

Thames Community Eel Officer (Brent and Ravensbourne)



Immediate start

This is an exciting opportunity to make practical use of evidence collected during citizen science river surveys to create new plans to assist eel migration. Working with project partners, you will develop a 'fish migration vision' for the Brent and Ravensbourne river catchments, present this work to stakeholders and work with Thames21's Catchment Partnership Team to link into local delivery priorities. This short, highly focussed role will broaden project experience and provide the satisfaction of utilising data to make a tangible difference to rivers and biodiversity.

Job description

Full Time position until end of March 2022, salary £24,000 pro rata, immediate start preferable and flexible working opportunities available.

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. We are a member of the Rivers Trust network comprised of over 60 local trusts. This role will work in partnership with three other Rivers Trusts (Thames Rivers Trust, Action for the River Kennet, South East Rivers Trust) to deliver the Thames Catchment Community Eels Project, led by Thames Rivers Trust and funded by Defra's Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

Using stakeholder input you will develop a 'fish migration vision' for the Brent and Ravensbourne including 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 ObstacEELS 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 including delivering presentations, talks, leading riverbank walks and in-channel wading.

Delivering the role

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.

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.

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 to a good standard. Work with 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 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

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 or 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 3rd October 2021, with interviews taking place on Monday 11th and Friday 15th 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.