



RiverLife: Almond & Avon, RiverFly Sampling Role Description



Role Title:	Riverfly Volunteer
Responsible to:	RiverLife: Almond & Avon Volunteer and Learning PO.
Where (Location):	River Almond or River Avon, sampling point discussed with Volunteer Co-ordinator
Time commitment:	Variable ~ 2hrs a month (min. quarterly/annum) until July 2020, possible extension after completion of RiverLife Project.

Role Description

RiverFly Volunteers are important to the RiverLife Project as they provide data on the health of the river and ensure any pollution events that affect the life of the river are picked up on. They will look to head out ideally once a month to a site on the River Almond or Avon to collect invertebrates found in the water. These bugs then need to be identified and scored based on the Anglers Riverfly Monitoring Initiative (ARMI) scoring system and the data recorded to ensure the health of the river is monitored. A training course for this role is provided by the Trust in conjunction with SEPA and the ARMI. The role will provide the volunteer with new skills in identification and survey techniques as well as contribute data to the RiverLife Project and the UK-wide ARMI database.

Main Tasks

- Sample the river once a month at the same site to ensure continuity of data.
- Use ARMI sampling techniques learnt during the training course to collect the bugs.
- Identify the bugs and use the data recording sheet provided to score them.
- Submit the records to the online portal where the volunteer coordinator will ensure they are checked and that they get put up on the portal.
- Should there be reason for concern about a pollution event based on the data collected, follow the protocol outlined in the training course and in the volunteer pack. This will be explained in further detail during the course.

Required skills, qualities and experience

- Counting and writing for the data collection and survey method
- Willingness to get into a river and get up-close and personal with bugs.

Training and support available

- Training is organised in Spring through a group training session to understand why we collect the data and how to collect it.
- Once training is complete volunteers will be assigned a site - this work is done in pairs for health and safety.
- Equipment required to undertake the sampling is provided to volunteers.

Any other Requirements

Fairly agile to go in and out of sample site and the river.