



# BART River Detective - Flood Watch Volunteer Role Profile

## Somerset Valley Rediscovered

Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

**WEST OF  
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# **BART River Detective - Flood Watch Volunteer**

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) are leading key citizen science projects in the local area in partnership with Wessex Water, Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol Water and the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership. Somer Valley Rediscovered are recruiting for new River Detective - Flood Watch volunteers to join the team!

By getting involved in this citizen science project you will be helping BART and Somer Valley Rediscovered to monitor our local river catchment and to better understand flooding and drought for the benefit of both local people and wildlife.

You can read more about the work of Bristol Avon River Trust (BART) on their website - <https://bristolavonriverstrust.org/>



## Purpose of the role

This is a new volunteering opportunity with Somerset Valley Rediscovered. It will play an important role in understanding local rivers, specifically the watercourses connected to our 5 green spaces. Observations will help us better understand the interaction between our blue and green spaces.

We would like volunteers to observe, photograph and record information about river conditions, blockages, rainfall, and landscape flood contributors as well as recording information about invasive species and litter. This volunteer role will enhance what we know about water movement and health in our local communities and in the wider catchment area.

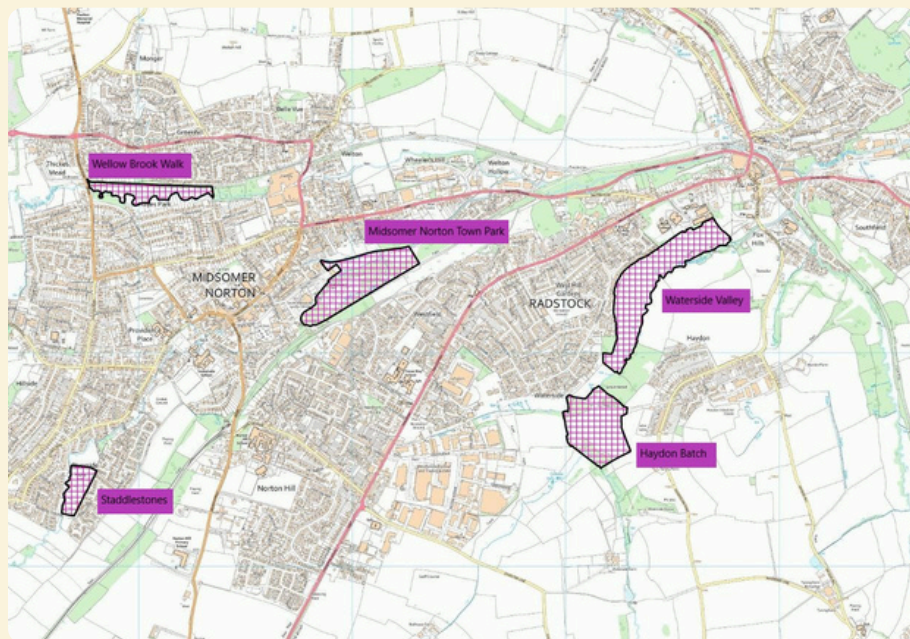
The observations recorded will be added to a webpage on Bristol Avon Rivers Trust's website. This webpage will serve as a continuous community hub and resource centre, facilitating the hosting of information and observations about our local rivers.

# Locations

We have 5 key green spaces in the Somerset Valley Rediscovered area, they all have a water course from the Cam and Wellow running through them.

These are:

- Haydon Batch
- Midsomer Norton Town Park
- Staddlestones Park
- Waterside Valley
- Wellow Brook Walk





## Activities and timescales

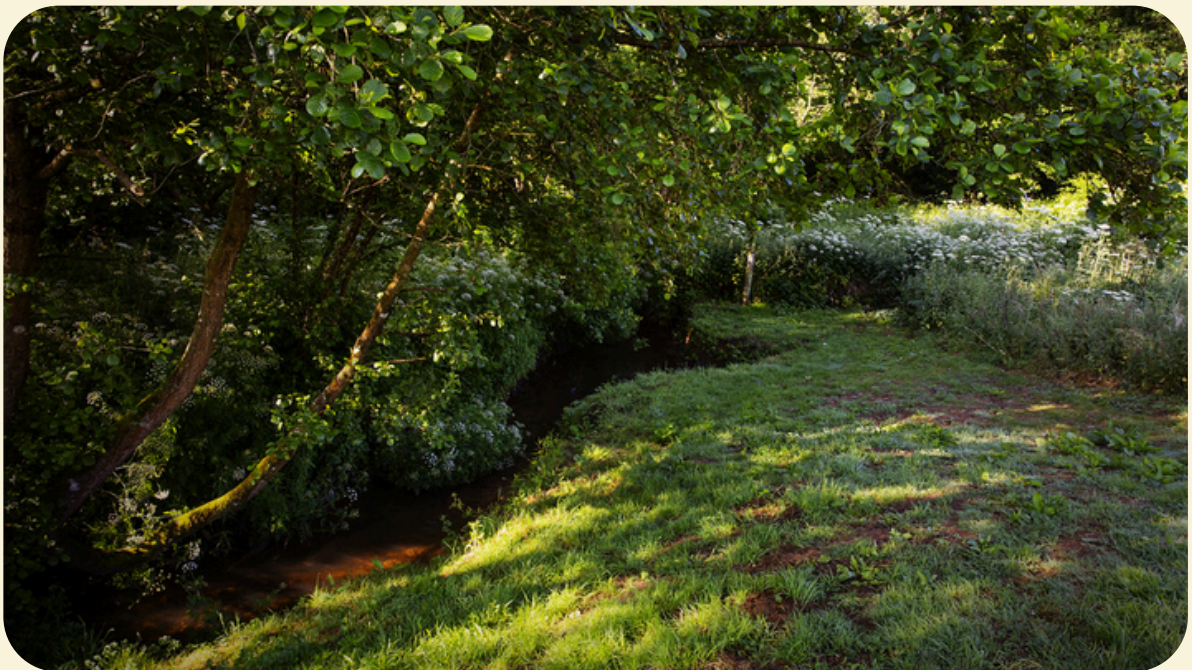
River Detective - Flood Watch volunteers will be trained to regularly gather data. This will include post-flood river channel change, frequently saturated areas, blocked drains, surface flow pathways, and drought observations. Observations will be made within Somerset Valley Rediscovered greenspaces in Radstock, Midsomer Norton and Westfield.

This is a very flexible role. Volunteers will be allocated a site where they will make observations and take photos on a monthly basis. There is also an option to collect data on specific flood contributors in the wider area. The validated photographs and geolocated reports of run-off, standing water and frequently blocked drains will then be displayed on an interactive map. The map will be hosted on BART's website, alongside the data collected through their RiverBlitz project and River Detectives programme. Overall, this will provide a more extensive data set and understanding of river health within the catchment.

# Who might like this role?

This role may appeal to people who:

- Are interested in learning new skills
- Enjoy being in outdoor environments
- Enjoy working independently
- Have an interest in wildlife
- Have an interest in photography
- Have some experience
- Have no experience, but want to learn new skills



# Benefits of the role

- Develop knowledge and experience of water observation techniques
- Learn recording techniques which support accurate data collection
- Have access to training sessions and informal skill sharing
- Opportunities for formal training for regular volunteers looking to up-skill
- Be part of a friendly and dedicated team
- We can provide a volunteer reference





# Training and Support

We offer volunteers the training and support they need and encourage new skill development.

River Detective - Flood Watch volunteers will receive training from Bristol Avon Rivers Trust to ensure that they can make and collect accurate observations, feel confident in their participation, and feel empowered by their contribution. You'll be provided with access to an online platform and training materials to ensure consistency and awareness of monitoring methods.

Somer Valley Rediscovered will be collating a list of relevant training events and opportunities to help develop skills, build confidence, and support your volunteer experience. This information will be shared with volunteers, who can then sign up to training events of interest.



# Staying in Touch

You can email us:

[somervalleyrediscovered@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:somervalleyrediscovered@bathnes.gov.uk)

You can call Emma, the Somerset Valley Rediscovered Volunteer Coordinator on:  
01225 477593

Keep an eye on our website:

[www.somervalleyrediscovered.co.uk](http://www.somervalleyrediscovered.co.uk)

You can follow us on social media too!

- Instagram - [@somer\\_valley](https://www.instagram.com/somer_valley)
- Facebook - [@SomersetValleyRediscovered](https://www.facebook.com/SomerValleyRediscovered)
- Twitter - [@somer\\_valley](https://twitter.com/somer_valley)

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust website:

<https://bristolavonriverstrust.org/>

Jacob McAdie, BART Project Assistant:

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