



CHILTERN
CHALK STREAMS
PROJECT



Chilterns
National
Landscape

JOB INFORMATION PACK

Rivers Officer

July 2026



Figure 1 Chilterns National Landscape – Woodland on the Hamble Brook [Photo: CCSP]



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The Lodge, 90 Station Road, Chinnor, Oxon, OX39 4HA



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Role Information

Role title:	Rivers Officer
Location:	Chilterns Conservation Board, The Lodge, 90 Station Road, Chinnor, Oxon, OX39 4HA
Salary:	£28,000 - £34,000 pa depending on experience
Benefits:	Package includes local authority pension and access to healthcare scheme
Hours:	Full Time – 37.5 hours per week
Contract type:	Fixed Term to 31 st March 2031
Reports to:	Catchment Project Manager
Responsible for:	No line management responsibilities

About the Role

This is an exciting opportunity to join the committed and friendly team at the Chilterns Chalk Streams Project, working to conserve a globally rare habitat in one of the country's finest and most accessible protected landscapes.

The Chilterns Chalk Streams Project, hosted by the Chilterns National Landscape, has been campaigning for, protecting and enhancing chalk streams for nearly 30 years, through working with local community river groups, farmers and landowners alongside a wide range of partner organisations such as water companies, statutory bodies, community groups and non-governmental organisations.

The Rivers Officer position seeks to achieve positive and long-lasting improvements in the condition, management and appreciation of chalk streams. Whilst we are a small team that requires a certain amount of flexibility, most of your work will be within two multi-year programmes: Thames Water's ground-breaking Smarter Water Catchment (SWC) initiative in the Chess catchment and Mending the Misbourne part funded by HS2.

You will work with land managers, community groups and local partners to identify where and how the natural form and function of chalk rivers and their wider corridors can be restored, and will then lead the design, development & delivery of projects. You will have a good understanding of nature conservation, rivers, and water management, and be able to meet the needs of stakeholders as well as achieving ecological improvement. You will have experience of leading conservation projects in the field, as well as working collaboratively with multiple partners, stakeholders and citizen scientists.

You will be an excellent communicator and team player, with strong problem solving skills and the ability to build & develop constructive relationships with people from a wide range of organisations. You will work across multiple projects, with the ability to balance competing priorities.



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The post will be based at the Chilterns National Landscape's offices in Chinnor, Oxfordshire with the successful candidate being required to travel to multiple sites in the Chess and Misbourne catchments and across the wider Chilterns. The role will occasionally require some work outside of normal office hours (e.g. running and facilitating training sessions at weekends, holding meetings with community groups in the evenings).

Role Purpose

You will be responsible for developing and implementing river restoration programmes on behalf of the Chilterns Chalk Streams Project and its partners across the South Chilterns and Colne catchments.

Key to the role will be your ability to successfully deliver physical and ecological enhancement projects to chalk stream channels and their wider corridor, as well as the community who live nearby. Project scale and intensity will vary from volunteer delivery of woody structures over a few hundred metres of river to contractor management of multi-hectare transformations of the entire corridor, and may include design, consenting, delivery, and measuring success, all in line with best-practice guidelines. The officer should also be able to provide guidance and advice to owners or managers of chalk stream habitats.

Priorities will include creating strong working relationships with stakeholders and partners, developing river catchment plans and working with local community river groups to coordinate and support volunteer conservation work.

Working closely with the wider CCSP team, internal stakeholders, with a wide range of partner organisations, such as water companies, statutory bodies & wildlife groups, as well as landowners, third-party contractors and the local community, you will seek to achieve positive and long-lasting improvements in the condition, management and appreciation of chalk streams.

Key Accountabilities

- Work with the catchment project manager, stakeholders and partner organisations to establish a programme of delivery for practical projects
- Identify, develop (including design) and deliver a series of small- to medium-scale river habitat improvement projects, through working with appropriate regulatory agencies, conservation trusts, water companies and local community groups.
- Secure all necessary permissions as required, such as environmental consents (e.g. Flood Risk Activity Permits), planning permission, landowner agreements to enable project delivery.
- Work with practical delivery partners and/or volunteers, as appropriate, to ensure effective delivery of practical work
- Where third parties are required to provide products and/or services, including project design or delivery, create and manage a quotation or Invitation to Tender process (as appropriate), in accordance with Chilterns National Landscape procedures and policies.



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- Support and work with third party service providers and contractors, in the design and/or delivery of river habitat improvement activities
- Ensure that project delivery activities, whether carried out by staff, volunteers or third parties, conform with Chilterns National Landscape health and safety requirements, including through the use of risk assessments, contracts and Construction (Design and Management) Regulations.
- Work with the Citizen Science Coordinator and/or other partner organisations to carry out surveys of river and riparian habitats (e.g. MoRPh, Riverfly, Water Vole etc.) Develop and implement monitoring programmes to monitor project outcomes.
- Identify and secure funding to support project delivery, where appropriate.
- Provide effective control of practical projects including financial management, risk management and stakeholder engagement.
- Ensure that progress against project plan, including risks and issues, is accurately communicated to the appropriate project manager and that where necessary, agreed mitigations, interventions and/or stakeholder communication are delivered effectively.
- Establish and maintain good working relationships with, and provide advice to, landowners, local communities and project partners, including local river groups and wildlife trusts
- Support work to identify and control invasive non-native species (INNS) in chalk streams catchments working with contractors and volunteers as appropriate. Actively promote the importance of biosecurity in preventing INNS spread
- Work with team members to develop integrated catchment plans for Chilterns chalk streams as part of the CCSP's role as a catchment host in both the Colne and South Chilterns catchment partnerships
- Attend community meetings / events and provide talks to represent the CCSP and Chilterns National Landscape, promote their work and raise awareness of issues impacting chalk streams.
- Raise the online profile of the CCSP and the Chilterns National Landscape through the development of case-studies, and by contributing to social media activities and press releases.
- Contribute strategic insight and expertise to the Chilterns Chalk Streams Project's partners and the Chilterns National Landscape, as required.





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How to Apply

To apply for this role, please [download the application form](#), together with the [equal opportunities monitoring form](#). Completed forms should be emailed to: office@chilterns.org.uk

The closing date for applications is **9am on Monday 10th August 2026**

Successful candidates will be invited to interview on **Wednesday 19th August**.

Applicants must be willing to undergo screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers.

For further information or informal discussion please contact: Adrian Porter, Chilterns Chalk Streams Project Manager – aporter@chilterns.org.uk

This job description does not constitute the terms and conditions of employment. It is provided only as a guide to assist the employee in the performance of their job. The job description is not intended to be an inflexible or finite list of tasks and may be varied from time to time following discussion with the post holder.



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Person Specification

Qualifications
<p>Essential:</p> <p>Educated to degree level in a relevant subject, which includes modules such as environmental science, hydrology, conservation, or able to demonstrate equivalent knowledge and capability.</p>
Experience and Knowledge
<p>Essential:</p> <p>Demonstrable capability in the design, development & implementation of river restoration projects Good understanding of nature conservation, rivers, and water management Experience in leading conservation projects in the field, working with a wide range of stakeholders Experience of working proactively across multiple partners and projects in a busy working environment Ability to create and present reports that communicate data effectively to a wide range of stakeholder audiences. Excellent IT skills including knowledge of Microsoft Office and Teams</p> <p>Desirable:</p> <p>Knowledge of riverine plant and animal life, including fish. Demonstrable capability in river and wetland habitat management. Certified training in relevant practical skills e.g. Herbicide PA1 and PA6 Experience using design software (CAD, CorelDraw etc) A good awareness of health and safety legislation. Experience of effective engagement of community groups and volunteers. Experience in river surveying techniques, including citizen science data collection and recording methods. Experience and/or knowledge of catchment-based approaches to address the environmental pressures acting on our water environment Ability to present and manipulate data using GIS software Experience of commissioning and supervising contractors Experience of financial management and procurement</p>
Skills and Abilities
<p>Essential:</p> <p>Excellent attention to detail and a commitment to producing high quality work Able to work independently, and apply problem-solving and influencing skills to achieve desired outcomes Ability to use initiative, pragmatism and innovation to overcome issues, whilst still adhering to statutory guidelines Ability to build positive relationships with individuals and groups, and be able to engage, inspire, and collaborate effectively.</p>





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Ability to **communicate effectively** with colleagues, stakeholders, partners, landowners, citizen scientists, and members of the local community, employing tact and diplomacy where required.

Exceptional **organisational and time management** skills

A **full driving licence** and the use of your own car for work purposes

Able to accommodate occasional **working outside normal office hours**, or at weekends

Desirable:

A commitment to The Chilterns Chalk Streams Project objectives and values

Confident working with all levels of staff from senior executives, board members, funders, and partners to volunteers

Personal Qualities

Essential:

Ability to take the **initiative**

Team player who is flexible and willing to take on ad-hoc tasks

Ability to work under pressure and **balance competing priorities**

Willingness to **travel** across the Chilterns National Landscape and/or further afield as required.

Desirable:

A personal commitment to and interest in the Chilterns, its chalk streams and/or local farming communities.

