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9 October 2026

Professor Helen Ashworth
Director, Institute for River Science
Westbridge University
Hollis Lane
York YO9 9ZX

Dear Professor Ashworth

Application for Research Fellow in River Restoration (ref. RF2611)

I am applying for the Research Fellow in River Restoration post. I am a freshwater ecologist and a postdoctoral research associate at Fenmoor University, and I would like to lead a study of how quickly invertebrates return to restored reaches, using the environmental DNA methods I have developed.

Over four years on a five-river study, I designed the sampling of 1,240 water samples and developed a method that detects 38 invertebrate families from one litre of water. I wrote it up as streamDNA, an open-source R package that three rivers trusts and two university groups now use, and the work has produced six papers, three as first author.

I co-supervise two PhD students, have trained eleven people in eDNA sampling and was co-investigator on a £48,000 partnership grant with a rivers trust. Your institute’s monitoring sites on four restored rivers would let me follow recovery over time, which my current project cannot.

My CV and a two-page research plan are attached. I would be glad to talk about the plan at interview. Thank you for considering my application.

Yours sincerely

Dr Ruth Adeyemi