

# Blyth River Catchment Advisor

## Job Description



---

<b>OFFICE BASE:</b>	Brooke House, Ashbocking,
<b>WORK LOCATIONS:</b>	Brooke House and locations throughout the Blyth river catchment
<b>WORK HOURS:</b>	37.5 hours per week. Regular weekends and evenings, with time given off in lieu
<b>SALARY:</b>	£26,000 pa
<b>HOLIDAY:</b>	31 days per annum (pro rata including bank holidays)
<b>REPORTING TO:</b>	Conservation Manager

---

### OVERALL PURPOSE OF JOB

Focusing on the Blyth river catchment, this role will support Suffolk Wildlife Trust's ambition to bring all the county's rivers back to life, through targeted habitat creation and restoration.

Taking a catchment scale approach, you will work with landowners, community groups and volunteers to deliver practical conservation improvements, monitor the impact on key species and inspire more people to play their part in the custodianship of our rivers.

---

### MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) Coordinate the delivery of targetted in-channel and river bank restoration projects on the Blyth catchment to improve habitat**
  - Work with the landowners of the 7 identified project sites to develop detailed restoration plans
  - Oversee the on-the-ground delivery of the habitat project plans by contractors and volunteers and liaise with landowners throughout
- 2) Facilitate scattered riparian tree planting along the Blyth and its tributaries to reduce diffuse pollution**
  - Survey and map the catchment, using the EA walkover survey proforma, to identify diffuse pollution hotspots which can be addressed through scattered tree planting and in-field measures to reduce run-off (sedimentation)
  - Undertake one to one farm visits to liaise with landowners
  - Train and co-ordinate volunteer tree planting sessions
- 3) Counter the spread of non-native invasive species on the catchment, specifically Himalayan balsam**
  - Survey and map the catchment to identify Himalayan balsam hotspots and identify areas which can be targetted by volunteers

- Liaise with landowners
- Train and co-ordinate volunteers to undertake balsam control and ongoing monitoring, including 'balsam bashing' work parties

**4) Reach beyond the project sites to engage neighbouring landowners in the restoration activities**

- Build understanding of the issues and opportunities for in-channel restoration and riverbank management through 1:1 visits and events for landowners and community groups
- Provide bespoke advice and develop outline plans for additional sites along Blyth to establish corridors of commitment which we can look to take forward with the local EA team.

**5) Establish a team of volunteer River Wardens to support the project and longer-term habitat maintenance and monitoring across the catchment**

- Organise events and liaise with community groups to recruit adult volunteers as River Wardens
- Plan and deliver training to support the role and the delivery of key tasks including monitoring (walkover surveys and sampling for freshwater invertebrates as an indicator of water quality, water vole monitoring)
- Lead volunteer work parties to support project tasks (incl tree planting and Himalayan balsam removal)
- Co-ordinate a tools and equipment loan programme for River Wardens and community groups to support practical habitat work and monitoring
- Provide ongoing support and training to build the volunteers' skills and confidence so as to sustain their activities beyond the project

**6) Monitor, map and report on the impact of the project on the catchment and on target habitats and species**

**7) Liaise with Environment Agency colleagues to deliver and report on the contribution of the project to strategic objectives, including:**

- Contribution to the Water Framework Directive
- Contribution to Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes Diffuse Water Pollution Plan

**8) Share the project with other groups including the catchment partnership**

- East Suffolk Catchment Plan partnership
- Norfolk non-native species initiative

**9) Use social media and local press to build awareness and understanding of the issues and opportunities for riparian habitats and species across the county**

**10) Be an ambassador for Suffolk Wildlife Trust**



The European Agricultural Fund  
for Rural Development:  
Europe investing in rural areas