**Drought Risk and You (DRY)**

The DRY Project takes a pioneering approach to better understand drought by bringing together a unique blend of science and stories in drought risk decision-making across seven river catchments in England, Scotland and Wales. Led by the University of the West England (UWE) the DRY project, is a partnership made up of seven other universities, and is funded by the UK Research Councils. We are interested in working collaboratively with volunteers to explore and better understand the impacts of drought on grasslands and trees in our Frome River Catchment.

We are looking for volunteers to help undertake grassland surveys in sites located close to the University of West England, Frenchay Campus, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol, BS16 1QY. Volunteers can help between 1-4 days from Monday-Thursday (10.30am-4.30pm) depending on your availability until December 2017. Volunteers will work with university staff and in some case independently to carry out grassland surveys. Tasks include monitoring changes in grassland species, abundance of species, phenology of flowering grasses (the study of the timings of naturally re-occurring phenomena) and the number and species of pollinators and invertebrates. There will also be opportunities for volunteers to explore their own topics of interest.

Volunteers will also have the opportunity to assist in measuring a range of tree characteristics in urban and rural streets in our Frome River Catchment including tree species, diameter, height, crown spread and phenology (date of flowering, bud burst, fruit ripening and last leaf fall) as well as temperature, relative humidity and rainfall. We will take repeat measurements on the same trees in 2015, 2016 and 2017. We will soon be releasing a list of dates and locations for the tree monitoring activities on the DRY Project website: **http://www.dryproject.co.uk**. We are interested in working with primary schools located close to the River Frome to act as volunteers to monitor trees on school grounds, woodlands and parks.

This is an exciting opportunity to gain valuable experience on a large-scale scientific project, learn plant and tree identification skills, about grassland and tree ecology and more broadly about the impacts of drought and climate change on the environment. Volunteers will receive a certificate detailing the number hours spent on the project and essential skills acquired during the project which are important for many ecological or conservation jobs.

**To find out how you can get involved…**

Visit: [www.dryproject.co.uk](http://www.dryproject.co.uk)

Contact: natasha.constant@uwe.ac.uk

Call: 0117 32 87350

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Sign up to our Facebook group: *www.facebook.com/DRYProject*