



South Cumbria Rivers Trust

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Job Description - SCRT Project Officer for EU LIFE R4Ever Kent Project (LIFE20.NAT/UK/001013)



LIFE R4ever Kent (LIFE20 NAT/UK/001013) is financially supported by LIFE, a financial instrument of the European Commission.

Project Description

LIFE is an EU-funded programme aimed at the protection and restoration of Europe's nature, and halting and reversing biodiversity loss. LIFE supports achieving the objectives of the EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 and is part of the EU Green Deal. LIFE funds the development and management of the Natura 2000 network which protects over 18 % of the EU's land area and more than 8 % of its marine territory.

As part of the Natura 2000 network, the River Kent SAC (UK0030256) is designated for its Ranunculion habitat, freshwater pearl mussel, bullhead and white clawed crayfish. The River Kent SAC is impacted by issues including water quality, siltation, physical modification and invasive alien species, all of which have led to a decline in native species condition and extent.

LIFE **R4**ever Kent (LIFE20 NAT/UK/001013) plans to **Restore** and **Revive** the River Kent SAC, so that the species and habitats can **Recover**, thus making the designated features more **Resilient** to environmental pressures.

The freshwater pearl mussel is a keystone species which requires clean gravel habitats and low suspended solids/nutrient loading. Improved water and habitat quality (including Ranunculion habitat) will benefit other aquatic/terrestrial species including the endangered white clawed crayfish and provide optimum conditions for the freshwater pearl mussel's salmonid hosts.

The project will trial new techniques, provide targeted advice and training and promote better replication/communication.

Natural England is the lead partner for the project and is working in partnership with South Cumbria Rivers Trust, Freshwater Biological Association and Environment Agency.



Responsible to: Line manager - SCRT Projects and Technical Manager

Dimensions of Role- Specifically:

- To provide advice to farmers and other land managers to encourage the uptake of interventions and other solutions that protect and improve the River Kent SAC, SSSI and the water environment.
- To develop new schemes and interventions appropriate to the issues of concern, including physical modifications, diffuse pollution and river habitats
- To identify, scope and promote practical interventions and solutions to the Project Steering Group
- Deliver practical improvements on the ground to meet the requirements of the SAC designated features, species and the reasons for their decline.
- To monitor, update and input risks into the Catchment Plans and deliver relevant actions to mitigate these impacts.
- To lead on all aspects of projects approved for delivery at Steering Group.
- To carry out investigations, field trials, monitoring, sampling and analysis to support, validate and report and present on catchment activities and incidents.
- To form great collaborations with key partners including the Freshwater Biological Association, Natural England and the Environment Agency and to liaise with and work alongside local initiatives including the Volunteer groups and Catchment Based Approach and Catchment Partnership 'Becks to Bay',
- To use these collaborations to enhance and maximise new opportunities and to reduce duplication of catchment work and maximise grant income.
- Deliver regular reports both written and presented to the SCRT and Steering Group and at other workshops and lectures both internal and external as required.
- To contribute to a communication programme utilising email, meetings, newsletters, twitter, facebook, written educational material and press articles appropriate to the different sectors engaged on catchment.

Location: The successful applicant will be based at the South Cumbria Rivers Trust offices at Low Wood, near Ulverston on the banks of the River Leven near to Windermere. A significant proportion of time will be spent working in the field. The successful candidate will be prepared to adopt a flexible working approach. This will include some evenings and weekend working.



Duration of the Post: This is a full-time post with a minimum contract period Fixed-term appointment until 03/01/2027 (with extension possible depending on funding.) The post will also be subject to 3-month probationary period and 6-month development phase.

Key Accountabilities

General

- Ensuring that all SCRT projects and activities are based on the principles of sustainability, sound scientific knowledge and good working practices, and include effective Health and Safety arrangements.
- Working with the SCRT team to scope and deliver projects
- Working with the SCRT team to develop opportunities and funding bids for new projects and to support the LIFE R4Ever Kent Project
- Publicising SCRT's successes through all forms of media
- Contribute to the achievement of all Trust objectives and support all its activities in conservation and education
- Ensure that projects and all Trust activities are managed within budget
- Ensuring that the Trust fulfils its charitable aims

Knowledge, skills and experience

- Scientific
 - Excellent working understanding of water quality, hydrology, hydro ecology and river geomorphology and evidence of practical application
 - A good working knowledge of diffuse water pollution, water quality risk management and proven understanding of catchment management
 - Ability to transfer river and catchment assessments and data into the delivery of effective projects - Complete 'end to end' project delivery
 - Ability to absorb scientific papers and other technical data pertinent to catchment management
- Financial management
 - Proven skills to manage funds to time and budget constraints and to appropriately procure goods and services
- Data gathering and management
 - Use of GIS to build and update project activity and,
 - Use of spreadsheets and web based tools to aid collation and reporting
 - Good working knowledge of Microsoft Office and other programmes including ARCGIS.
 - Contribute to the development and delivery of SCRT's programme of surveying, sampling, and monitoring of catchment waters by electrofishing surveys,



invertebrate sampling, and walk over surveys and migratory and non-migratory salmonid spawning counts.

- Relationships
 - Proven ability to build and maintain excellent productive working relationships with colleagues, landowners, farmers and all external partners.
 - Generating commitment and enthusiasm from catchment communities, statutory bodies, volunteers and business.
- Project management
 - Outstanding and evidenced project delivery track record
 - Excellent H&S and CDM knowledge and their practical application
 - Experienced contractor engagement and management
- Reporting
 - Accurate, clear and timely reporting

Personnel Management

- Recruiting, leading and motivating Trust volunteers.
- Providing, where possible, opportunities for community volunteers to develop their skills
- Ensuring the safety and well-being of volunteers, contractors and others at all times
- Ensuring full and timely communication with all volunteers
- Reporting regularly to the SCRT team and SCRT trustees

Networking, Communicating and Training

- Excellent communication, organisation and report writing skills.
- An ability to prioritise, to be self-motivated and to motivate and inspire others.
- Establishing and maintaining excellent relationships with statutory partners, conservation bodies, Trustees and catchment communities.
- Ensuring that all Trust projects are delivered in partnership and involve the most suitable stakeholders.
- Identifying opportunities for funding and working with partners to maximise funding potential.
- Representing the Trust in local and national fora, including the Rivers Trust.
- Attending appropriate training in agreement with SCRT management
- Keeping Trustees, Patrons, volunteers and relevant external bodies informed about the Trust's work by giving and contributing to talks, presentations, training, the SCRT website and other events.
- Carrying out related tasks as requested/required by your line manager

Fitness

- This Project Officer role demands a significant element of working in the field. The successful candidate will demonstrate an interest in the outdoors and be physically fit.



Terms and Conditions

- The appointment will be on a full-time fixed term contract until 03/01/2027, subject to available funding, with a probationary period of 3 months. Following probation you will enter into the 6 month Development Plan phase. There will be an annual review thereafter.
- This is a full-time post of 37.5 hours per week requiring flexibility in working hours, potentially including evenings and weekends.
- Salary will be by negotiation and at a point on the SCRT scale which acknowledges the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate.
- Reasonable expenses, including a mileage allowance, will be paid.
- Annual leave entitlement is 22 days (increasing with length of service) plus public holidays.
- A contributory pension scheme will be offered.
- Candidates for this post are required to declare any previous or pending charges of a criminal nature. Other relevant checks may be required.
- The successful candidate will need a current, valid driving licence and provide their own vehicle.
- The successful candidate will be expected to live within reasonable travelling distance of the office.
- In addition to general PPE, provided facilities include a smartphone and a laptop computer.
- SCRT is an Equal Opportunities employer

Application forms for this vacancy are available from;

www.scrt.co.uk/vacancies

