



## Engagement Officer for River Holme Connections

### Job Description

April 2026

<b>Job title:</b>	Engagement Officer
<b>Responsible to:</b>	CEO of River Holme Connections
<b>Hours:</b>	Full Time (37.5 hours per week)
<b>Contract Length:</b>	2 Years (July 2026 – July 2028)
<b>Salary:</b>	£26,760

### Our Organisation:

#### Our Vision:

#### **Transforming the River Holme catchment for the benefit of people and wildlife.**

From its source on the moorlands above Holmfirth the River Holme and its tributaries flow north, meandering through some of Yorkshire's most captivating landscapes before joining the River Colne at Aspley near Huddersfield town centre.

Rich in history and heritage, and teeming with wildlife, the River Holme provides wellbeing opportunities for young and old. It can be a place for leisure and recreation, or somewhere to relax and connect with nature, but it needs looking after.

Working together, we want to make the River Holme catchment a better place for people and wildlife.

Principal Activities:	Improving Biodiversity	Improving Water Quality	Accessible Riversides	Community Engagement	Volunteers	Partnerships
<b>Strategic Priorities: What do we want to achieve and why?</b>	We want to achieve improved biodiversity and improved habitat connectivity to support healthier (viable) populations of key species.	We want to achieve improved water quality so that the river is cleaner and can be used for recreation at any time.	We want to create a Riverside Way that is completely off road. This will further connect people with the river and wildlife and promote inclusive access to nature.	We want more people to love and care for the river and to support RHC in making positive changes to our local environment.	We want RHC to have wider volunteer opportunities so that more people can join in and RHC can expand its impact.	We want to strengthen our strategic partnerships with organisations and communities that are vital to our work.

### **Role Profile:**

The Engagement Officer is a highly outward facing role at River Holme Connections, helping to make our vision a reality. You will work closely with the wider team and our fabulous volunteers to deliver our well-respected programme of community engagement across the River Holme catchment.

The post-holder will be experienced in project delivery and happy to take responsibility for planning and safely delivering a wide variety of inclusive engagement activities to different audiences. You will be a friendly ambassador, who enjoys communicating with local communities and partner organisations and winning their support. You need to be a self-motivated individual who can work on your own initiative as well as great at working in a small team. This role is for someone who can easily communicate complex science, who enjoys creatively developing outreach projects, and who wants to make a positive impact in the world by sharing their love of nature.

River Holme Connections has a well-respected programme of work and a fantastic group of volunteers who help our small team improve biodiversity and water quality and increase access to the river. The Engagement Officer fosters constructive partnerships with local stakeholders, organisations, and community groups to ensure that local people are inspired to help us to transform the River Holme catchment for the benefit of people and wildlife.

We are looking for a keen and enthusiastic communicator, who will engage local people of all ages and backgrounds to help us to achieve our vision, and specifically the delivery of our principal activities of community engagement, volunteering and partnerships building.

### **Responsibilities**

Working on own as directed by RHC CEO or as part of a team.

### **Engagement Activities:**

- Develop, plan, and deliver community events to engage our local communities. This will include adults, children and young people (in and out of school contexts), uniformed groups (e.g. scouts, guides), families, and other relevant audiences.
- Initiate and develop relationships within the local community, including local groups, and other potential partners to further our outreach.
- Build relationships with schools and colleges in the River Holme Catchment to drive participation.
- Deliver education programmes to schools to help connect young people to their local river.
- Lead simple practical conservation tasks (e.g. tree planting, balsam bashing, litter picking, developing school grounds for nature).
- Be responsible for the promotion, marketing, booking and planning of community engagement sessions.
- Be responsible for the delivery of engagement programmes within the approved project budget, timescales and quality criteria.
- Recruit and manage engagement volunteers to support our activities.
- Collect feedback to continually develop and improve our engagement programmes.

### **Fundraising:**

- Develop inspiring ideas for the creation of new projects to reach communities and connect people with nature.
- Write funding bids to secure financial support for the organisation from grants or sponsorship to deliver community engagement work.
- Collect feedback and evidence to report our impact to funders, to develop our relationship with them, and to use for future fundraising case studies.
- Build and maintain relationships with specific groups of stakeholders (e.g. landowners and farmers, local businesses) to deliver funded programmes.

### **Communications:**

Champion and promote River Holme Connections by:

- Working with the team to ensure frequent and engaging social media posts.
- Contributing engaging stories for the monthly newsletter.
- Speaking about River Holme Connections and the work we do in a wide variety of settings to inspire enthusiasm and action.
- Maintaining the website content.
- Developing and delivering our Communications Plan.

### **Safe Working:**

- Ensure safe working policy and practice for self and others.
- Responsible for the day-to-day operational safety management of yourself and communicating safety risks to others working with you (e.g. volunteers/contractors). Key safety management tasks are identified in River Holme Connections' H&S policy.
- Responsible for ensuring yourself and any reports/ volunteers have up-to-date knowledge of River Holme Connections' safeguarding policy in relation to children and vulnerable adults

### **Person Specification**

The role holder should be able to give evidence or examples of their proven experience in the following criteria. This experience may be in a paid or voluntary capacity.

<b>Specification</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desired</b>	<b>Assessed by</b>
Relevant lived experience, and/or qualification in an environmental or education field.	√		Application/Interview
Experience of working with children and young people to improve their understanding of nature and biodiversity.	√		Application/Interview
Experience of communicating with the public, e.g. giving talks or presentations, representing an	√		Application/Interview

organisation at shows or community events with a warm and friendly conversational style.			
Experience of planning and leading inclusive events to connect people with nature, e.g. walks and talks, conservation tasks,		√	Application/Interview
Experience in recruitment, management, support and coordination of volunteers.		√	Application/Interview
Ability to regularly work outdoors in a physically demanding role, e.g. to collect river water samples, or to lead community conservation e.g. tree planting, litter picking, balsam bashing, or developing school grounds for nature.	√		Application/Interview
Experience of leading simple practical conservation tasks.		√	Application/Interview
Knowledge of how to work safely in the outdoor environment following health and safety policies and procedures.		√	Application/Interview
Ability to manage multiple projects and hit deadlines.	√		Application/Interview
Ability to communicate complex issues in an accessible way, tailored to your audience.	√		Application/Interview
Ability to write for social media and online, planning content calendars, scheduling posts, tracking and reporting on metrics.	√		Application/Interview
Experience of raising money through grant applications and corporate donations including developing project ideas.		√	Application/Interview
Excellent verbal, written and IT skills, including MS word, PowerPoint and excel, with the ability to use Customer Relationship Management systems.	√		Application/Interview
Understanding and commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, with an ability to relate to people from a diverse range of backgrounds and ages.	√		Application/Interview
Flexible working required. Frequent out-of-hour working (evenings/weekends) will be necessary.	√		Application/Interview
A full driving licence and access to a personal vehicle with business insurance.	√		Application

**Applications:**

To apply, please send your CV (no more than 2 pages) and a letter of application (no more than 2 pages) to [admin@riverholmeconnections.org](mailto:admin@riverholmeconnections.org) . Your letter should explicitly state how you meet each



of the criteria in the above person specification section, or how you would build these required skills. Please be careful with the use of AI, as this can result in inaccuracies or an overstatement of your skills.

**Closing Date:** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May (9am)

**Shortlisting:** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May

**Interview Date:** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

**Start Date:** Ideally, the start date would be in early July 2026.