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Volunteer role description



VOLUNTEER CITIZEN SCIENTIST

Purpose of the Don Catchment Rivers Trust:

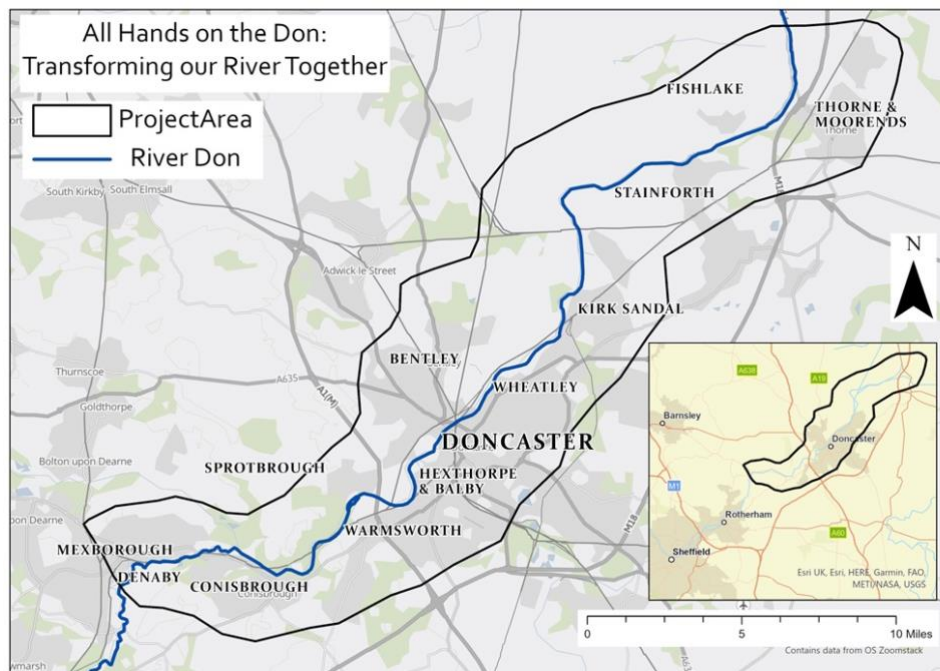
Don Catchment Rivers Trust (DCRT) was established to help protect and restore the rivers and streams of the River Don catchment area. Our rivers are a valuable asset which tell the story of our culture and heritage. They are important for people, wildlife and the local economy, and form an integral part of our landscape.

All Hands on the Don

The Don Catchment Rivers Trust has received National Lottery Heritage Funding for the 'All Hands on the Don' project. Our ambition is to;

1. Realise the River Don's potential as green-blue infrastructure & as a source of health, wellbeing & skills development.
2. Explain the profound transformation of the River Don & drive forward biodiversity gain.
3. Celebrate and promote natural & historic heritage.

The project is based around the City of Doncaster from Mexborough at the upstream end, to Thorne at the downstream end. We will work with partners to deliver a range of engagement activities and will create habitats in the river corridor. The project area broadly covers the area seen below.



Purpose of the Role:

With DCRT staff you will help to monitor species within the River Don corridor, alongside partners and community groups in a variety of citizen science projects. You'll gain training and skills in identifying and surveying species groups such as riparian mammals, bats, dragonflies, butterflies and moths, wetland birds, freshwater invertebrates and botanical surveys. Suitable for beginners wishing to learn, or those wishing to share their expertise.

Outline of tasks and activities:

Depending on experience and particular area of interest:

- Train in species identification
- Actively monitor chosen sites in the catchment
- Liaise with Citizen Science partners
- Help to run community days
- Upload and analyse data from surveys
- Contribute to gathering evidence for project evaluation
- Produce articles for blogs and local press

This role will suit people who:

- Want to get outdoors and improve their local natural heritage
- Wish to learn identification and surveying skills
- Are willing to be part of a team, and share experience and knowledge with other volunteers
- Have an eye for detail
- Knowledge of the natural and historic heritage of the River Don is not essential, but a willingness to learn would be desirable and training will be available

Location & hours:

Various locations and dates in accordance with the Trust's programme of events, which may include weekdays, evenings, and weekends. The majority of our project will take place within the project area but may also encompass the wider Doncaster Metropolitan Borough. This may include a variety of green spaces, including parks and wildlife sites.

Training & support:

- Citizen scientists will be overseen by DCRTs All Hands on the Don project officers
- Training will be provided for the specific aspect of citizen science which you follow. For example how to use specialist equipment such as hydrophones or moth traps
- An induction and training will be available. For example there will be the opportunity to learn first aid and how to work safely in water etc
- A DBS check may be required

Reimbursement of expenses:

Volunteers will be able to claim public transport or vehicle mileage (payable upon monthly expense claim) as per the volunteering policy

Application procedure:

- Expression of interest form (below)
- Informal meeting
- References and DBS check sought (if applicable)
- Induction and settling in period (to be mutually agreed)

Contact information:

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