



# Introduction to River Habitat Management

One day per week over 2 months

“The WEA deliver this course in partnership with Ribble Rivers Trust, to provide an opportunity to volunteer in actual environmental management projects and a direct route to gain practical and valuable work experience.

We contributed to The River Fly Partnership, a national survey that monitors our waterways, identifying and feeding back from the front line indicators of problems with rivers including pollution, climate change, and species invasion to name a few.

This was not the only additional volunteering activity which we were all encouraged to engage in. We were trained in non-native species identification and in turn volunteered for a few days in eradication of Himalayan Balsam. Community engagement was offered as a precursor to this course when we were invited to be part of a local community clean-up day in Burnley. This was very exciting as the local fire brigade and school were involved and on the day volunteers from the community and from our classes all came along – not only was the brook cleaned but we all had a lots of fun.



As for the course content itself, the theoretical aspects of the course were clearly and sympathetically aligned to practical application allowing everyone to engage with the background knowledge that underpinned the activity; hence making it more meaningful and providing the

opportunity for us to analyse situations and present findings. Our group was made up of a wide variety of people, from students studying ecology (yet not having the opportunity to undertake practical application), to retired anglers, people from Red Rose recovery Preston, volunteers on other projects and individuals wanting to give something back to their community. In fact the course is open to everyone no matter their background or educational achievement - everyone being equal and everyone learning and having fun together.”

## COURSE FEEDBACK

*“I was enthralled and excited by the River habitat course because it was genuinely informative and made me think about things differently. It was lots of fun with wonderful engaging activities, it makes a real and significant difference to oneself, the environment, the local community and provides a strong theoretical and practical framework from which to build upon.”*

*“To quote the course content would only lightly touch upon the wonderful experiences and opportunities this course has offered – I would recommend it to everyone .”*

