 **Thames River Watch Monitoring Officer**

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| Job Description  |

**Salary:**  £23 000 to £29 000 per annum depending on experience

**Contract length:**  2 years from the start of the contract

**Location:** Guildhall, London, EC2V 7HH

**Full Time:** 5 days a week (35 Hours)

**Responsible to:** Thames River Watch Programme Manager

**Job Purpose:**

This is a unique and exciting role within Thames21 in which you will develop and deliver a monitoring strategy to evidence the impact of the new Tideway tunnel on reducing sewage derived plastic pollution in the tidal Thames and work with EU partners to evaluate the effectiveness of different methods for plastic removal from the Thames foreshore.

This role is funded by two projects: An EU funded H2020 project, In-No-Plastics[[1]](#footnote-1), which is developing innovative approaches towards prevention, removal and re-use of marine plastic litter; and Thames River Watch (funded by Tideway and Thames Water) which trains and supports volunteers to collect new and valuable data about the quantity of plastic in the Thames.

Working in conjunction with EU partners on the In-No-Plastics project you will play a key role in testing the effectiveness of traditional community oriented clean- ups compared to technological solutions and also compile evidence to inform strategies for plastic reuse and circular economy. This will involve devising methodological approaches, mapping of results and working with volunteers on clean ups.

Thames River Watch aims to monitor the impact of the new Tideway tunnel on sewage derived plastic pollution in the river while effectively connecting riverside communities to the river and supporting good river stewardship. The Tideway tunnel is expected to reduce sewage derived plastic pollution entering the river and to have a discernible positive impact on the quantities of this plastic pollution found in the river.

You will play a key role in designing and implementing the monitoring strategy necessary to test this hypothesis, building on the methods and data already established through the programme. The first two years of the project will be about establishing a robust baseline in time for the opening of the Tunnel in 2024. You will also have the opportunity to develop new methods for assessing river health, including monitoring and recording of wildlife.

In addition, the project will look at the health and wellbeing impacts of volunteering by the river. You will have a role in developing surveys and analysing data to determine this impact on our volunteers.

Thames21 recognises the positive value of diversity and we welcome and encourage job applications from people of all backgrounds.

**Main duties and responsibilities:**

1. **Develop and deliver plastic litter monitoring strategies in conjunction with EU project partners to support robust comparisons between techniques and also to establish baseline data for evidencing the effectiveness of the Tideway Tunnel**
* Develop online tools for mapping and recording litter monitoring using ArcGIS online.
* Take a lead on method development, data handling and statistical analysis.
* Reporting of results to a range of audiences from EU project partners to volunteers and the general public.
* Training volunteers in methods you have devised, alongside the Volunteer Engagement Officer.
* Take part in the monitoring programme with volunteers ensuring they are confident with the methodology.
1. **Develop relationships with EU project partners, Thames stakeholders and universities**
* Develop ideas for research opportunities for university students, cultivate relationships with universities and proactively recruit suitable students.
* Take part in the PLA Thames Litter Forum Evidence and Monitoring Group.
* Keep informed of research ongoing or planned regarding the health of the river.
* Identify new research projects that require funding under the auspices of the Thames Baseline and Evidence Group.
* This may involve occasionally international travel to project meetings and conferences.
1. **Develop new citizen science activities on the tidal Thames**
* Develop new activities such as recording wildlife in the tidal Thames or monitoring change in geomorphology.
* Research methods from around the world that might be applicable on the Thames.
* Liaise with partners and experts to co-develop new methodologies.
1. **Design and analysis of social surveys**
* Adapt existing surveys to measure health and wellbeing impacts of volunteering at our events.
* Assist the design of Thames Public Attitude surveys and analyse the results to determine how perceptions of the river are changing.
1. **General Thames21 duties**
* Maintain clear records of progress, ensure all administration and statistical information is kept, and regularly upload information onto the Thames21 database.
* Attend Thames21 Team Meetings and liaise with Thames21 staff.
* Attend occasional weekend and evening meetings and events.
* This job description cannot cover every issue or task that may arise within the post at various times and the post-holder will be expected to carry out other duties from time to time which are broadly consistent with those in this document.

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| **Person Specification**  |

**It is essential that in your application you give evidence or examples of your proven experience in each of the following criteria including the competencies.**

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| **Skills, Knowledge & Qualifications:** | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Assessed by** |
| A degree or equivalent qualification in a relevant subject | √ |  | Application |
| Knowledge and experience of statistical techniques and analysis tools (e.g. R) | √ |  | Application & Interview |
| Knowledge and experience of ArcGIS online or other GIS  | √ |  | Application & Interview |
| Knowledge and experience of biological monitoring techniques  | √ |  | Application & interview |
| Knowledge of water quality indicators including biological, ecological, chemical and physical parameters |  | √ | Application & Interview |
| Knowledge of social science principles and methods for assessment of health and wellbeing indicators  |  | √ | Application & Interview |
| Familiarity with the River Thames and the surrounding area |  | √ | Application |
| Ability to make formal presentations to a range of audiences (scientific and general public)  | √ |  | Application & Interview |
| Ability to use social media platforms confidently and other communication platforms such as MailChimp etc. | √ |  | Application & Interview |
| Ability to produce clear verbal and written reports for a variety of audiences (scientific, volunteer, public) | √ |  | Application  |
| Ability to develop relationships with expert and non-expert stakeholders | √ |  | Application & Interview |
| Ability to drive a transit van in London confidently |  | √ | Application |
| **Experience of:** |  |  |  |
| Managing and analysing of large datasets (analysis tools e.g. python, R)  | √ |  | Application & Interview |
| Designing and implementing biological monitoring and/or citizen science programmes |  | √ | Application & Interview |
| Delivering training sessions to groups of adults |  | √ | Application |
| Working with a broad range of partners from statutory organisations, Environment Agency, academics, local government, the voluntary and private sectors |  | √ | Application & interview |

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

* 25 days paid annual leave are available pro rata plus public holidays. In addition, the Thames21 office is closed between Christmas and New Year.
* Thames21 operate a flexitime system of working.
* Interest free season ticket loan or bike loan is available
* Childcare voucher scheme is available
* Mobile phone for company use
* Thames21 have an ‘Auto Enrol’ Work Place Pension Scheme with NEST
* Healthcare scheme available (employee contribution only)
* The postholder must be willing to travel sensibly throughout London and occasionally throughout the UK

**Deadline for completed application forms: 6pm 30th Aug 2021**

**Interviews will be held on: 6th & 7th September 2021**

**Completed application forms should be emailed to**: Michael.Heath@thames21.org.uk

Or posted to: Michael Heath, Personnel Manager, Thames21, Walbrook Wharf, 78-83 Upper Thames Street, London EC4R 3TD

1. [Home | In-No-Plastic (innoplastic.eu)](https://www.innoplastic.eu/) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)