



Job Description

Assistant Project Officer (River Catchment Restoration)

Reports to Senior Project Officer

Responsible for Assisting with the development and delivery of physical enhancement and restoration projects in rivers and their environment. This would be achieved through working with teams across the wider organisation including Senior Project Officers, Catchment Officers, Education and Engagement teams, landowners, project partners, contractors and volunteers (as appropriate).

Location Hybrid work at home and in the office based in Leatherhead (KT22) with travel across the South East Rivers Trust area.

The role

Working within the Trust's Restoring Rivers and Catchments Team, you will assist with developing and delivering river restoration and habitat enhancement projects, working on projects throughout all stages including conception, development, design, delivery and monitoring. Most importantly of all, you will support the whole team, your line manager and the wider organisation as much as you can.

River enhancement projects will typically include weir removals, fish passage easements (such as rock ramps, nature-like bypasses or technical fish passes) and river re-naturalisation projects (such as habitat enhancements, reconnecting floodplains & palaeochannels, re-meandering, and backwater creation). Catchment management projects are likely to include wetland creation, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures. We would be interested to know about any experience you have in the above fields when you apply.

This is an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic individual who is keen to gain more experience in river and catchment enhancement work in order to make a real difference to the aquatic environment. You will be joining our growing team and contribute to our portfolio of ambitious and bold projects based on sound science and best practice. This will be a valuable opportunity to shadow experienced staff in order to build your knowledge and experience of river processes, restoration techniques and ecology.

About us

The South East Rivers Trust (SERT) is an environmental charity bringing rivers and their catchments back to life. Working in 12 river catchments across the South East, the Trust connects communities and mobilizes citizen scientists to educate and engage people on the importance of rivers, and supports and challenges stakeholders, businesses and individuals to protect them. The Trust uses data and evidence to target positive action and works with nature to make rivers healthy again. This includes tackling water pollution, addressing water scarcity, reconnecting rivers and restoring habitats. www.southeastriverstrust.org.

Working at the South East Rivers Trust is challenging, rewarding, fulfilling and busy; we work collaboratively and with passion, and this is reflected in our core values of: delivering high quality work, using expertise and scientific understanding, building good and effective relationships and bringing positive energy to all we do. If this sounds like an environment that you would thrive in, we would love to hear from you

Key duties & responsibilities

1. Developing and Designing Restoration/Enhancement Projects

- Contribute with the development of a programme of restoration and enhancement projects.
- Input into the design and development of projects, using sound science and best practice.
- Develop and maintain positive and professional relationships with partners and stakeholders.
- Collaborate with other staff in the design of monitoring programs to demonstrate project outcomes.
- Contribute to funding bids and project management processes as required.

2. Delivering Restoration and Enhancement Projects

- Contribute to the delivery of projects on the ground, working with other SERT staff, contractors, volunteers and partners.
- Assist the leading Officers with maintaining and enhancing SERT's Health & Safety procedures.
- Assist with engaging, appointing and managing external consultants and contractors when required.
- Where appropriate, support external partner organisations to deliver their own enhancement projects as part of wider restoration plans.

3. Contribute to the work of the South East Rivers Trust and its trading subsidiary

- Contribute to the Trust's external communications (e.g. through websites, social media and presentations), profile and good reputation.
- Other duties as may be appropriate to the position.

Person specification

Please keep this list of competencies 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	Essential	Desirable
Training & Experience		
Educated to at least degree level in a relevant field or equivalent work experience in river restoration projects and /or conservation work.	X	
Tickets in relevant practical skills e.g. chain-sawing, brush-cutting, dumper or excavator operating.		X
Experience working in partnership with a range of stakeholders and groups, e.g. local authorities, developers, interest groups, etc.		X
Knowledge & Understanding		
A good understanding of the issues and challenges facing rivers in the South East.	X	
A good understanding of rivers, their processes and ecology.	X	
A basic knowledge and understanding of how to design river and catchment enhancement work, responding to different drivers and environmental conditions.		X

A basic awareness of health and safety legislation pertinent to delivery in the riverine environment.		X
Skills & Personal Attributes		
Competent, physically fit and comfortable to work in and around rivers.	X	
Competent IT skills, particularly MS Office and Google.	X	
Skilled in the use of design software, e.g. CorelDraw, CAD.		X
Strong communication skills for both internal and external audiences.	X	
Genuine enthusiasm, upbeat and passionate about delivering healthy river ecosystems.	X	
Inquisitive and keen to learn.	X	
A self-starter, able to work towards a common goal.	X	
Miscellaneous		
Commitment to equality of opportunity.	X	
Full driving licence and vehicle which can be used for work purposes.	X	
Suitable, safe home working environment.	X	
Ability to work occasional evenings and weekend if required.	X	