



River Holme Connections

Year in industry placement 2022/2023

Background

From its source on the moorlands above Holme, West Yorkshire, the River Holme winds its way through the countryside and villages before reaching Huddersfield town centre where it joins the River Colne. The river over the years has been the lifeblood of villages, a leisure facility for anglers, walkers and a place for locals and visitors to relax and enjoy the views. Yet, years of neglect, sewage discharges, the arrival of invasive species and littering had taken their toll.

A group of like-minded individuals decided it was time for a change, and in 2015 they founded the charity "River Holme Connections." With the help of dedicated volunteers, the charity is passionate about making the River Holme a better place for people and wildlife.

The Placement

The successful student will be based in the charity's office in Honley (Huddersfield, West Yorkshire), working alongside the small team of staff, trustees and volunteers. The role will be roughly 50% office based and 50% field based.

The student will have the opportunity to get involved in all the work of the charity, including environmental education work (with primary school children and young adults). The placement student will also get involved in practical river restoration and conservation work with volunteers such as tree planting, footpath improvements, wildflower planting, invasive non-native plant control, citizen science work (riverfly sampling), helping at public events, social media (facebook, twitter and instagram) updates, funding bids, river surveying, geographical information system updates (QGIS) and general admin work. The majority of practical work carried out is seasonal.

Placement duration

11 month placement (expected start July 2022)

Stipend

A stipend of £6,000 will be paid in monthly instalments.

Working hours

Full time, 37.5 hour week, Flexible working hours.

Other benefits

An annual leave allowance, travel allowance (£1,000) and City & Guilds Training will also be provided in strimming/brushcutters, the safe use of pesticides (PA1), knapsack spraying on land and water (PA6 AW), pesticide injection equipment (PA6INJ). First aid training will also be provided.



Experience/personal skills required

The student should have a keen interest in environmental education work, freshwater ecology and river restoration. A good understanding of ecological principles relating to rivers and freshwater would be beneficial.

The position will involve outdoor and in-river (wading) work in all weathers including practical river restoration tasks with volunteers, Japanese knotweed control work, tree planting, river surveying and education work.

Students should be proficient in computer use, should be confident using Microsoft Office software and social media platforms (facebook, twitter and Instagram) and be a good communicator.

An enhanced DBS check will be required as part of the role (for working with children and inspiring the next generation of river guardians!).

Submission requirements

Please send a CV and covering letter by email to Mike Williams at info@riverholmeconnections.org

Your letter should explain why you are interested in this placement, what you think you can contribute to the role, what you hope to get from it in terms of your skills/personal development.

Submissions must be received no later than **5pm on Sunday 16th of January 2022**.

We welcome applicants from all backgrounds and in particular those that are currently under represented in our workforce.



For further information, see the following links:

www.riverholmeconnections.org

[Annual Report 2020 - River Holme Connections](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/RiverHolmeConnections/>

<http://www.nptc.org.uk/assets/documents/77ca9c2918334d2091a133c15f1de03f.pdf>

<http://www.nptc.org.uk/assets/documents/3a0373d430214d599dd23cc08d1c346b.pdf>

<https://www.nptc.org.uk/assets/documents/7433e7497acc4fbbbabcad575471a2fc.pdf>

If you have any questions or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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River Holme Connections
Unit 4 Honley Business Hub
13 / 15 Westgate
Honley, West Yorkshire, HD9 6AA

Tel: 01484 661756

riversteward@riverholmeconnections.org

or Luke Sherwood (our current "Year in Industry" student)

YII@riverholmeconnections.org

Tel: 01484 661756

Reflections from Luke on his year so far:

"A year in industry with River Holme Connections has given me a breadth of experience in the charity sector - full accredited training and qualifications in a range of skills that will be useful for future career development in practical conservation and community engagement, a deeper understanding of the river restoration sector, including the catchment based approach, project management and delivery of charity work, as well as practical experience of river conservation and community network development (delivery of environmental education programmes and working with other community groups)".