

Role: River Health Monitor

Role #: 2017-01

Role Description

The success of the River Health Project is reliant on our committed network of Citizen Scientists that actively monitor sites across the catchment and work together to determine potential incidents of pollution. River Health Monitors make regular visits to monitoring sites across the catchment to collect, identify and count river bugs to build up a database which helps the us and the Environment Agency set a 'trigger level' for each water course, should the results collected by the monitoring network fall below the trigger level action needs to be taken to improve matters, and in some cases further investigations can be carried out to identify the cause or culprits of pollution incidents.

About the Project

River Health Project is Calder Rivers Trusts catchment wide project monitoring the health of the river, tracking pollution, and checking water quality through invertebrate monitoring. We measure the health of the river by taking regular samples of invertebrates (river bugs) at sites across Calderdale, Kirklees, and Wakefield, looking for variations in results. Invertebrates are the most useful available indicators of this because they are generally at the bottom of the food chain, meaning that most fish, birds and mammals rely on a healthy population of invertebrates for their survival. Many invertebrates are also particularly sensitive to pollution, and these are the ones that we research in our monitoring programme – their absence is an important indicator that something is wrong, and action must be taken!

Tasks

- The role will involve working in the water and with small bugs **WORKING IN WATER**
- Collecting and identifying fresh water invertebrates **ECOLOGICAL SURVEY**
- Sample in accordance with Riverfly protocol **DATA COLLECTION**
- Take environmental notes **DATA COLLECTION**
- Attending project meetings and training events (as and when) **NETWORKING**
- Sending your monitoring information to the Project Manager **COMMUNICATING**

Experience Needed

No experience necessary, although an interest in the natural environment is.

Commitment

Hours Variable (there is no minimum commitment but we would expect roughly 6 samples per year)

Duration Variable (there is no minimum commitment but we would expect roughly 6 samples per year)

Location

Monitoring sites are located across the catchment

Training & Equipment

All will be provided

Next steps? **Register** for this role by visiting our [website](#) !