

Thames Community Eel Officer (Brent and Ravensbourne)



Job description

Full Time position for 6 months, salary £24,000

Location: Working from the Thames21 offices, in and around the River Ravensbourne and River Brent catchments, with the option of home working.

Organisation and role outline:

Thames21 is an environmental charity dedicated to achieving healthy, resilient rivers at the heart of community life in the Thames Basin. As a member of the Rivers Trust network, we are part of a movement that is comprised of over 60 local trusts, which aim to achieve wild, healthy, natural rivers valued by all. These values are central to all we strive to achieve, including bringing positive energy, expertise and specialist knowledge to develop good relationships and to deliver to a high standard, making a real difference to rivers, their catchment and communities.

This Project Officer role is an exciting opportunity, where you will work in partnership with three Rivers Trusts (Thames Rivers Trust, Action for the River Kennet, South East Rivers Trust) to successfully deliver the Thames Catchment Community Eels Project, led by Thames Rivers Trust and funded by Defra's Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

Your role will be to use the evidence gained from the ObstacleEELS citizen science surveys to create evidence based catchment plans for eel (and potentially fish) migration. You will work with TCCEP partners to develop a 'fish migration vision' for the Brent and Ravensbourne. Your role will be to present this work to interested stakeholders and work with the Catchment Partnership Team to link in with local priorities to enable integrated delivery. This may include organising a programme of events to engage and work with local communities and professional organisations.

Using stakeholder input you will develop opportunities for further practical projects - such as weir removals, installation of eel passes and eel traps. Furthermore, you will support the refinement of the ObstacleEELS roll out to new catchments across the Thames catchment. You will also aim to raise the profile of the European eel through the community engagement programme. This includes delivering presentations, talks, leading riverbank walks and in-channel wading.

Job summary

Delivering Thames21's elements of the Thames Catchment Community Eels Project partnership project reconnecting people with their local river and water environment, focussing on the European eel as described on page 1.

You will work in partnership with other organisations wherever possible to deliver multiple objectives, provide a joined up approach for stakeholders. You will communicate with a wide range of stakeholders and communities, through a range of media, *e.g.* meetings, events, website, workshops, phone, social media, etc. You will be personable, diplomatic, questioning, able to explain technical concepts in simple terms, have strong facilitation skills and be passionate about rivers and the environment. Fostering partnership working and the ability to build functional partnerships and strong working relationships will also be essential for the role.

This public facing role will suit a natural leader and communicator who will become a voice for the Trust's work. This is an exciting opportunity to join a growing and dynamic team making a real difference for the environment, with a focus on the critically endangered European eel.

Key duties

Partnership working

Communicate with project partners, attend development and progress meetings. Work with project partners for a joined up and successful project achieving all outputs, outcomes and approved purposes.

Project delivery and management

Undertake day to day management and delivery of the community aspects of the project including keeping records, and reporting to funders and partners as required to a good standard. Work with other Thames21 staff and project partners to facilitate smooth delivery and processes for the project, supporting the Project Manager where required. Work with Trust staff to contribute to Trust and external comms, in line with GRCF and TRT guidelines. Use the outputs of the citizen science eel barrier assessments to create an evidence based catchment action plan which enable eels to thrive in the Upper Brent and Ravensbourne catchment. Ensure the action plan is integrated into the Fish Migration Roadmap.

Engage and inspire specific communities within the catchment

Build and expand relationships with the communities of the River Ravensbourne and River Brent to engage them with their river and increase their understanding of the importance of eels and how their populations can be restored along with the rivers health through implementation of the action. Use activities such as volunteering, community walks and talks to enable increased understand of the issues and solutions.

Person Specification

Please keep this list of requirements in mind, together with the Trust's core values when completing your application. Knowledge, experience, skills and aptitudes will be assessed through the application process and at interview.

Requirements - Qualifications, training and experience	Essential	Desirable
A relevant degree or experience in a relevant area. e.g. Freshwater management, aquatic science, river restoration	✓	
An understanding of one or more of relevant topics, such as community engagement, citizen science, community engagement.	✓	
Experience of working in partnership with a range of organisations and sectors to achieve common goals	✓	
Experience organising and delivering successful events.	✓	
Experience of collating data, summarising and communicating it well for external audiences	✓	
Track record of successfully delivering projects and satisfying funders' requirements.		✓
Experience of managing projects.		✓
Knowledge and Understanding		
A knowledge and understanding of river ecosystems and how they function.	✓	
Knowledge of eels, issues they face and potential solutions		✓
Skills and Personal attributes	✓	
Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written.	✓	
A natural leader, with diplomat skills; able to hold the attention of a wide range of audiences.	✓	
Organised and a positive can do attitude	✓	
Ability to work independently and as part of a team.	✓	
Strong IT skills (email, excel, office).	✓	
Ability to inspire and lead volunteer teams and the wider community.		✓
A full clean driving licence		✓

Application process

Please email a completed application form to Michael Heath:
michael.heath@thames21.org.uk

The deadline for applications is Sunday 10th October 2021, with interviews taking place on Wednesday 20th and Friday 22nd October 2021. Please highlight in your application if you are unable to make these dates. If you would like to discuss the role further, please contact us on the above email.