

- Manage delegated projects and associated budgets, ensuring value for money is achieved by the Trust and any supporting partners.
- Support the finance team in making financial claims for delegated projects, ensuring all records are accurate and required evidence is provided in timely manner.
- Work with the Trust's managers to seek external grant funding & private finance opportunities to support the delivery of our objectives.

Other Duties

- You shall lead by example in prioritising health and safety and wellbeing by taking responsibility for yourself, participants, volunteers and colleagues.
- You shall comply with Severn Rivers Trust's Health & Safety and Safeguarding policies and defined standards of behaviour at all times.
- You may be required to carry out other duties and tasks as required from time to time for the efficient operation of the Trust.



Person specification

Skills and Experience	Essential	Desirable
Experience working with landowners to identify and prioritise opportunities for woodland creation	✓	
Practical, hands-on experience delivering woodland creation projects	✓	
Experience of the Woodland Carbon Code, carbon credits and carbon trading	✓	
Experience in project management, including budget management	✓	
Experience managing contracts and contractors	✓	
Experience in producing and using health and safety protocols, including working under CDM regulations	✓	
A sound working knowledge of farm / wildlife habitats, and associated priority species. Specifically in respect to the water environment	✓	
Capable of identifying priority woodland habitats and advising on their management/restoration	✓	
Basic understanding of agriculture and other land-use practices, as well as agri-environment schemes and relevant policies or legislation; in particular soil and water conservation.	✓	
Familiar with catchment-scale approaches and processes, for example Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital.	✓	
Experience using IT software including email, MS Word, PowerPoint, Excel and videoconference apps.	✓	
Ability to manage workload effectively and prioritise tasks to demanding timelines.	✓	
Ability to communicate effectively, with integrity, tact and diplomacy, both verbally and in writing, to a wide range of stakeholders.	✓	
Ability to work well on your own initiative with high levels of self-motivation and enthusiasm	✓	
Ability to travel regularly and to remote sites and work some evenings and weekends.	✓	
Confidence in partnership working, e.g., with businesses, statutory bodies and voluntary organisations	✓	
A full UK driving license, with access to a personal vehicle insured for business purposes, and ability to drive SRT work vehicles.	✓	
Experience in project monitoring - collection, analysis and presentation of data.		✓
Relevant qualification, for example in Environmental Science or Countryside Management.		✓
GIS data and mapping skills		✓
Experience developing project proposals and funding applications		✓
Experience of line management / mentoring		✓



General Notes

In line with current SRT working arrangements, this post will be based from the home address of the appointed employee, with an expectation of occasional travel to the Trust's offices in Martley and/or Welshpool.

The post holder will be expected to undertake regular site visits to meet landowners, contractors, staff and volunteers. Therefore, a full, current UK driving license and daily access to a vehicle covered by business insurance is essential for this role. To reduce travel time and carbon footprint we would prefer candidates to live within the project area. Mileage costs will be reimbursed.

This position may occasionally be required to work during evenings, weekends and public holidays to meet the requirements of the project. The Trust operates a time-off in lieu system.

We expect you to carry out your job responsibilities in an environmentally aware manner, ensuring as little damage to the environment as possible. Our aim is to ensure all resources are used effectively and efficiently. You will be expected to apply 'sound value for money' principles and follow green procurement guidelines in undertaking purchasing or supply of goods and services.

Application process

For further information or to discuss this post please contact Matt Marston, Head of Land Management – matt.marston@severnriverstrust.com - 07593443393.

Deadline for applications: **Midnight Tuesday 14th December**

Interviews for this post will take place the week commencing 3rd January

To apply for this role please forward a completed application form to admin@severnriverstrust.com including the job title in the subject. Please note that a CV or cover letter will not be accepted.

Due to the high levels of applications usually received by the Trust for job vacancies we will only contact candidates who are invited to interview for the position.

Thank you for your interest in applying for a role with the Severn Rivers Trust.