Mersey Rivers Trust
Healthy rivers for people and wildlife

Role profile

Job title: Farm advisor
Location: Cheshire (Home-based with travel across Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside)
Salary £25,000 - £28,000 per annum (dependent on skills and experience)
Closes: Sunday 29th November 2026
Organisation: Mersey Rivers Trust
Hours: Full Time, 37.5 hours per week. Flexibility required (some evening and weekend work)
Contract: Permanent

Overview

The Mersey Rivers Trust (MRT) is an environmental charity focused on the protection and enhancement of rivers and waterbodies throughout the Mersey Catchment. The Trust works across Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside with farmers, landowners, local communities, businesses and partner organisations to improve water quality, reduce flood risk, restore habitats and support sustainable land management.

We are seeking a practical, enthusiastic and self-motivated Farm Advisor to work with farmers and land managers across the Mersey catchment.

The successful candidate will play a key role in developing trusted relationships with farmers, promoting best practice, supporting the delivery of farm-based environmental improvements and facilitating farmer engagement activities.

We welcome applications from individuals with a wide range of experience, from those with a farming background and a strong understanding of agricultural practices through to experienced environmental farm advisors with relevant qualifications such as BASIS and FACTS.

The role holder will report to the Cheshire Senior Project Manager and will work closely with colleagues across all Mersey Rivers Trust delivery teams.

The post holder will be home-based and will regularly travel throughout Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

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Key Responsibilities

Farmer and Landowner Engagement and Advice

- Build and maintain positive working relationships with farmers, landowners, agricultural and equestrian businesses across the Mersey Catchment.
- Promote practical measures that improve water quality, soil health, biodiversity and farm resilience.
- Undertake landowner and farm visits and identify opportunities for environmental improvements and sustainable land management.
- Support landowners and farmers in understanding and accessing relevant environmental schemes, grants and opportunities.
- Act as a trusted point of contact between farmers and the Trust.

Farmer Networks and Knowledge Exchange

- Establish, coordinate and facilitate farmer groups, discussion groups and demonstration events.
- Organise and deliver workshops, farm walks, training sessions and knowledge-sharing events.
- Encourage peer-to-peer learning and the sharing of best practice between farmers.
- Represent the Trust at agricultural events, shows and stakeholder meetings.

Project Delivery

- Support the planning and delivery of projects involving farmers and landowners.
- Assist in the development of farm-based initiatives that contribute to river and catchment improvements.
- Maintain accurate project records and monitoring information.
- Support project reporting requirements and funding outcomes.
- Work collaboratively with colleagues, contractors and partner organisations.

Site Work and Monitoring

- Undertake site visits and field assessments.
- Support collection of environmental and agricultural data where required.
- Assist with monitoring and evaluation activities associated with farming and environmental projects.
- Identify opportunities for habitat enhancement, water quality improvements and natural flood management measures.

General

- Attend internal and external meetings as required.
- Maintain project records, timesheets and reporting systems.
- Comply with all Mersey Rivers Trust health and safety procedures.
- Work in a flexible manner and undertake other appropriate duties as required.

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Candidate Profile

Essential

- A farming, agricultural or land management background, or significant experience working with the farming community.
- A good understanding of modern farming systems and agricultural practices.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to build trusted relationships with farmers and landowners.
- Experience engaging and communicating with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Experience organising and leading meetings, workshops, group discussions or events.
- Ability to work independently and effectively from home.
- Excellent organisational and time management skills.
- Willingness to travel extensively throughout Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside.
- Full UK driving licence.
- Access to a vehicle insured for business use.
- Good IT skills including Microsoft Office applications.
- Ability to work occasional evenings and weekends to support events and farmer engagement activities.

Desirable

- BASIS qualification.
- FACTS qualification.
- Environmental Farm Adviser certification or equivalent.
- Experience of advising farmers on environmental land management.
- Knowledge of Countryside Stewardship, SFI or successor environmental schemes.
- Experience of delivering agricultural, environmental or rural development projects.
- Project management experience.
- GIS or mapping experience.
- Habitat, biodiversity or water quality survey experience.
- Experience of collecting field survey or farm management data.
- PA1, PA2 or other relevant agricultural machinery or pesticide application qualifications.
- Practical countryside management, machinery operation or land-based vocational qualifications.

To apply:
If you wish to apply, please send a CV (no more than two pages of A4) and covering letter (no more than two pages of A4), outlining how you meet the requirements of the role profile and candidate profile, via email to info@merseyrivers.org

Applications must be received no later than 11:59pm on Sunday 29th November 2026

If you would like more information on the role before submitting an application, you may contact the hiring manager via info@merseyrivers.org