

# WELCOME



## What is Thames21?

Thames21 is the voice for London's waterways, working with communities to improve rivers and canals for people and wildlife.

We mobilise thousands of volunteers every year to clean and green the capital's 400 mile network of waterways. Thames21 aims to transform neglected waterways into areas that everyone can use and enjoy by using innovative and tailored community approaches.

## London's waterways are amazing!

At their best, the rivers and canals of greater London are scenic thoroughfares that help us move freely through the city. They provide homes for wildlife and plants, give us glimpses of the past and are places to renew physical and mental strength. At worst, litter and poor maintenance can turn our valuable waterway spaces into areas of neglect, where no one wants to be.

Thames21 believes that rivers provide a powerful focus for community action. By working with volunteers to clean up their local stretches of water, we feel it is possible to turn an under-utilised area into a place of pride and improve the natural environment at the same time. With local authorities relying more and more on the efforts of volunteers to care for and maintain shared spaces, the work of Thames21 to help people take their love of waterways and turn it into action has never been more important. We need people like you to help us with our task.

## Why has Thames21 created a training programme for volunteers?

Litter is a major problem in the urban landscape and once it is in the water there is no statutory responsibility to remove it.

Many people want to do more for their local stretch of water but don't know where to start. Working in and around water is different from land-based conservation. Planning how to do a water-based activity safely, effectively and enjoyably can seem daunting. Our essential course, **Leading Action for Healthy Rivers**, contains everything you need to know.

This 2-day course is for people interested in learning more about rivers, why they are important and how to mobilise volunteers. There is no obligation to run an event once a person has completed the course. People may take it for the learning experience or to progress in volunteering to become a Thames21 Event Contractor or set up their own group.

Clean-up events are a great starting point - our Thames21 trained River Action Groups go on to carry out a wide variety of exciting work!

Plan and run a  
safe, effective  
and fun event



Trainees at Day 1 of Leading Action for Healthy Rivers



Trainees who have completed the course, leading their own cleanup event

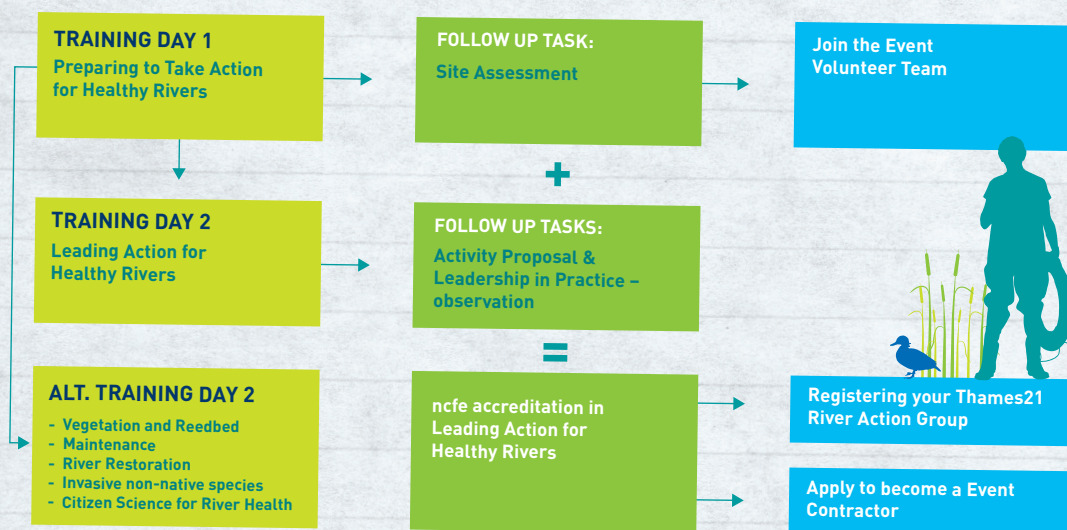


# TRAINING PATHWAY



Two day-long sessions are combined with assessments you complete on your own and practical volunteering to help you get the best learning experience. The Training Pathway diagram below shows you how you will progress through the course and what options you have available should you wish to continue being involved with Thames21 and our work.

## TAKING ACTION WITH THAMES21: TRAINING PATHWAY



## 'LEADING ACTION FOR HEALTHY RIVERS' TRAINING

Day 1 is called **Preparing to Take Action for Healthy Rivers**. It provides a foundation for anyone interested in working around waterways. Thames21 encourages all our events volunteers to take this course. You can go on to complete this course by taking Day 2 and/or take a range of other 1 day courses.

After completing the **Leading Action for Healthy Rivers** accreditation you can register to help support Thames21 project officers to delivery their events across London or set up a River Action Group and lead your own events.

The Thames21 Training Officer or a Project Officer who knows your area will advise you on setting up a River Action Group and planning your first event. Signing a River Action Group agreement means:

- You and your group is covered by Thames21's public liability insurance
- Thames21 can loan you equipment subject to availability
- Thames21 will publicise your events on our website and other media outlets.



# ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION



Thames21 has been approved as a Customised Qualification centre by the **ncfe**, the further education accrediting organisation, to give formal recognition for our courses.

To gain an ncf certificate of achievement, participants must attend both days of the Leading Action for Healthy Rivers course and complete the accompanying assessments, which are outlined below:

## Assessment 1: Site Assessment and Activity Proposal

After Day 1 of the course you will complete:

- a site assessment reviewing the suitability of a location for putting on an event
- an activity proposal outlining an event that you would lead

This is a theoretical activity – you can choose a site you are actually hoping to work on or pick a site you are unfamiliar with and research it.

## Assessment 2: Leadership in Practice

After Day 2, you can either observe and evaluate the leadership during an environmental event you attend, or evaluate yourself leading your own event. Most trainees attend one of the many volunteer events offered by Thames21 and complete this assessment evaluating the Project Officer leading on that day. Alternatively you can participate in an event with another organisation such as London Wildlife Trust.

**ncfe**  
Customised Qualifications

**THAMES21**

### Site Assessment

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Waterway: \_\_\_\_\_

Add a photo here if possible

*In this assignment, you are assessing a site which could be used for a waterway improvement event. Pick a stretch of waterway you are interested in and answer the following questions as descriptively as you can.*

<b>Overview of waterways</b> – Talk about why waterways and doing waterway clean-ups are important.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• List 4 reasons why waterways are important (hint: think 'service provided')</li><li>• List 3 things affecting the waterways</li><li>• List 2 reasons why doing events is important</li></ul>
<b>Desk Study</b> – Try and find out as much as you can about your waterway and chosen site as you can.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What's it called?</li><li>• Where is it (postcode, what three words, landmarks, etc.)</li><li>• Description of the waterway (canal, tributary, river, etc.)</li><li>• Is there public access (pavement, park, etc.)</li><li>• Who owns the land (council, business, etc.)</li><li>• Places of interest (green spaces, church, school, etc.)</li><li>• What other info that helps set the scene?</li></ul>
<b>Public access to the site</b> – where will people meet and how will you get to the site?	Be specific so your group can find it. Think about how to get there.
<b>What activities could take place at the site?</b> How regularly would they need to take place? You can describe more than one.	Think about what you might enjoy doing.

**ncfe**  
Customised Qualifications

**TRAINED BY**  
  
**THAMES21**