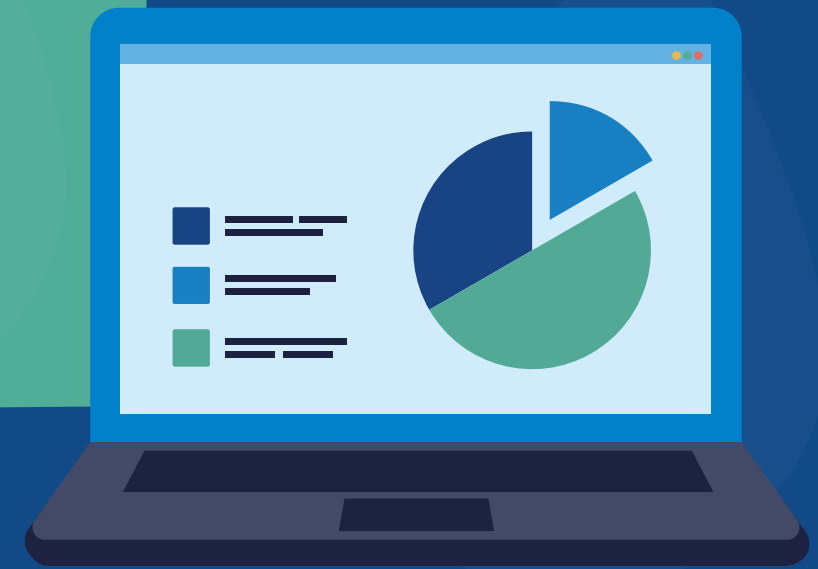


# International Day of Women and Girls in Science

## Meet Hannah Catchment Sampling and Data Technician



# Tell us more about your role...



**My role title is Catchment Sampling and Data Technician. I'm part of Yorkshire Water's Catchment Risk team within Water Quality Compliance.**

My job is split into two halves – two to three days of the week are spent travelling to reservoirs and rivers taking raw water samples, which are tested for water quality. On the other days, my focus is analysing the data produced from my samples. I produce graphs and maps, to get a better picture of our water quality and the catchment. The information is then used to make decisions for the future care of our reservoirs and catchments.

My team attend various agricultural shows and meetings across Yorkshire throughout the year to engage with the county's farmers, working together towards more catchment sensitive approaches.

# Why did you want to pursue a career in STEM?

**I've always enjoyed the sciences and practical problem solving, and as I progressed through education, I gained a specific interest and passion for environmental studies.**

Whilst at university I was introduced to GIS (Geographic Information System) which really appealed to me. It has so many far-reaching capabilities and is such a transferable skill. I find it's a real asset to this sector, going hand in hand with on the ground research and data collection.



# What do you love most about your role?

**Every time that I'm out, I see something that reminds me of how lucky I am to work outdoors in the Yorkshire countryside.**

I love the variety that comes with my role and seeing data that I've collected become part of the bigger picture, and how the samples taken really do contribute to our knowledge of the catchment.



# How did you get to where you are today?

**After finishing my A levels, I studied Physical Geography at university, which provided me with knowledge of both field and lab work as well as report writing.**

My first role with Yorkshire Water was as a Water Quality Sampler, which introduced me to the water industry and the regulations and protocols involved with providing clean water. When my current role was advertised, I saw an opportunity to combine the aspects I enjoyed as a sampler, such as working outdoors and having variety in my days, with the specific knowledge I gained at university like utilising GIS and analysing data, to begin a new challenge.



# Are you working on anything exciting at the minute?



**We've recently installed weather stations around some of our catchments with the aim of monitoring the relationship between weather events and detections we find in water quality.**

We're utilising this technology with the assistance of the farming community in the area, in the hopes that this equipment will aid farmers in determining when would be most advantageous to plant crops, whilst also benefitting our catchments, leading to improved water quality at our sources.

# What advice would you give to other women looking to get into the field?

**Seek out information about the field and for my role specifically, the challenges regarding water quality.**

I've always been mindful that I'm surrounded by colleagues with a wealth of knowledge and different skillsets to my own and I take every opportunity to learn from them.

I think it's important to note that prior education relating to the field whilst helpful, is not always essential! Don't be deterred from pursuing a career in this field if you've an interest in it. There's so many starting roles and opportunities to gain knowledge and to progress, where transferable skills such as an analytic mindset and an ability to problem solve are just as desirable.

