

Become a SmartRivers volunteer with us



THE
WELSH DEE TRUST

Come and help us work towards a river Dee free of pollution and full of wildlife.

SmartRivers is a national citizen science project that analyses aquatic invertebrates to monitor the health of our rivers. Collecting this data can help us monitor the impact of our own restoration work, and to detect pressures facing the Dee from pollution, water abstraction, habitat loss, and invasive species. This is a chance to have a positive impact on your local river by helping to identify what condition the Dee is in, and what improvement efforts are needed and where to focus them.

What will I be doing as a SmartRivers volunteer?

After first completing a training event you will help analyse, to species level, samples of aquatic invertebrates collected in the river Dee catchment. Identification is undertaken inside using microscopes. No fieldwork is required making this opportunity accessible to all.

This is an ongoing role with regular ID sessions held year-round, but particularly over summer (following sampling in spring) and winter (following sampling in autumn). Each session runs from approximately 10am to 4pm, and we would like you to try to commit to attending at least 6 sessions a year.

Once you have attended the training day you can register your name for one of our ID sessions. Our ID sessions also have a friendly and fun atmosphere, where you can socialise with like-minded people and learn from your peers. Of course, tea, coffee and biscuits are provided!

Welsh Dee Trust hosts three SmartRivers hubs in our catchment: the river Alyn, the river Ceiriog and the Aldford brook. You will need to travel to our ID sessions, usually held at village halls or community centres, in at least one of these areas.

How to get involved

Register as a Welsh Dee Trust volunteer on our volunteering platform Team Kintic. Once registered, you will be able to sign up for upcoming training event. You can access the Team Kintic registration page through this link <https://www.welshdeetrust.com/volunteer/>

