

## **Kyal Pick, Year In Industry Student at River Holme Connections**

I am now over 8 months into my placement with [River Holme Connections](#) where I have continued to diversify my knowledge and skillset within conservation. I have undertaken several training courses recently, including:

The Riverfly Partnership's Riverfly Monitoring Initiative Training

- I am now a certified Riverfly Monitor and can conduct surveys to contribute towards the partnership's nation-wide citizen science scheme. I currently have a site which I am now surveying so I can put my training into practice.

Identification of Native Broadleaved Trees in Winter course with the Field Studies Council

- At River Holme Connections, we have just finished our tree planting schemes for the year, planting a total of 14,561 trees. With some sites requiring specific numbers of individual species, this course helped with identification and sorting of young trees, ready for planting.

GIS training course with the Field Studies Council

- I have used skills from this course as well as modules from my university degree to help create several maps and layers within QGIS which have been used in reports, funding bids and on the charity's web page.

Some of my other experiences over the last few months include:

- Completing our Japanese Knotweed treatment programme, wading 21km of the River Holme and its tributaries.

- Leading RHCs involvement in the AQuA Outfall Safari Project, run by the University of York. This has involved attending meetings, organizing surveys and collecting valuable data for this citizen science project, which aims to better understand chemical and microbial contaminants in Yorkshire's rivers and lakes.

- Surveying weirs and other river obstacles across the Holme catchment as part of Great Yorkshire Rivers plan to address barriers to fish migration in Yorkshire's rivers.

- Coordinating and leading RHCs involvement in the Riverfly Monitoring Initiative. This involved attending meetings, assigning sites to volunteers and addressing any issues.

- Supporting engagement sessions in local primary schools, teaching young children

about the importance of healthy river ecosystems.

I have been able to participate in a wide variety of tasks over my time here, engaging with volunteers, members of the public and landowners, all of whom want to make a positive impact on the environment.

I look forward to my last few months at the charity, where I will continue to develop a number of skills including communication, leadership, practical, and teamworking.

