



Countryside Jobs Service

Focus on Volunteering

In association with Groundwork

19 September 2016

Giving communities the tools to create better places



Groundwork has worked with local communities for 35 years to make where they live greener and better places to be. In our experience, we know that one of the most successful, sustainable ways of doing this is to empower people to be the part of the change they want to see where they live.

There's a wealth of evidence to suggest that we're at risk of finding ourselves back in the 'bad old days'



Community group (Groundwork)

where our parks and open spaces become unattractive, uninviting and, in extremis, unsafe places to be. A 2014 report by the Heritage Lottery Fund revealed that 86% of parks managers reported cuts to budgets and they expect the trend to continue for three years. The same report also found that 71% of households with children under 10 are concerned that reduction in council budgets could have a negative impact on the condition of their local park.

We need to find creative ways of preserving these treasured spaces continue to thrive in the 'Age of Austerity' and ensuring communities have the guidance and help at their

fingertips to play an active role has to be part of the solution.

Naturally, asking people to take responsibility to improve their neighbourhood is no easy feat. Taking on the unknown can be a daunting prospect, especially for those who have no experience of taking on a project of any scale.

One of the ways that Groundwork is helping communities to reach their potential is through our 'Community Project Toolkit'; an online one-stop shop for communities, local 'Friends of' groups and anyone who have an active interest in creating better places where they live.

The website includes guidance and information on how people can take ideas from the drawing board to outside world, including:

- Choosing the right project
- Making the project a success
- Inspiring and maintaining community involvement
- Handling management, legal and financial issues
- Sustainability – environmental, economic and social

The toolkit is also broken down into further categories, providing both inspiration and project -specific advice to those wanting guidance on:

- Food growing projects and kitchen projects
- Projects in school grounds
- Sports and arts projects
- Natural spaces projects
- Community youth projects
- Canal and waterway projects

- Accessibility and community projects
- Heritage community projects
- Outdoor gym projects
- Play projects

By providing both the know-how and the inspiration, the toolkit helps both individuals and communities with the key information needed to improve their neighbourhood.

'The Green Patch'¹ in Kettering is an example of both the difference that a community garden can make to the people living there and the power of bringing people together to create something special.

Groundwork has managed the 2.5 acre site since 2007, transforming a patch of barely used land into a thriving space complete with wildlife, poly-tunnels, orchard and children's natural play area that involves and supports the local

community with projects including after school clubs, young people and adult employment programmes and supported adult volunteering. Having recently been awarded a Green Flag of excellence, an example of what the power of the community can do.



The Green Patch – Green Flag Award (Groundwork)

"I think you get more from The Green Patch than what you could ever give it. When people walk through the gate it's like walking into another world," says Nigel, who has been a part of The Green Patch since the very beginning.

"We grow people - and the community responds to you. It's rewarding to see you have made a difference."

But knowledge and passion without financial backing can only go so far.



A Bags of Help project (Groundwork)

Groundwork is supporting Tesco by administering their 'Bags of Help'² scheme, which funds local environmental projects across the UK using the money generated by the government's 5p carrier bag charge.

The programme invited a range of non-profit organisations and schools across England, Wales and Scotland to apply for a grant of up to £12,000 to help improve their local area. Tesco customers then vote in store on

the projects they would like to see receive the top prize in their area.

Over 1100 projects have been funded so far, with eight million votes cast resulting in groups securing a share of £11.5 million.

Sheila Ozeer, volunteered on the 'Bromley by Bow Floating Ecosystem' project for Thames21. She said: "Volunteering to install a reed bed not only gave me that feel-good factor of doing something good for nature but I got to meet a group of dedicated people, who like me, are passionate about the environment; which was a real privilege!"

“It was an experience that was indeed amazing. Perhaps the best thing I've ever done; I definitely recommend it! It literally opened my eyes to the fact that creating a better environment is possible if we all did our bit to help.”

To find out more, visit Groundwork's Community Project Toolkit.³

To find out more about Groundwork, visit www.groundwork.org.uk

By Stacey Aplin, PR and Communications Officer at Groundwork UK

Links

- 1 <http://c-js.co.uk/2cydeUk>
- 2 <http://www.groundwork.org.uk/sites/tescocommunityscheme>
- 3 <http://www.groundwork.org.uk/sites/projecttoolkit>

National:

Next time you're on the beach, keep an eye out for unwelcome beach residents: Nurdles! These tiny plastic pellets are used by industry to make plastic products. Many can end up at sea through accidental spillage where they can harm wildlife. Help us track this pollutant on our shorelines: www.nurdlehunt.org.uk



Whale & Dolphin Recorder - Anyone can take part: all you need is enthusiasm, a pair of binoculars and a little patience. If you spend time at sea or by the coast, take time to look around and record what you see! Visit www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk/become-a-sea-watch-observer to find out more and to get in touch.

Wildlife Conservation & Research Holidays in Britain's most beautiful places. Learn from & work with conservation experts on all-inclusive short breaks with comfortable single accommodation & great food. No experience necessary. Opportunities available for leaders with wildlife conservation experience too. www.wilddaysconservation.org
email: basecamp@wilddaysconservation.org

Let freshwater wildlife amaze you! Take part in a volunteer survey to discover more about your local freshwater habitats & contribute to vital research. Use quick & simple kits to measure the levels of nutrient pollution & help discover unpolluted freshwater great for wildlife. hworker@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk
<http://c-js.co.uk/1V5jZb2>

Atlas 2020: could you help the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland record which plants grow where across these islands? We are working towards a new atlas showing distributions of native and introduced plants across Britain & Ireland. Why not pick a 10km x 10km square and start surveying?
Here's how: <http://bsbi.org/atlas-2020>

Help record spring in the woods by taking part in Track a Tree! We need volunteers to collect seasonal observations of woodland trees and flowering plants. Download the field guide, take part and share your records to see how they compare with the rest of the UK. Visit www.trackatree.org.uk

Want to learn more about wildflowers and get involved in citizen science but unsure where to start? The Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland's Local Botany network supports volunteers as they get started with identifying and recording our wildflowers. Resources, links and contacts here: <http://bsbi.org/get-involved> and here: <http://bsbi.org/local-botany>

Make a difference. Volunteer with Garden Organic. Learn new skills, develop your CV, make friends, help Britain's leading organic charity. Contact Debi Maltby on 02476 308237, dmaltby@gardenorganic.org.uk

REF	457-FOCUS-OK3	JOB	WALK LEADER OPPORTUNITIES
BE4	N / A	LOC	UK
PAY	Accom, travelling expenses & training FOR HF HOLIDAYS		
DES	HF Holidays Ltd is a leading tour operator specialising in walking, cycling & leisure activities holidays all over the world. We have 20 UK country houses & work with carefully chosen partner hotels in Europe & worldwide. We are a co-operative society & welcome over 50,000 guests on our holidays each year. We have opportunities for volunteer walk leaders in 20 UK locations & more than 60 destinations overseas. Leaders work together in a team to make the holiday successful & are resident for the duration of the holiday. They spend most of the time with our guests from greeting them on arrival to sharing meals, guiding walks & saying goodbye at the end! We offer: full board accommodation; travelling expenses; ongoing training opportunities; logbook experience; opportunity to improve leadership skills. BUT If you're an experienced, sociable walker & would like to share your love of the countryside with small groups of walkers on holiday, why not apply to join the team? ASK http://hfholidays.co.uk/leaders or call Gillian Mininch, Walking Leader Recruitment & Training Manager, 01768 890091		

REF	2667-FOCUSR-7/10	JOB	WORKSHOP LEADER
BE4	5/10/16	LOC	NATIONWIDE
PAY	Professional training, ongoing support, travel expenses FOR ACTION FOR CONSERVATION		
DES	AFC is a charity with a mission to bring the magic of nature into UK schools, inspiring a youth movement committed to conservation & to the earth. We organise active workshops for students aged 11-18 run by a team of		

conservation professionals. We offer: free training in running workshops, opportunity to improve your teaching & communication skills, full support from a trained facilitator at every workshop, opportunity to promote your own & your organisation's work & a networking platform. We know that we can inspire action & bring about change in our communities with messages of hope & wonder. We just want lots of people fizzing with passion about the natural world & conservation, visiting as many schools in the UK as possible. Time required: 2 workshop days & 1 training between September 2016 & July 2017. BUT We are looking for people from a broad range of backgrounds; you may be working in conservation or related fields in the UK or abroad; you may be studying for an MSc or PhD that has a significant field work dimension; you may dedicate much of your time to volunteering for nature. ASK Please send your current CV to kate@actionforconservation.org

Association of Countryside Volunteers (ACV)

The aim of this UK wide Association is to promote effective and enjoyable work by volunteers throughout the countryside. The Association also aims to complement the work of the countryside volunteer's own "service" by bringing together those of similar interests, enabling information and experience to be shared, and by co-operating with the Authorities in promoting high standards within countryside services. For further information please contact: Neville Anderson, Membership Services: nev_anderson@tiscali.co.uk or Roger Higgs, Chairman on rogerhiggs@hotmail.co.uk Membership is just £10.00 per year, concessionary (student, unwaged, OAP) £6.00.



Scotland:

Friends of Eglinton - The Friends are a group of enthusiastic local people supported & trained by our Countryside Rangers to carry out practical conservation work, assist in wildlife surveying & create projects within the Country Park to benefit the area. Contact us at the Visitor Centre on 01294 551776.

Love being outdoors? Love your local woodland? Join the Mauldslie Woods Volunteering Team - working in all seasons Come along, learn new skills, make friends and have fun whilst carrying out a programme of practical woodland conservation and management tasks To attend contact colleen@cciweb.org.uk or call 01555 664211 www.clydeandavonvalley.org

Home-based volunteer assistance needed by 1 or 2 people who can help with researching/preparing newsletters, leaflets & events programmes. Will incl the Tayside Recorders' Bulletin, TayARG & the Perth & Kinross Tree Wardens - & others if interested. Volunteer expenses reimbursed for meetings. Contact Catherine: cath.lloyd@btinternet.com

Every Wednesday Volunteer Day
Kinghorn Loch, Fife, The Ecology Centre Contact: Robert 01592 891567, admin@theecologycentre.org
10am – 3pm. We are looking for experienced gardeners to help keep the beautiful grounds at the Centre maintained. Tea/coffee & a free lunch are provided

Lots of volunteering opportunities here at Abriachan, high on the hill above Loch Ness....conservation activities, tree planting, weeding, path maintenance, woodcraft enterprise, biological recording, supporting others, interpretation....a variety to suit all interests.
Contact : Clelland or Roni on abriachanforest@gmail.com or call 01463 861236 and leave a message



REF 2668-FOCUSR-2/12 FOR SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST
BE4 ASAP PAY Travel expenses & training
JOB LOC DES
Conservation Volunteer Grangemouth (covering East Central Scotland) Work as part of a small group of volunteers helping the Reserve Project Officer manage a number of our nature reserves in Central region, West Lothian & Fife.
Conservation Volunteer Irvine (covering West Scotland) Help manage reserves in West Scotland incl Ayrshire, Renfrewshire & Inverclyde. BUT Certificates in use of brushcutters & chainsaws useful but not essential. Both: 1 or more days per week. BUT Interested in the environment & have a desire to help a conservation charity. Must be willing to undertake outdoor physical work sometimes in difficult conditions underfoot (e.g. boggy ground & steep slopes). Prepared to work sometimes in poor weather (e.g. rain, cold). Previous experience is not essential but would be an advantage as would experience of using handtools or any carpentry experience. Must be able to follow H&S instructions. ASK Peter Gilbert, Volunteer Development Officer pgilbert@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk 0131 3124732

REF 2669-FOCUSR-30/9 JOB **VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION INTERN**
BE4 2/10/16 LOC CUMBERNAULD
PAY Travel expenses & training FOR SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST

DES Assist practical vol days with young people & the local community to enhance 3 sites. Build respectful relationships with volunteers enabling them to carry out activities such as tree & hedge-planting, creation of wildflower meadows, removal of invasive species & dry-stone wall restoration. Ensure the safety of all participants & deliver consistently high standards of H&S & work quality. Participate in community outreach events & support participants to organise, publicise & deliver a public event at their local greenspace to celebrate the site & their achievements. 4 days per week. BUT Educated to at least Higher/SVQ level 3, a good understanding of the natural environment essential. Outdoor/environmental education experience essential. Experience working in outdoor environments & with vols & community groups. Must be a very effective communicator, able to motivate people pref with a driving licence. A good knowledge of H&S issues related to outdoor activities essential. Understanding of Scottish conservation issues & the Cumbernauld Living Landscape. Knowledge of key conservation issues in urban areas. ASK Tracy Lambert, Community Engagement Officer 07826 170829 tlambert@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk

REF 2670-FOCUSR-21/10

JOB **PIN BADGE BOX MINDER**

BE4 N / A

LOC SCOTLAND WIDE

PAY Reasonable travel expenses & relevant training provided FOR RSPB

DES 2-4 hours every 4-6 weeks. Ever wondered how the RSPB pin badge box got into your local café? It's through people like you! Sale of our enamel pin badges raised almost £1 million last year for nature. Help us raise even more by placing new boxes within your local area (we would like you to manage 5 to 10). Become part of this successful team & help us save nature! This is an enjoyable way to get out & about in your local area to meet people & chat to them about the RSPB & its work. The RSPB is an active & exciting conservation charity, the largest in Europe! We can help you gain skills in fundraising, cash handling, administration etc. & give you a valuable insight into our work, as well as provide opportunities to meet other volunteers through annual thank you events, newsletters & social networks. The role is highly flexible & can be fitted around even the busiest of schedules. We ask you to visit your sites every 4 weeks, count funds, issue a receipt to the site, bank the money, record the income on our online system & replenish boxes with pin badges. BUT Friendly & personable person with a high level of motivation, good communication & computer skills, & an ability to work on own initiative. ASK communityfundraisingscotland@rspb.org.uk

You think your site would benefit from a “Friends of” group but don’t know where to start?

What is a Friends of group?

Usually a group of people who voluntarily work to maintain, improve and (often) promote a green space.

Why set up a Friends of group?

Usually it's to make a positive contribution to a site in some way:

- To do some practical work to improve a site with others e.g. weeding, pruning, litter picking
- To protect the heritage of a site
- To fundraise for improvements to a site
- To act as a pressure group to get things done on the site
- To engage other local people in the site e.g. inspire local school children about the site.

Other benefits to forming a Friends of group:

- Increasing community cohesion - social aspect
- Having a say in how a site is managed
- Keeping fit/getting fresh air
- Increasing appreciation and respect for a site among the local community

Now you’ve decided that a group would help you and your site what do you do next?

Planning:

- Develop a mailing list of interested people (if you know of any).
- Decide loosely what you want to Friends of to achieve (e.g. practical, events, fundraising) – the ultimate decision is up to the members once it's formed and will be stated in the constitution.
- Plan a launch event based on the above (this might be an evening meeting, open day one afternoon or a practical task) – involve the site manager in this.
- The launch event should be informal, fun (to attract people) and give people a chance to feedback their feelings on the site. Ideally it would take place on or very near the site. It might involve a guided walk or talk from an expert, a practical task e.g. a litter pick or even take the form of a family event with activities for everyone to get involved in e.g. providing arts and crafts for children.
- Publicise the launch event as widely as possible (including doing a press release).

At the launch event:

- Gather names and contact details of people who show an interest in being part of a ‘Friends of’ group
- Find out what attendees think of the site, including how they would like to see it improved (often good to use a map)
- Gather feedback about what people would like a ‘Friends of’ group to achieve.
- Promote the date of the first formal meeting

After the launch

- Once you have launched the group and have enough interested people to develop it further you need to arrange the first formal meeting. Things to discuss at the meeting might include:
- Aims of group
- What the group would like to achieve (in priority order)
- Putting together a committee
- Writing a constitution
- Planning an activity to maintain motivation e.g. fundraising event, practical task.

You are unlikely to get all this done at the first meeting but this is the general direction you should be aiming to go in. Once things like the committee and constitution are in place you can start making positive steps towards achieving your aims and objectives.

Forming a committee

A committee is elected by the members of the group to carry out work on their behalf between normal meetings. Depending on the type of group you are setting up, it is normal to form a committee. But why do you need a committee?

- It helps to formalise the group (which helps get it recognised by relevant bodies such as funders and the council)
- It ensures that the work involved in running the group is shared between a few people, rather than all falling to one person
- It tends to make a group more organised
- Funders much prefer groups with a committee

Committee members are usually elected at an annual general meeting at which a review of the year will also be discussed.

Writing a constitution

A constitution is a set of rules that defines how a group is run but why have a constitution?

It is useful to create a constitution fairly early on in the development of the group as it will focus the group on why you are forming it and what you would like to achieve.

Once the group is established

Probably the easiest way to get things achieved is to put together an action plan working in partnership between the site managers and the group. This should list the objectives of the group and make suggestions about how they will be achieved. You should review progress annually as priorities change.

Continued Success

It is also worth giving some consideration to ensuring your group is a success as lots of groups can and do fizzle out.

- It has to feel like the group have a purpose and that they are achieving something
- Being part of the group has to be fun – don't make it too much like hard work, beware of meetings becoming long and pointless, ensure the atmosphere is relaxed and welcoming at meetings, tasks and other group events.
- Keep promoting the group so that as you get natural drop off of members, you are also gaining new recruits!

Good luck and enjoy your time with your willing helpers.

With thanks to Leeds City Council. You can find out more about their approach to setting up "Friends of" groups, case studies and some pro forma documentation on their website: www.leeds.gov.uk

Wales:

Volunteers needed to help us manage our 40 acre nature reserve near Lampeter, mid Wales. Tasks include habitat management and wildlife monitoring. No previous experience needed. Volunteer sessions take place on alternate Saturdays and Tuesdays from 10am to 4pm. Visit our website for dates and information www.denmarkfarm.org.uk or email: volunteer@denmarkfarm.org.uk

With support from Heritage Lottery Funding we are digitising the archive of local naturalist Dr Mary Gillham consisting of wildlife records & photographs, which date back to the 1930s. Opportunities to volunteer in our offices (Cardiff) or from home! Find out more here: marygillhamarchiveproject.wordpress.com/volunteer/ or email alan.reeve@sewbrec.org.uk

Keep Wales Tidy run working parties throughout the year & tasks include litter picking, habitat management, footpath works, woodland management, Coastcare & many more. Anyone who would like to volunteer should contact KWT on 029 20256767 or south@keepwalestidy.org

Every Wednesday & Sunday Woodland Working Party
 Cefn Ila, Woodland Trust Contact: volunteering@woodlandtrust.org.uk
 The work parties support our restoration of this wonderful site. We ask that volunteers bring lunch & wear appropriate clothing & footwear. We provide the tools & the hot drinks, No experience necessary.

Contact for details Woodland Working Party
 Dyffryn Woods, Neath, South Wales, The Woodland Trust Contact: volunteering@woodlandtrust.org.uk
 We are looking for volunteers to join our working party to help with the maintenance & restoration of the Ancient woodland tasks include coppicing, restoration, hedgelaying & dry stone walling. We'll provide tools & equipment. No experience is necessary for this role.

REF 2671-FOCUS-30/9 JOB **RESERVE MANAGEMENT SUPPORT**
 BE4 2/10/16 LOC WWT LLANELLI, SA14 9SH
 PAY 0* FOR WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST
 DES A rare opportunity to join our team who manage the 450 acre wetland reserve at our site for someone looking to develop a career as a Reserve Warden & who enjoys physical & practical outdoor activities in all weather. This role offers a variety of activities ranging from practical tasks to monitoring & public engagement to livestock management. BUT This role will suit you if you are: practical & physically able; interested in wildlife conservation with some previous experience of similar work; able to work in a team of staff & vols; proactive & able to work with a minimum of supervision, or independently; able to follow instructions & manage time efficiently; confident at engaging with a range of people; able to cycle. The following would be desirable but not essential: wildlife identification skills especially birds; certificates in the use of chainsaws & brushcutters; clean driving licence & experience of tractor driving; experience in managing small groups of vols. Full-time placement for 10 months. Starting asap & finishing August 2017. * Accom provided incl utility bills, induction training & practical training for reserve management. ASK www.wwt.org.uk/volunteer to complete the form. Problems: volunteer.hq@wwt.org.uk

REF 2672-FOCUS-28/10 JOB **ONLINE EVENTS CALENDAR VOLUNTEER**
 BE4 28/10/16 LOC CARDIFF, eventually home based
 PAY Travel expenses. Training in website maintenance FOR SEWBReC
 DES South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC) maintain a calendar of all wildlife related events in the south east Wales area. We are recruiting for a volunteer to assist in this task. The role will involve looking through websites of relevant organisations, picking out events & adding events to the SEWBReC website on a regular basis, plus updating a spreadsheet. Initially this would take place in the office, but ideally we would like the role to become home based in the long term. Half day per week. BUT Interest in wildlife conservation. Basic IT skills (training will be provided). ASK Email info@sewbrec.org.uk to express interest.

REF 470-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **HABITAT MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEER**
 BE4 N / A LOC SWANSEA & / or NEATH PORT TALBOT AREAS
 PAY Some training & some expenses FOR WILDLIFE TRUST SOUTH & WEST WALES
 DES Come along & make a difference at one of our regular volunteer work parties. The New Wild Woodlands Project is undertaking habitat management improvement work near you. Why not come & get experience at coppicing, non-native species control, meadow management & surveys. Time: anything from one day (9.00 – 14.30) whenever you can, up to 3 days a week Tue, Wed, Thu & 3rd Sun of the month. BUT No experience necessary, as all required training given. Just enthusiasm & a willingness to work outdoors! ASK Tara Daniels, 07855 009622
 t.daniels@welshwildlife.org

Young volunteers develop work skills for future

East Lothian Junior Rangers is a group run by the East Lothian Countryside Ranger Service for local young people aged between 11-18 and who are interested learning about the natural world. They meet twice a month in term time, and go out exploring East Lothian wild places. Through this they gain not only knowledge of local wildlife and the Countryside Ranger profession, they make new friends with similar interests from across the county. The Junior Rangers in East Lothian were set up as part of a pilot project developed by the Scottish Countryside Ranger Service (SCRA). The development of the pilot project has now meant that there is a network of Junior Ranger groups run by different Ranger Services across Scotland.



This is Matthew's story - a Junior Ranger from East Lothian.

Matthew joined East Lothian Junior Rangers in September 2013. In the beginning, he was shy and nervous joining an already established group; however he soon made his mark. Matthew has Additional Support Needs, which can affect his initial understanding of instructions. Despite this, he was able to flourish as a member of the Junior Rangers, fast becoming a well liked and integral member of the team.

Matthew threw himself into the many tasks that he was a participant on from hill navigation in our local Lammermuir Hills and developing his survival skills by learning natural fire lighting skills. He also worked on learning about using different hand tools and how they are applied in conservation management of countryside sites. Matthew says:

"I have been at the Junior Rangers for about 2 years plus and have taken away from my time with them skills that I would never have thought I would have been able to do like cutting down unwanted plants, dead trees which I carry on to help my Family in their gardens especially my Nana and my Cousin Claire in her new house".

Some of Matthew's best work was assisting in the RSPB's Big Nature Festival at Levenhall Links. Matthew considers his time at the event invaluable:

"My overall favourite times were at the RSPB days at Levenhall Links working with Jen and Richard two of the Countryside Rangers, meeting the public and explaining to them what we did".



Matthew and a spider (Laura Douglas)

He was able to show visitors to the East Lothian Countryside Ranger's marquee all about the wildlife and landscapes of East Lothian and assist children in a willow weaving craft area.



Matthew learning natural fire lighting skills (Jen Newcombe)

The Junior Ranger Award is a scheme open to any SCRA affiliated Junior Ranger group. The Award was developed to compliment a Junior Ranger group that would be working to develop a young person's knowledge of the countryside profession. It was designed to fit in with SCRA's Continuing Professional Development Ranger Award. Therefore, a Junior Ranger would develop skills that are directly linked to a Countryside Ranger's job profile.

Over the three years that Matthew was part of Junior Rangers, it was evident that he was a great example of how long term work with the Countryside Ranger Service could benefit an individual. He is now enrolled in a local college and intends to come back to

volunteer with the East Lothian Countryside Ranger Service with one of the local Friends of volunteer groups.

And the final word goes to Matthew himself.

"Best of all was working with all the other Junior Rangers and the Rangers themselves, learning outdoor skills that I would never have done otherwise, but also having fun"

If you are interested in any aspect of the SCRA Junior Ranger programme please contact Jen Newcombe at jnewcombe@eastlothian.gov.uk



Anglia:

Butterfly Conservation Suffolk. www.suffolkbutterflies.org.uk

Passionate about saving butterflies and moths? Help needed at our Ipswich heathland sites to save Silver-studded Blue butterflies, removing unwanted scrub and bramble from flight areas. No special skill needed. Refreshments provided. We also have a vacancy for membership secretary. email: helens919@gmail.com for further details.

Suffolk Coast Greeters are volunteers who enjoy talking to people and offering visitors the chance to enjoy a free and personal welcome to their local area. Greeter and visitors decide together when, where and what they will explore together. Join Us Now! suffolkcoastgreeters@gmail.com 01394 445225

Beachwatch is the Marine Conservation Society's national beach cleaning and litter surveying programme. Our marine wildlife and environment is under threat from litter and pollution. Join an existing Suffolk team or establish your own! Contact Lynn Allen at Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB, 01394 445225 or lynn.allen@suffolk.gov.uk

Join In! with conservation on the coast. Everyone welcome - locals and visitors will be enriched when they Join In a conservation and wildlife activity. Support the area, be involved and enjoy the special landscape in a hands-on way! 01394 445225
www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/volunteering/join-in

Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB - Coast & Estuary Wardens Scheme
Help us to look after the Suffolk coast and estuaries by being our eyes and ears on the ground and recording specific issues as advised by the AONB. For more information, please contact Lynn Allen, Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB, 01394 445225 or lynn.allen@suffolk.gov.uk

Huntingdonshire District Council's Countryside Service

We are seeking volunteers to work at our Community Plant & Tree Nursery in Godmanchester, near Huntingdon to assist with all aspects of growing vegetables and fruit involving picking, washing, packing, marketing and selling the produce. Contact Kirsty Drew on 07810 637546 or kirstien.drew@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

REF 2673-FOCUSR-21/10
JOB **SCHOOLS OUTREACH VOLUNTEER**
BE4 N / A
LOC HOME BASED – outreach to educational establishments in Norwich & the Broads
PAY Induction, training & expenses
FOR RSPB
DES During school term time, one day a fortnight (we can be flexible on this). As part of the RSPB's aim to connect as many children as possible to nature, we'll be descending on primary schools ready to deliver our inspiring outreach sessions. They're designed to give teachers & their pupils all the support they need to explore the natural world around them. The sessions are fun & interactive. Following a period of shadowing the Schools Outreach Officer, we'd ask you to take the lead on delivering 3 different workshops with classes of children aged 5-12 years, inspiring them to get close up to what creeps, crawls & flies in their school grounds. Teachers would be present at all times. BUT Bags of enthusiasm & a natural at communicating your passion for nature to children; genuinely enjoy working with children; resourceful, flexible & creative approach to working with children; enjoy working outdoors; well organised, great communicator; keen interest in wildlife, conservation & nature; great at working in a team & alone; happy to take instructions, keen to learn new skills; computer literate, able to use email, internet, MS Word. Desirable but not essential: some knowledge of wildlife gardening & basic ID skills. ASK clare.whitelegg@rspb.org.uk



REF 2674-FOCUSR-OK3
BE4 Ongoing
PAY 0
DES We are passionate about inspiring & connecting young people to nature & we currently have three Wildlife Explorer Groups working regularly with children across the county. All our clubs are run by dedicated volunteers & we need you to be their first point of contact. You would visit the groups, offer them help & advice & undertake monitoring as required. Time commitment to suit you but primarily evenings & weekend with a minimum requirement of 2 hpw. Must be able to attend induction & rel training as required. BUT Good communicator & well organised with experience of working with young people &/or running events & activities for young people. Boundless energy & enthusiasm.
ASK Sharon Sanderson, 01603 697525 sharon.sanderson@rspb.org.uk

REF 481-FOCUS-OK3
BE4 ?
PAY Travel expenses
DES To welcome visitors to the centre, providing excellent visitor care. Helping with all centre duties including sales, promoting membership & boat trips (at some centres) BUT Friendly & enthusiastic & welcoming personality. Customer services skills & confidence. Love of wildlife & wild places. Numerate, reliable time keeper and able to work as part of team & on own initiative. Able to multi-task. Centres host frequent school parties, child friendly approach essential.
LOC DES / BUT
Hickling Broad Visitor Centre 1 day per week or provide cover on more flexible basis. Open 10- 5 daily Easter - October.
NWT Holme Dunes The Centre is at the end of a mile long gravel track & is part of warden's accom. No public transport. Half day per week preferred. Open 10-5 daily Easter - October, option to work weekends during winter.
NWT Ranworth Broad, both Centres. No running water on site. First aid qual advantage, training can be given. Regular half / full day per week / fortnight. Open daily 10-5 April - Sept plus weekend & school holidays in October.
NWT Weeting Heath Part of Wings over the Brecks project. Live video footage of stone curlews. Help to promote the work of project partners, RSPB & Forestry Commission. Open daily 9.30-4.30 March to August, flexible would prefer half day per week. ALL: ASK <http://c-js.co.uk/1xhHX6P> angelac@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk

North East:

Unearth an historic wagonway, help restore riverside habitats or learn wildlife survey skills! These & many more natural, industrial & cultural heritage volunteering opportunities with the Land of Oak & Iron Landscape Partnership in & around the Derwent Valley. Contact us to get involved: 01207 524883 landofoakandiron@groundwork.org.uk www.landofoakandiron.org.uk Facebook/LandofOakandIron Twitter@LandofOakIron

Inspiring People - Potteric Carr, Doncaster, is looking for passionate and inspiring people to share their love of nature with local people. Whether its pond dipping, craft workshops or bat walks there's lots to do as part of our friendly Inspiring People team. Further details from kat.woolley@ywt.org.uk

Interested in local wildlife and looking for flexible, rewarding part time work?

This role suits someone looking for flexibility work, a change of pace and lifestyle or wanting to supplement their existing income. Access to own transport essential, but no experience is necessary as training is provided.

<http://www.nwt.org.uk/jobs/membership-recruiters>

Groundwork South Tyneside & Newcastle run weekly volunteering sessions throughout South Tyneside & Newcastle. The sessions are to get people taking more exercise in the outdoors as well as improving the environment. The sessions also enable people to learn skills in horticulture & conservation. Contact: Sarah Atchison 0191 4281144, sarah.atchison@groundwork.org.uk

At Spurn National Nature Reserve there are six different ongoing roles available to people. We have exciting opportunities for Welcome Volunteers, Spurn Rangers, Café Volunteers, Lighthouse Keepers, Practical Conservation Volunteers and Survey and Research Volunteers. Come and be part of something special! For more information go to – <http://www.ywt.org.uk/volunteer-east>

Join the RSPB's Schools Outreach team as a Volunteer Administrator to provide essential office support for the project across Newcastle & Leeds. If you have excellent attention to detail, great communication skills & experience of outlook & databases please contact 07718 972298 or LeedsSchoolsOutreach@rspb.org.uk for information.

Do you live in or near County Durham & would you like to get involved in a variety of practical conservation & habitat improvement tasks? The Wear Rivers Trust has a number of volunteer tasks available in the coming months – please see <http://c-js.co.uk/2bOctWi> for more details!

Every Friday Northumberland Environmental Action Team
Northumberland, Groundwork NE & Cumbria Contact: Leanne Shipley 01670 514876, leanne.shipley@groundwork.org.uk
9:30 - 3:30 approx work on various environmental improvement & conservation projects (transport provided from Pegswood & Ashington) including meadow & woodland management, creation of community gardens, footpath work & building steps etc. Boots & waterproofs provided

Mondays & Thursdays, occasional other days Woodland Conservation Team Volunteer
Derwent Valley & Prudhoe, The Land of Oak & Iron Landscape Partnership Contact: Peter Downes 01207 524884 / 07484 093411, pdownes@durhamwt.co.uk, www.landof oakandiron.org.uk/events
The Volunteering Team works in a variety of woodlands in all seasons. Come along & learn new skills, make friends & have fun whilst carrying out a programme of practical woodland conservation & management tasks. All tools, gloves & instruction will be provided.

Tuesday – Thursday Practical Countryside Conservation
York, The Conservation Volunteers Contact: 01904 644300, york@tcv.org.uk
Join our volunteers to carry out practical countryside conservation across the York area. Activities include management of diverse habitats and construction of footpaths and fences. Hot drinks and biscuits provided. Get outside, gain skills and meet new people.

Every Thursday Practical Conservation Volunteer
Tyne Valley, Northumberland, National Trust - Hadrian's Wall & Tyne Valley Contact: <http://c-js.co.uk/2bZ6Tkd>
Love the outdoors and don't mind getting your hands dirty? Our practical conservation volunteer team carry out work like walling, brash clearance and footpath maintenance across five NT sites in the Tyne Valley. Must have a reasonable level of fitness, as all tasks involve practical work outdoors.

First Thursday of every month Practical Volunteers
Moor House - Upper Teesdale NNR, County Durham, Natural England Contact: emma.king@naturalengland.org.uk
You will be working as part of a team with our staff and other volunteers, undertaking practical conservation tasks including vegetation management, tree maintenance and general estate tasks. A reasonable level of fitness is required for this role due to the nature of our work and the terrain.

A Wonderful Wildcat Experience

By James Walker

As I pulled into the town square in Huntly, Aberdeenshire, on a dark and surprisingly mild December night, a sense of realisation kicked in. It was time to find out if the gamble would pay off. I had left a permanent ranger role which, despite providing useful experience and having great colleagues, felt to have stagnated in terms of development opportunities, to intern with Scottish Wildcat Action for three months. I dreamed of being able to work on conservation projects, combining research, people engagement and practical conservation to achieve long term objectives and this seemed to be a perfect first step.



After seeing the advert for the posts online I knew I would never forgive myself if I didn't apply. So after forgoing a social life for a weekend to prepare my application and many hours put into reading and watching anything on wildcats I could find, it was time for the interview. This was done over the phone and I felt cautiously optimistic by the end. It took a while to sink in after getting the call to say I had a place, but once it did the excitement and trepidation began building.



A camera trap station used in the survey (Scottish Wildcat Action)

weeks consisted of setting up new camera trap stations myself and with several local volunteers. It was a pleasant surprise when the first camera trap set before Christmas that I checked had pictures of a potential wildcat! I say potential wildcat as each individual is scored on key pelage (markings) features, which have proven to be a good guideline against the genetic purity test. With an obvious hybrid cat on another, as well as other exciting wildlife such as Pine Marten, it certainly made for a rewarding day.

Trips to Edinburgh Zoo and Highland Wildlife Park to learn about the wider project work were a real highlight. In Edinburgh, we met the communications coordinator for the project, Vicky MacDonald, to learn about how best to spread the news and raise awareness of wildcat conservation, as well as seeing the zoo's Koalas and Giant Pandas! At Highland Wildlife Park, David Barclay, the cat conservation project officer, showed us the captive wildcats at the park and provided an insightful explanation of the conservation

breeding programme. The visit also provided an opportunity to meet the other project officers and interns, sharing experiences from the survey and suggestions for future ones.



The moment the same cat left a hair sample on the Velcro post for DNA analysis (Scottish Wildcat Action)

Fast forward to my first morning and, after a night in the youth hostel which would be my home for the majority of the three months, I met my supervising project officer Emma Rawling and we headed off to set up camera traps with a local volunteer, a process repeated over the next few days. On two days of the training week I went out with the priority areas manager, Dr Roo Campbell, to set up cameras in a promising area of forest. It was an excellent opportunity to learn from an expert and gain lots of advice to put into practice over the rest of the survey.

After the festive break, I was back up and raring to go. The first couple of



A high pelage scoring potential wildcat (Scottish Wildcat Action)

Office work involved downloading and organising images and putting survey data into a spreadsheet. We also had a pelage scoring day looking at all the cats and coming to a collective score for each, fuelled by large amounts of tea and cake! In the final two weeks I produced an identification guide of all cats found on the survey, giving each cat a nickname and code with notes on behaviour, unique features and locations recorded.

After my time as an intern had finished, I was given the opportunity to help present at an event for the local volunteers in Huntly. It was heartening to see everyone's enthusiasm for the

project and what a great success the survey had been. It definitely made up for the following mornings failed 3 am dash to see Capercaillie at Abernethy!

So what did I gain from the experience? It confirmed my long held suspicion that mammal conservation is the area I really want to specialise in, which has made picking the right masters course for the near future much easier. Experience of mammal tracking, camera trap surveys, image analysis and data work will be invaluable for the future. I learnt about what makes a successful conservation project, particularly in terms of community involvement and what new skills and experience I will need to pick up in the next few years. Overall, I feel privileged to have played a small part in such an amazing project and working with such knowledgeable, helpful and committed people made the experience all the greater. Since my internship I have been on a paid contract protecting nesting Little Terns which has added more scientific monitoring and people engagement experience. I would highly recommend volunteering with Scottish Wildcat Action to anyone!

For more information about the project, visit www.scottishwildcattaction.org or on facebook and twitter @SaveOurWildcats

Scottish Wildcat Action is the first national project to save the highly endangered Scottish wildcat from extinction. It is a partnership involving over 20 organisations, including, Scottish Natural Heritage, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS), Cairngorms National Park Authority, Forestry Commission Scotland, National Museums Scotland, National Trust for Scotland, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at the University of Edinburgh, Scottish Gamekeepers' Association and the Scottish Wildlife Trust. It is funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and Scottish Government, as well as its partners.

North West:

Become a Green Leader with Groundwork & work with us to help create vibrant green communities. We have a range of opportunities from community action days on green spaces to more longer term volunteer placements & training. For more information, contact: Lucy West 01942 821444, lucy.west@groundwork.org.uk

Visitor Experience Residential Volunteer - Coombes Valley, an amazing place to see wildlife, get outdoors and play! We are looking for a full time volunteer to help bring our visitors closer to nature. The post includes a room in our volunteer accommodation. Contact coombes.valley@rspb.org.uk

Every Sunday Work party

Manchester, Manchester National Trust Volunteers Contact: 0161 2866542, info@mntv.org.uk, www.mntv.org.uk
Enjoy the outdoors? Join us to do conservation volunteering on National Trust properties mainly in the North West. Tasks include rhody bashing, hedge laying, footpath work, pond clearance, fencing, woodland work. No experience needed. Usually 9.30am to 3.30pm.

REF	2680-FOCUSR-OK12	JOB	RSPB Schools Outreach Volunteer Administration Assistant
BE4	N / A	LOC	MERSEYSIDE REGION
PAY	Full training provided, friendly & supportive team FOR RSPB		
DES	One day a week. The RSPB is the country's largest nature conservation charity, inspiring everyone to give nature a home. Together with our partners, we protect threatened birds & wildlife so that our towns, coast & countryside will team with life once again. We also play a leading role in a worldwide partnership of nature conservation organisations. Do you remember the thrill of finding your first ladybird? As part of the RSPB's aim to connect as many children as possible to nature, Giving Nature a Home in Schools is our new school outreach project working across 18 cities in the UK to provide opportunities for half a million children to connect with nature. We want your help to support this fantastic project! BUT Well organised, with good attention to detail; effective communication skills to liaise with volunteers & staff; good computer literacy; ability to use email, internet, word processing & databases; willingness to learn new skills; self-motivated, with a willingness to work on your own. ASK stephanie.hepworth@rspb.org.uk		

REF	2681-FOCUS-21/10	JOB	VOLUNTEER WADER WARDEN PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR
BE4	N / A	LOC	MORECAMBE BAY
PAY	Out of pocket expenses FOR RSPB		
DES	An opportunity to be a major part in an ongoing project aiming to reduce levels of recreational disturbance to roosting birds at high tide. The focus is on a light touch approach; raising awareness, educating & engaging with recreational users of the sites. With your efforts this initiative can significantly reduce levels of recreational disturbance in the bay & better safeguard winter high tide bird roosts. It may require a considerable commitment, potentially up to 3-4 hours per day up to 5 days per week including weekends. This depends heavily on tide states & weather. This is a complex role & gives you the opportunity to gain rare experience of recruiting, managing & supporting volunteers. You will be taking the lead with a dynamic public-facing conservation project working across some of the beautiful coastal landscapes in the UK. BUT Friendly, confident & approachable & willing to start conversations with members of the public. Basic ID skills & an understanding of the ecology of wading birds desirable although some training can be provided. Happy spending time outdoors, sometimes in poor weather. Able to travel to some more remote sites not well serviced by public transport. ASK Calum Booth, calum.booth@rspb.org.uk 01524 581000.		

REF 854-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **VOLUNTEER RANGER**
 BE4 N / A LOC MARTON MERE NATURE RESERVE, BLACKPOOL
 PAY Training FOR BLACKPOOL COUNCIL
 DES Marton Mere Nature Reserve is calling all enthusiastic people with an interest in wildlife & green spaces to join our friendly Volunteer Ranger Service. Be part of our amazing 3 year, HLF project to transform the reserve & preserve Blackpool's most important ecological haven for future generations. You will work alongside an enthusiastic team of volunteers, assisting experienced staff & getting involved with a wide variety of projects including habitat conservation, estate maintenance, surveys, environmental activities as well as the promotion of our new visitor centre. BUT No experience or qualifications needed, as training is given. The only essential requirement is an interest in the environment & a willingness to get stuck in! ASK Iollan Banks, Environmental Volunteer Co-ordinator, Blackpool Council, 07768 557271 or martonmerenaturereserve@blackpool.gov.uk

REF 507-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER**
 BE4 N / A LOC FESTIVAL GARDENS LIVERPOOL
 PAY On the job training for a plethora of tools / activities FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS
 DES Do you have an interest in conservation? If you are keen to take an active role in your local environment, then this is the role for you. Conservation volunteers are needed throughout the year at Festival Gardens. Various horticultural tasks are completed on a daily basis, tasks vary dependent on the season but volunteers choose daily from a plethora of tasks they wish to complete. Volunteers are free to come between the hours of 10:00-16:00 Monday to Friday. Time spent is up to the participant. We will supply coffee, tea & have a microwave & fridge which volunteers are welcome to use. BUT No qualifications required, just lots of enthusiasm! No skills required, on site tool safety training done as & when needed. Just bring yourself, a packed lunch, old clothes & footwear with ample ankle support. ASK Please contact Rangers Joseph or Paul to arrange an induction: j.evans@tcv.org.uk or p.kirby@tcv.org.uk

REF 2682-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **SCHOOLS OUTREACH SESSION LEADER**
 BE4 N / A LOC Greater Manchester, Newcastle & Gateshead, West Yorkshire or Merseyside
 PAY Full induction & training, travel & subsistence expenses FOR RSPB
 DES Minimum commitment is the equivalent of 2 full days a month up to 3 months in advance for a minimum of 6 months. Do you remember the thrill of finding your first ladybird? As part of the RSPB's aim to connect as many children as possible to nature, Giving Nature a Home in Schools is our new school outreach project to provide opportunities for half a million children to connect with nature. We are looking for volunteers to help us deliver this ambitious project. You will be leading sessions with a class of children & their teacher, inspiring them to get up close to what creeps, crawls & flies in their school grounds. BUT Abundant enthusiasm, with ability to communicate your passion for the natural world to help connect children with nature; some experience of working with young people; a keen interest in wildlife, conservation & the natural environment; resourceful & flexible approach & able to cope with primary-aged children of all abilities; willing to learn new skills; well-organised, with effective communication skills to liaise with other volunteers & schools; willing to work alone; able to use email, internet, word processing. ASK For Greater Manchester, Sally Mizon, sally.mizon@rspb.org.uk or 07808 717337; Newcastle & Gateshead, Jill Wesolowski, jill.wesolowski@rspb.org.uk or 07718 972299; West Yorkshire, Catherine Walker, catherine.walker@rspb.org.uk or 07718 972298; Merseyside, Stephanie Hepworth, stephanie.hepworth@rspb.org.uk or 07841 804793.

REF 2683-FOCUSR-OK1 JOB **VOLUNTEER PIN BADGE MINDER**
 BE4 N / A LOC NORTHERN ENGLAND
 PAY Local on hand training, expenses FOR RSPB
 DES 4 hours per month (flexible). We would like you to help us maintain & service a number of pin badge boxes in your local area, & also help us grow the scheme by placing new boxes in places such as: garden centres, pubs, cafes & tourist attractions. Count donations & bank them at your nearest Post Office. Areas: Cheshire, Merseyside, Lancashire, Cumbria, Yorkshire (N, E, S & W), Greater Manchester, Co. Durham, Teesside, Cleveland, Northumbria. It is an easy role with no time constraints so it works around you. You will receive local training & have the opportunity to attend our thank you events. You could help raise £1000 for nature. Ask us about the Area Co-ordinator position! BUT Able to access the internet, email, MS Word & Excel; good personality, communication skills, able to work on one's own, flexibility, local knowledge; basic maths. ASK Vicki Lamb, 01524 581017 / victoria.lamb@rspb.org.uk or Kate Whitehead, 01484 868428 / kate.whitehead@rspb.org.uk

Midlands:

REF 2684-FOCUS-14/10
 Forestry Commission & Notts County Council
Shadow Ranger Placement Opportunities
 Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire & Cheshire
 Training is provided

A fantastic opportunity to get your foot in the door of an environmental organisation, gain experience and learn alongside Ranger staff. We are looking for individuals with an interest in pursuing a career in countryside management, recreation, bushcraft, working with young people or the environmental sector for our voluntary work placements. Time commitment of 1-3 days per week for 6 months.

You must be willing to work as part of a team, one to one and on your own. Motivated and capable of working under own initiative. Enthusiastic. Physically fit and able to negotiate rough terrain. Willing to undergo a Disclosure Barring System check. Good communication skills. Full driving licence is desirable

Closing date: 16th October

Find out more on www.forestry.gov.uk/shadowrangers



REF 2685-FOCUS-21/10 JOB **QUEENSWOOD COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRE VOLUNTEERS**
 BE4 ? LOC DINMORE HILL, LEOMINSTER, HEREFORDSHIRE
 PAY Training & travel expenses FOR QUEENSWOOD & BODENHAM LAKE
 DES We are looking for volunteers to help run a new visitor centre at Queenswood, providing members of the public with information, guidance about the Country Park & Bodenham Lake, as well as staffing the new shop! From welcoming visitors, serving customers in the shop & enthusing visitors to join the 'Friends of Queenswood & Bodenham Lake' scheme, you will make a real difference to Queenswood & visitors' enjoyment of this special place. You will be available to answer visitors' questions about the sites & help them discover more each time they return. You will be educating visitors about the history of Queenswood & Bodenham Lake, including our ongoing habitat management work & visitor development. Training to share this knowledge provided. Multiple roles are available. Minimum commitment of 3 months required. BUT Previous experience in a similar role useful but not essential. Confidence in speaking to the general public, a passion for wildlife & an interest in sustainable living. ASK Rachel Hicks, Visitor Experience Officer, r.hicks@queenswoodandbodenhamlake.org

REF 491-FOCUS-OK3 JOB **FENN'S MOSS NNR VOLUNTARY WARDEN**
 BE4 Ongoing LOC Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR, & NNR Base (N Shropshire)
 PAY Travel expenses FOR NATURAL ENGLAND & NATURAL RESOURCES WALES
 DES Great opportunity to assist with the restoration of part of Britain's 3rd largest lowland raised peat bog. The NNR is 690ha & straddles the English / Welsh border, 4 miles from Whitchurch, Shropshire & 10 miles from Wrexham. Role is varied & can incl practical estate & habitat management tasks, surveying / monitoring, assisting with events / guided walks & office projects. Protective clothing & some formal courses & in-house training provided. BUT Suitable for a student looking for a work placement or someone wanting to gain further experience in the conservation sector. Reliable & enthusiastic, keen interest in wildlife & conservation, physically fit & prepared to work outdoors. ASK Peter Bowyer, Reserve Manager, peter.bowyer@naturalengland.org.uk 01948 880362 www.naturalengland.org.uk

REF 488-FOCUSR-OK3 FOR WORCESTERSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST
 BE4 ? LOC WORCESTERSHIRE
 JOB DES
Volunteer Wildlife Watch Leader 3rd Wednesday of each month, 5-8 plus 3hrs prep. To join friendly education team & lead wildlife watch club. Need to plan & deliver fun & interactive outdoor learning sessions for children aged 5-12.
Volunteer Wildlife Watch Helper 3rd Wednesday of each month, 6 – 7.30 (plus set up & clear if pos). To join friendly education team & assist with wildlife watch club. BOTH: DES Sessions could include minibeast hunting, pond dipping, crafts etc. BUT Experience of working children in school or other envs & of planning & delivering creative env ed. Interest & enthusiasm for wildlife conservation & aims of WTs. Willingness to be outside in all weathers, Basic knowledge of UK wildlife & ID skills. Able to work flexibly on initiative & within team. Able to communicate in engaging & professional manner to children & adults. Understanding of child safeguarding & H&S. Prepared to be involved in tasks as need arises. ASK Hannah Thomas, hannah@worcestershirewildlifetrust.org 01905 754919. Apply: www.worcestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

REF 489-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **SCHOOL VISITS VOLUNTEER**
 BE4 Ongoing LOC LOWER SMITE FARM & other WWT nature reserves
 PAY Training FOR WORCESTERSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST
 DES We are looking for an enthusiastic & committed volunteer to join our friendly education team & assist the Engagement Officers to deliver fun & interactive outdoor learning sessions to schools. A typical day could involve minibeast hunting, pond dipping, baking bread, river activities & much more! Time: casual & flexible depending on demand but typically 9am – 3pm on the required days. BUT Experience of working with children in a school or other learning environment; experience of delivering creative environmental education to children of all ages; interest & enthusiasm for wildlife conservation & aims of Wildlife Trusts; willingness to be outside in all weathers; basic knowledge of UK wildlife & ID skills – although you don't need to be an expert! Able to work flexibly & use initiative, to work in a team & to communicate in an engaging & professional manner to children & adults. Understanding of child safeguarding & H&S procedures. Willingness to be involved in various tasks as directed if they arise during a school session. ASK Marissa Ryland, marissa@worcestershirewildlifetrust.org 01905 754919 www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/volunteer-opportunities

REF 2686-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **VOLUNTEER RANGER**
 BE4 N / A LOC BROCKHAMPTON ESTATE, HEREFORDSHIRE
 PAY Fuel expenses, in-house training FOR NATIONAL TRUST
 DES Rangers love the countryside & being out in the fresh air, so they know what our visitors need. They're great at taking care of the wildlife & stunning landscapes of Brockhampton Estate, for ever, for everyone. Time: at least once a month. BUT We need people who are outdoorsy; able to be out whatever the weather's doing; reasonably fit & healthy – you don't need to be Superman but you'll do a lot of walking & practical tasks. Keen to work with people & animals! Keen to learn about countryside management. ASK Apply through myvolunteering on the National Trust website, <http://bit.ly/2bOf56Y> or contact nicholas.hinchliffe@nationaltrust.org.uk for more information.

REF 2687-FOCUS-OK3 JOB **VOLUNTEER TRAINEE WARDEN x 2**
 BE4 N / A LOC WYRE FOREST, WORCESTERSHIRE
 PAY Modest training budget & travel expenses FOR NATURAL ENGLAND
 DES 2-3 days per week for 6 months. We have two part time volunteer trainee warden positions available designed to develop knowledge of conservation management including wildflower meadows, traditional orchards & oak coppice woodland. This is a perfect opportunity for people wanting to develop their CV, work alongside the warden team & gain experience in this highly competitive sector. The work involved is varied & where possible, tailored to the volunteer's interests. BUT A reasonable level of fitness is required. The roles are aimed at practical & motivated people who like

working outdoors. No experience necessary as training will be provided. ASK alice.james@naturalengland.org.uk 01299 400686.

REF 2688-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER**
 BE4 Ongoing LOC DERBYSHIRE DALES NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE
 PAY Travel expenses(restricted distance), on the job training FOR NATURAL ENGLAND
 DES Volunteer on a National Nature Reserve helping us to conserve one of the UK's most important sites. You will be learning practical conservation skills, such as grassland, scrub, woodland & boundary management. You would be volunteering alongside a small team of staff & volunteers delivering to a professional standard. Regular commitment preferred; Tuesdays & Wednesdays only at the moment. Possibility of certified training for long term vols. BUT Any previous experience of practical conservation & qualifications a benefit but not essential. Steep terrain of the site & nature of the work demands a good level of fitness. ASK CV or details of experience & certification to, shaun.taylor@naturalengland.org.uk

REF 2689-FOCUSR-28/10 JOB **PR & PUBLICITY VOLUNTEER**
 BE4 31/10/16 LOC Gloucestershire / Herefordshire / Worcestershire – home based
 PAY Travel & subsistence FOR THREE COUNTIES TRADITIONAL ORCHARD PROJECT
 DES Approx. 5 hours per week. We are looking for a volunteer to help publicise our project & help us raise awareness about traditional orchards as great places for people & wildlife. This is a great opportunity for someone with a passion for conservation & a talent for communicating. We need someone who can help us get local people involved in celebrating & restoring traditional orchards, by keeping them up to date with what's happening in the project. BUT Literate, able to produce short pieces for print & for social media; able to communicate well with others – especially our project volunteers & orchard communities. ASK Contact the Project Officer, khumphries@worcestershire.gov.uk for more info.

We need Visitor Welcome Volunteers at the beautiful Langford Lowfields. Based at our beach hut you will be able to recruit members, coordinate pond dipping equipment hire & loan out children's activity packs. Most importantly you're a friendly chat for visitors. There's also a chance for you to do some of your own birding. Half or full days available on a weekly rota. Contact 01636 893611 or anna.heathcote@rspb.org.uk

Do you enjoy the outdoors, getting stuck in and like a bit of hard work? Why not join the Nottinghamshire Woodland Workout with the Forestry Commission for an assortment of practical conservation tasks where you really can make a difference to our habitats and the wildlife living within them.
www.forestry.gov.uk/eastmidlandsvolunteering

Into Mountain Biking? Want to help design and maintain trails? Sherwood Pines is hosting a series of dig days to help enhance and develop our network of cycle trails.
www.forestry.gov.uk/eastmidlandsvolunteering

Volunteers wanted in north Shropshire area to help with conservation work in burial grounds. Tasks include grassland management, scrub clearance, hedge-laying, gardening and bulb planting. Tools provided, all welcome & free training provided. Contact Ben Mullen 01588 673041 or ben@cfga.org.uk

Every Thursday North Blackpool Pond Trail Volunteers
 Meet Kincaig Lake, Blackpool, Groundwork Contact: Pauline Taylor 01253 345445 pauline.taylor@groundwork.org.uk
 @northblackpoolpondtrail
 Tasks could be woodland, grassland or pond management, some of the ponds need gentle management to keep aggressive growing plants at bay. You may get the chance to do an ecological survey. The work is all outdoors, involving the conservation & maintenance of some wonderful wildlife areas.

Second & Fourth Wednesdays of the month Woodland Management Workday
 Ostler's Plantation, Woodhall Spa, LN10 6YY, Forestry Commission Contact: Jenny 07747 006452,
jenny.boatwright@forestry.gsi.gov.uk 10am to 1pm. Refreshments provided.

Tuesday 11 Oct & 8 Nov Lincolnshire Limewoods Workout
 Great West Wood, Wragby, Forestry Commission Contact: Jenny 07747 006452,
jenny.boatwright@forestry.gsi.gov.uk 10am to 1pm. Refreshments provided.

How citizens can support science and conservation

PTES is an international conservation charity with big ambitions. We know that there is nothing natural or inevitable about the alarming rate at which we are losing animals and their living landscapes. PTES are passionate about protecting animals facing extinction in vulnerable habitats, but we also know that passion isn't enough: successful conservation is based on sound scientific evidence and public involvement and engagement. For almost 40 years our ground-breaking research has resulted in practical conservation action across the world, targeted where it is most needed and where it will have maximum impact. We focus on the less iconic species and habitats such as stag beetles, hedgehogs, dormice, traditional orchards and urban environments.



Mammals on Roads

The public can make a big contribution to data collection and with the virtual universal use of 'smart phones' and their associated apps data gathering has become easier than ever before. PTES has run the Mammals on Roads survey since 2001. This is a survey that records roadkill, on single carriageway roads outside urban areas, and in the 15 years it has been running over 100,000 mammal records from over 500,000 km of road have been submitted. It may seem odd to record dead animals but there is good evidence to support the idea that the number of dead animals is a reasonable reflection of the size of the existing populations. The number of dead hedgehogs recorded fell by approximately 50% since the survey started and this started to highlight the possible dramatic decline in the UK hedgehog population. Other surveys indicated that this decline was not an anomaly and public generosity allowed PTES to link with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) to start Hedgehog Street. Hedgehog Street has been a highly successful campaign, recruiting voluntary Hedgehog Champions to promote hedgehog conservation in urban environments.

Traditional Orchards



A traditional orchard at Rough Hill (Ian White)

The traditional orchards Priority Habitat project run by PTES has been collating data about the location and condition of this habitat for nine years.

Following an extensive office-based GIS (Geographical Information Systems) desk study we needed to do some leg-work and get orchards surveyed on the ground. Locally based volunteers were indispensable in this as they have proven to be the most effective way of maximising site visits at minimal cost. Additionally, the recruitment and publicity process raises awareness of traditional orchards, promotes their biodiversity and heritage value, and encourages an interest in the habitat.

Volunteers are also employed to help with office based GIS work, providing a work experience opportunity for people wishing to improve their work

prospects or who wish to devote some spare time to conservation. We have been lucky enough to host all types of volunteers from university students gaining a couple of weeks' experience, graduates with existing skills to put to use, people from other professions with an amateur interest in orchards or mapping, through to retirees looking for something interesting to occupy their time.

Ground-truthing and condition assessment surveyors received a map of the area they wished to survey with the sites to visit that we'd identified during the GIS stage. They also looked for additional sites that we missed during the desk-study. All necessary printed materials, including information to disseminate to owners, was provided. They returned completed surveys to us which were also sometimes entered by volunteers. The resulting inventory now contains over 20% of the habitat as condition-assessed, or around 7400 hectares, which is enough to allow conclusions to be drawn regarding its overall condition across the UK.

National Dormouse Monitoring Programme

There had been very few studies on hazel dormice in Britain before the 1980's although a Mammal Society Dormouse Survey in 1977 suggested that there had been a decline in both the range and population of the species in Britain. This prompted English Nature to fund Pat Morris and Paul Bright of Royal Holloway,



Volunteers box checking in Bridlesford wood (Ian White)

University of London to investigate the question of why dormice are rare in Britain. The discovery, by Doug Woods, that dormice would readily use special nest boxes made it possible that this question, and general dormouse ecology, could be investigated. In 1988 boxes were put up at 5 sites in Somerset and

Herefordshire and over 35 visits 384 dormice were found and biometric data recorded and this formed the basis of the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme (NDMP).

The NDMP requires a minimum of 50 boxes to be erected approximately 20 metres apart, at a site where dormice are known to be present. They are checked a minimum of twice a year in either May or June and in September or October to give an indication of the pre-breeding and post-breeding population. The number of dormice found in the boxes is recorded along with basic biometric data such as sex and weight and the results are submitted annually to People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES). The cumulative results provide the data for the national dormouse population trend analysis.

Over the years more sites, including those with reintroduced populations, have been added to the Programme and by 2015 356 sites were monitored, 18,468 boxes were checked and 6,362 dormice were recorded.



The author checking a dormouse box
(Anne Weddle)

The NDMP relies predominantly on volunteers and with approximately five workers involved at each site, there are at least 1,200 people involved in dormouse conservation in Britain. The steady increase in the number of NDMP sites over the past 22 years means that there is a similar increase in the number of people involved in dormouse conservation. This increase gives a greater opportunity for improved training for both professional ecological consultants and voluntary monitors. NDMP sites need nest boxes and in 2010 PTES arranged for dormouse nest boxes to be made at HMP Humber prison using locally sourced timber. To date over 12,000 boxes made at the prison have been installed at over 120 sites in England and Wales either to replace old boxes or to set up new sites. At some of these sites non-conservation groups helped put up the boxes and improved their knowledge of dormice and the conservation of the species. As the number of NDMP sites and the people involved in their management and monitoring increases so the general awareness of dormice is raised.

The NDMP was set up to study dormouse ecology and the national population trend but in addition it also provides an opportunity to encourage people to interact with wildlife, become involved in a national mammal monitoring programme and explore their local woodlands. The presence

of dormice can also encourage sympathetic woodland and hedgerow management at both a local and landscape level.

The NDMP celebrated its 21st anniversary in 2009 and it is hoped that it will be able to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2038. There is no 'quick fix' for dormouse in Britain – the population has been declining for at least the last 100 years and it may take at least that time to begin to reverse the trend.

Britain has a long history of amateur and volunteer input into wildlife survey and recording which has greatly enhanced our understanding of our natural environment. It can sometimes be difficult to organise this effort to report with the rigour demanded of a scientific study but the value of public involvement should not be underestimated. The wildlife monitoring programmes that PTES manages could not be undertaken without an ongoing contribution from volunteers and it is hoped that while we, as an organisation benefit, the contributors also benefit by having a reason to engage more with the outside world.

Contact details to find out more:

Orchards: Steve.Oram@ptes.org

MoR: David.Wembridge@ptes.org

NDMP: Ian.White@ptes.org

PTES website www.PTES.org

South:

REF 2690-FOCUSR-OK3

BE4 N / A

PAY Travel expenses

DES The Our Past, Our Future Landscape Partnership Scheme volunteers can take part in archaeological digs, botanical surveys, digitising historical documents, recording the history of commoning, clearing invasive plants, monitoring water quality & much more. The range of activities are supported by 11 different partners to inspire a new

JOB **OUR PAST, OUR FUTURE VOLUNTEER**

LOC NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK

FOR NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

who are reliable, physically able, hardworking, & have a passion for urban greening. ASK Sylvia Linton, Facilities & HR Manager, 020 78204410 training@treesforcities.org

REF 540-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **VISITOR EXPERIENCE VOLUNTEER**
 BE4 Ongoing LOC BEDGEBURY PINETUM & FOREST
 PAY Full training & uniform FOR FORESTRY COMMISSION
 DES Enthusiastic & friendly volunteers to work as part of Visitor Services team, giving directions, advice & warm welcome. Three hour shifts once or twice month. BUT Friendly open personality, good communication skills. Enjoy meeting people, like working as part of a team. ASK susan.baines@forestry.gsi.gov.uk 01580 879820

REF 536-FOCUS-OK3 JOB **RECYCLING & WASTE REDUCTION ENGAGEMENT VOLUNTEER**
 BE4 N/A LOC ACROSS SURREY
 PAY Full training, travel expenses* FOR SURREY GREEN NETWORK
 DES Approx 30 hpw. The network is about bringing together people who are enthusiastic about the environment with aim of reducing Surrey's waste. Opportunity to attend roadshows, give talks to community groups, run workshops, write articles for newsletters & local press & to help residents on community projects. Opportunity to suggest ideas to spread waste reduction message. May be selective as to which events / activities best suit according to preference, location or availability. * lunch + free polo shirt, fleece & handbook. Reward scheme based on hours. BUT No experience required just genuine interest in environment & reducing waste. 18+ & reside in Surrey.
 ASK info@surreygreennetwork.com 020 85418744

REF 628-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **CARE FARM ASSISTANT**
 BE4 N / A LOC MILL HILL, NORTH LONDON
 PAY Induction & basic training, lunch provided FOR SWEETTREE FARMING FOR ALL
 DES We are looking for people who have a passion for helping others & working outdoors on Tuesdays between 9am – 5pm. We firmly believe that working outdoors with animals, gardening & taking part in bushcraft activities has therapeutic benefits for everyone. Each project is designed to engage, inspire & offer a regular routine in the great outdoors. Typical activities include livestock farming, horticulture, bush crafts, horsemanship, falconry, conservation, eco & natural crafts, Forest Schools & cooking. Activities can be curriculum linked & we also offer City & Guilds accredited horticultural training on a long-term basis. We specifically work with adults & children suffering social exclusion due to learning disabilities, emotional & / or physical disabilities & mental health issues. We can brief you on different activities each week & our project leaders will lead activities, you just need to be there to help. BUT No experience or training is required, but confidence to work with a range of different people is helpful. DBS checks are preferable but as you are working with project leaders it isn't a requirement. ASK Jude Allen, 0207 6449505
 jude.allen@sweettreefarmingforall.org.uk

REF 518-FOCUS-OK3 JOB **VOLUNTEER EDUCATION LEADER**
 BE4 ONGOING LOC LEATHERHEAD & / OR GODSTONE, SURREY
 PAY Training FOR SURREY WILDLIFE TRUST
 DES / BUT From finding fairies with 4 year olds to teaching 16 year olds to survey plantlife, from pond dipping with 10 year olds to calculating diversity with A-level students, every day with the Education Team is different, & most importantly, every day is fun. Assist our staff team with the delivery of sessions & lead small (up to 15 children) walk groups around the reserve, enthusing & teaching them about the natural world. Likely timings are 9.30-14.30 (lower key stages) or 9.00-15.30 (KS3 upwards); 1-3 days a week. Our sessions complement the national curriculum so we are looking for teachers or anyone with a keen interest in natural history to join our brilliant team of volunteers & help us to deliver inspirational days out at our educational nature reserves. This is also a great opportunity for those who want to work in environmental education to gain experience. You can choose the age group you work with & we'll give you all the training you need, so no prior experience of environmental education is required, although those with experience are very welcome! We will arrange first aid training, if necessary, & a DBS check. ASK Lucy at
 nowerwood@surreywt.org.uk or 01372 379509.

REF 2697-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **VOLUNTEER GARDENER**
 BE4 N/A LOC COLCHESTER
 PAY Share of harvests FOR COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL
 DES Set in High Woods Country Park, improve or maintain your health & wellbeing by helping staff look after the organic fruit & vegetable garden & heritage orchard. A wide variety of tasks year round such as seed sowing & plant care, compost making, watering & weeding. 3 hours a week. BUT Experience not needed. An interest in growing food, a willingness to learn & able to work with garden staff & other vols. Able to engage positively with visiting members of the public & able to work unsupervised. ASK www.colchester.gov.uk/volunteering biggarden@colchester.gov.uk 01206 855287

REF 539-FOCUS-OK2 JOB **VOLUNTEER OFFICERS & LEADERS**
 BE4 N / A LOC ESSEX
 PAY Work experience FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS
 DES 2 days per week for a minimum of 6 months (flexible & negotiable). We have 5 weekly vol groups & work with many community groups across the county. Whether part of one of our action teams or helping to organise & deliver projects to improve green spaces; volunteers are essential to everything we do. Volunteer officers & leaders can train to lead volunteer groups on a range of practical conservation activities & can get involved in all aspects of running projects depending on their interests & skills they want to develop. This is a great opportunity for someone looking to gain work experience in conservation, community building or someone looking to use their skills to help others. We can provide: work experience in conservation & community building; opportunity to use your skills to help others; leadership experience. BUT All level of experience is welcome. Enjoy working outdoors; passion for nature. Community orientated & enjoy assisting people. ASK Nicola Downs, Senior Project Officer, 01206 764470 essex@tcv.org.uk

- REF 713-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **BAT CARERS**
 BE4 N / A LOC HAMPSHIRE
 PAY Training provided FOR HAMPSHIRE BAT CARE NETWORK
 DES There are lots of different roles involved with bat care, & you can commit to as much or as little as you want. From picking up injured bats as an 'ambulance driver', to caring for them & rehabilitating, all important steps in making sure these bats have the best chance of being released back into the wild. We are looking for new volunteers all across the Hampshire region but especially in the New Forest area. BUT Previous experience in small mammal care an advantage, but more important is a willingness to learn & desire to make a practical impact on the conservation of bats.
 ASK Eva, evalaysan@gmail.com
- REF 2698-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **EVENT ASSISTANTS**
 BE4 N/A LOC SURREY & HAMPSHIRE (near Farnham & Hazeley Reserves)
 PAY Travel expenses FOR RSPB
 DES Work as a team, assisting with a range of events in order to help us raise the profile of the RSPB & the reserves. Variable time required but approx. 1 day per month incl weekends. BUT Enthusiastic with great communication skills & the ability to be able to share your enthusiasm for nature, birds & wildlife with people of all ages. Outgoing personality. An enjoyment of hands-on activities e.g. badge making, mask making etc is useful for family events. Required to travel to events. ASK Mary Braddock, Farnham & Hazeley Heath Reserves 07714 271024 / 01252 795632 mary.braddock@rspb.org.uk
- REF 2699-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS**
 BE4 Ongoing LOC Various locations in Hertfordshire, Essex & London
 PAY Uniform, tool training FOR LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
 DES Volunteers attend conservation tasks supervised by the Ranger Team & Volunteer Leaders to carry out management of the Lee Valley Park. Help to undertake management Plan & Biodiversity Action Plan driven tasks & activities to benefit conservation, the environment, fauna & flora, & visitors in the Lee Valley Park. Please see the latest Conservation Takes Programme for more examples. BUT Time commitment is flexible. You should be of an active nature. Knowledge & experience of conservation management helpful. ASK volunteers@leevalleypark.org.uk 01992 709 867
- REF 2700-FOCUSR-28/10 JOB **WILDLIFE GARDENING VOLUNTEERS**
 BE4 None but apply soon! LOC ST ALBANS, HERTS
 PAY Reasonable expenses FOR HERTS & MIDDLESEX WILDLIFE TRUST
 DES We are looking to recruit a new team to care for & develop our wildlife garden at Grebe House. Regular & seasonal garden maintenance & improvements – weeding, pruning, tidying up, planting new areas; working with staff & other vols to agreed activity schedules; occasional assistant with community activities. One full day or two half days required. Caring for the garden will take priority but there may be opportunity to get involved in support for other HMWT activities. BUT Experience of garden maintenance would be helpful. Knowledge & interest in gardening for wildlife.
 ASK Initial chat: Emma 01727 858901 emma.norrington@hmwt.org Role profile & form:
www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteeropp
- REF 2701-FOCUSR-28/10 JOB **LOCAL GROUP VOLUNTEERS (NORTH HERTS)**
 BE4 28/10/16 LOC across NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE
 PAY Reasonable expenses FOR HERTS & MIDDLESEX WILDLIFE TRUST
 DES The North Herts Local Group plan & lead a programme of guided walks & other activities for Trust members. The group is seeking Committee members & help to support activities. Committee meets quarterly to report on events & plan new ones key roles include: Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer. Other vol roles: planning activities, providing details to Trust for inclusion in Go Wild Working with the Trust, publicise events & manage attendance. Lead / support walks; report on events & activities. Time required varies on role. BUT Requirements depend on role. Committee: rel to role. Walk Leaders – some experience preferred but training can be arranged. Event planning / managing: access to / experience of IT programme & email. ASK Initial chat: Emma 01727 858901 emma.norrington@hmwt.org Role profile & form: www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteeropp
- REF 2702-FOCUSR-21/10 JOB **GOOGLE ADWORDS ADVISOR FOR ADOPT A DOLPHIN SCHEME**
 BE4 N / A LOC HOME BASED
 PAY 0 FOR SEA WATCH FOUNDATION
 DES As a charity, our Adopt a Dolphin scheme receives an annual budget from the lovely people at Google, & we'd LOVE some help from a pro to ensure that this is used most effectively! Time: A few hours a week. BUT This is a call-out for a special individual with experience using Google Adwords. ASK Please contact Kirsten at admin@adoptadolphin.org.uk if you think you can help.
- REF 2703-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSISTANT FOR VISITORS**
 BE4 N / A LOC GREEN CENTRE, WAT TYLER COUNTRY PARK, ESSEX
 PAY Training & support provided FOR ESSEX FIELD CLUB
 DES Staffing a visitor centre featuring the Essex Field Club's collection of the flora, fauna & geology of Essex. Once or twice a month at weekends & bank holidays, 11.00 to 16.00. BUT Someone over 18 with an interest in the natural history, wildlife & geology of Essex. Enthusiasm is more important than expertise. ASK jhc@johocooke.plus.com
- REF 2704-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **VOLUNTEER CREW**
 BE4 N / A LOC WEST SURREY
 PAY Training FOR SURREY CARE TRUST
 DES Twice a month. As well as crew members & skippers, we have a team of volunteer trainers, while other volunteers take on responsibility for maintenance or are involved in other behind-the-scenes jobs. A number of our

trainees & some of our volunteers need support from others in the team. We provide nationally accredited training courses with the National Community Boats Association. BUT Surrey Care Trust needs people with all sorts of talents to help run Swingbridge: an aptitude for the practical side of boats, an enthusiasm for environmental work & above all the ability to motivate & enthuse others. ASK Chris Padmore, 07973 282239 swingbridge@surreycaretrust.org.uk www.swingbridge.org.uk

Wednesdays & Fridays Market Garden Volunteering
Peckham, London SE15 2BZ, Brayards Estate Tenants & Residents Association (BETRA)
Contact: www.facebook.com/BETRAMarketGarden betra.rosa@gmail.com 0207 6355625
Wednesday 5.30 – 7.30. Friday 11 – 1.30. Help with all aspects of running the garden, for example watering, planting out, weeding & harvesting. You can take some veg/herbs home but bring your lunch.

Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday East Sussex Bio-diversity Action Team Volunteer
Hastings, East Sussex, The Conservation Volunteers Contact: 01424 444675, volunteer-sussex@tcv.org.uk
Join our active practical conservation volunteer group traveling across East Sussex to improve local habitats where ever we can. Between 1 & 3 days per week. No skills or experience required all necessary training will be given, just a willingness to work outdoors in all weathers.

Third Sunday of each month &/or every Wednesday Work Party volunteers - Practical conservation
Hazeley Heath RSPB Reserve, near Hartley Wintney in Hampshire, RSPB Contact: Mary Braddock 01252 795632 / 07714 271024, mary.braddock@rspb.org.uk
Carry out various habitat management and estate work on the reserve. We want volunteer help in the areas of habitat management and reserve maintenance. All tasks are vital for conservation of the site and for retaining good access to and around the reserve. An excellent chance to make a genuine contribution to wildlife conservation.

First Sunday of each month &/or every Tuesday or Friday Work Party - Practical Conservation
Farnham Heath RSPB Reserve, RSPB - Farnham Heath Contact: Mary Braddock 01252 795632 / 07714 271024, mary.braddock@rspb.org.uk
10.00am - 3.00pm. Carry out various habitat management & estate work on the reserve. We want volunteer help in the areas of habitat management & reserve maintenance. All tasks are vital for conservation of the site & for retaining good access to & around the reserve.

First Thursday of the month throughout autumn and winter Cake and Conservation Gloucester
Robinswood Hill Country Park, Gloucester, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Friends of Robinswood Hill & Gloucester City Council Contact: 01452 383333, volunteering@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk
Work alongside like-minded volunteers, helping to conserve the wildlife of Robinswood Hill Country Park.

Every Friday Assistant Ranger Work Group - Winter 2016/17
Ranmore Common, Surrey, National Trust - Polesden Lacey Contact: 01372 455062, PLVolunteering@nationaltrust.org.uk
9.30 - 3.00. You will carry out vital conservation work which will benefit its rare flora and fauna and help manage rare habitats such as lowland heathland, wood pasture and acid grassland doing everything from clearing rides, woodland thinning, pond clearing, scrub bashing and much more. September 2016 to March 2017

Third Saturday of every month Holland Park Conservation Volunteers
Holland Park, Kensington & Chelsea, London, Ecology Services of Kensington & Chelsea Council
Contact: 020 79388186, ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk
Work day, 10.30pm – 3.30pm, give as many hours as you can. Experience the rewarding benefits of hands-on nature activities. Tasks could be scything meadows, pond work, planting or weed removal. We provide refreshment, gloves, tools & instruction. You need only wear sturdy shoes, old clothes, waterproofs & bring your lunch.

Wednesday & Thursdays Conservation volunteer
Dartford, Sevenoaks, Bexley & Gravesend, North West Kent Countryside Partnership, KCC
Contact: 01322 621239, sara.spellman@kent.gov.uk
We work in meadows, woodlands, shallow chalk rivers, schools, community areas, public rights of way & green spaces to provide natural flood defence, create & manage habitats, deliver improvement works to nature areas within schools as well as improving areas for wildlife & the community to use together.

Mondays & Thursdays (Maidstone) Tuesdays (Sevenoaks) Nature Park Volunteers
Maidstone or Sevenoaks, Kent Wildlife Trust Contact: http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/node/9981
Our well-established wildlife garden is enjoyed by the school groups & visitors. The garden takes a lot of upkeep from our highly committed volunteers. Tasks range from grass-cutting, tree clearance, feeding the birds & creating bug homes & working on our pond, all aiming to inspire those who visit us to get involved with wildlife.

Contact for details Heartwood Woodland Working Party
Sandridge, Hertfordshire, The Woodland Trust Contact: volunteering@woodlandtrust.org.uk
Come & join our working party. We plant trees throughout the winter & do general maintenance throughout the summer. We'll provide tools & equipment, just bring along lunch & a drink & wear boots & a waterproof jacket. No experience is necessary for this role.

Second weekend of every month Conservation Group
Colne Valley and beyond, West of London, Groundwork
douglas.hart@groundwork.org.uk

Contact: Douglas Hart 07718 043080,

Join our team of volunteers for practical conservation tasks. Meet new people, learn new skills and help conserve nature!

Contact for details Goldenrod pulling

Warren Farm Meadow Project, Epsom, Surrey, The Woodland Trust Contact: volunteering@woodlandtrust.org.uk
At Warren Farm we are pulling out the invasive Canadian goldenrod plant which is out-competing the native species which provide habitat our native birds & butterflies rely on. The task involves light physical work. No previous experience is necessary & gloves will be provided.

Sheepdrove Organic Farm is always looking for keen & flexible volunteers to help with practical conservation tasks, educational visits & taking part in wildlife surveys at our beautiful working farm in Lambourn. Contact Victoria Hatton, our Education & Conservation Officer for further details. viccy.hatton@sheepdrove.com 01488 674727

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority runs award winning open spaces and sports venues along the 26 mile long, 10,000 acre park. The park was created by a unique Act of Parliament as a 'green lung' for London, Essex and Hertfordshire.
www.leevalleypark.org.uk/volunteers/

Hampshire Pond Champions: Survey and research your local ponds; attend training and events; learn about pond wildlife, management and history. Volunteer as little or as much time as you like, at a time and place to suit you. 02380 402 593, www.tcv.org.uk/southeast, hampshire-ponds@tcv.org.uk

Our winter season of tasks will start soon, Join us in the Tunbridge Wells borough for, Cutting bashing and construction tasks! Tools and training provided as well as hot drinks. Contact Kent High Weald Partnership info@khwp.org.uk www.khwp.org.uk or call 01580 212972 for more info

This autumn and winter we will be dealing with Sycamore and Rhododendron invading woodland, and scrub management on chalk downland, heathland and meadows. Also there's our annual visit to water meadows on the River Itchen to maintain the network of channels. Phone 023 92325570 or see www.hcv.org.uk

Grow local, native trees and hedgerow shrubs from seed with us. No experience necessary. Simply join us any Friday you can make it, between 10.30 - 15.30. Stay for however long you like and help us grow beautiful plants. Contact Special Branch Tree Nursery specialbranchtrees@googlemail.com

We need volunteers for cutting & clearing scrub on conservation working parties: leading walks: recording data on weekly transects throughout the summer: or giving talks & attending shows & events. If you would like to volunteer or have a skill which you think might be useful please contact volunteer@sussex-butterflies.org.uk

Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday Garden Volunteering

London SE24 9BJ, Brockwell Park Community Greenhouses Contact: volunteer@brockwellgreenhouses.org.uk
10am to 4pm/5pm BWT/BST. Opportunity to get a wide variety of gardening experience including glasshouse propagation, woodland management, herb gardening, pond maintenance, vegetable growing, dye plant growing, ornamental bed management.

Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday Work party

Langdon Visitor Centre, Basildon, Essex, Essex Wildlife Trust Contact: Jonathan Wisbey, 01268 419103 or jonathanw@essexwt.org.uk

Mornings. Practical management of nature reserves including practical conservation tasks, mostly consisting of coppicing & scrub clearance. Full training will be provided on site. Come as often as you like. Please bring suitable clothing. A good level of fitness is required to be able to work on uneven ground & use hand tools safely.

First Saturday of every month Monthly work parties

Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Herts, Chorleywood Community Orchard Contact: chorleywood.orchard@gmail.com, www.chorleywood-orchard.org.uk

10am – 12noon to maintain this young community orchard. Sociable & fun for all ages.

Its not just about getting muddy at the RSPB

With 12,000 regular volunteers from all walks of life, RSPB volunteers give a gift of time of over 900,000 hours annually. As well as plenty of outdoor and practical volunteering roles including reserve work parties or the very popular Residential Volunteering scheme, there are hundreds of different ways that you can get involved with our work and you don't have to be an RSPB member or a bird expert to donate your time and talents.

We look for all sorts of volunteers with diverse skills including graphic designers, media gurus, finance experts, fundraisers, web designers, drivers, electricians and many more. The list is as amazing and varied as the volunteers who give us their considerable skills to help us save nature. Here is what some of our volunteers had to say:



Chas Leslie, a former Training Consultant, volunteers with our Learning and Development team and has been running workshops for staff to attend; "It seems remote from maintaining reed beds and woodland, but by training and developing the RSPB's managers, they are better able to do their jobs — promoting and protecting habitats for birds and other wildlife. It's really just making the best use of my experience and expertise to make a difference. That's all any volunteer wants really — to know they are making a difference."



Volunteers at RSPB HQ office (Katy Hillman)

Sharyn Hailer volunteers at our Wales Headquarters in Cardiff, where she assists with the management of their volunteer database; "Most of all, I enjoy the feeling that I am helping to make someone else's workload that little bit lighter with every task I can accomplish – whether it's database management or muddy boots, it's all in support of a great organisation with a worthwhile cause of saving our wonderful wildlife."



Greeting visitors
(Andy Hay rspb-images.com)

Colin Hawkins runs the popular RSPB second-hand binocular scheme. He agrees and adds that there is so much variety in what you can do; "It's completely different from my day job: I can switch off and do something at the other end of the scale."

And it's not just in the office. Many volunteer roles are out and about and can involve dealing with people rather than birds. Sophie King has been volunteering as a Visitor Experience Intern at Leighton Moss; "Within no time I was writing press releases and getting creative on the reserves social media sites alongside being let loose on the reserve's blogs. I was also helping out with school visits, from Nature Tots to university groups. Some days you would find me in the visitor centre and others I was off to the Lake District to work at events like Keswick mountain festival where I got the chance to enthuse members of the public about nature and recruiting members to support the RSPB's work."

Whether it's face painting, greeting visitors, media work, learning and development or office admin we have volunteering roles that can be tailored to people's individual skills, interests and circumstances. You can meet new people, learn new skills, improve your CV, see and help fantastic wildlife, get fit, or even work towards a career in conservation. Whatever you decide to

do, you will be helping us to save nature.

To find out more about volunteering for the RSPB visit: rspb.org.uk/joinandhelp/volunteering/

South West:

REF	2705-FOCUS-OK3	JOB	CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER
BE4	N/A	LOC	WIMBORNE, DORSET
PAY	0	FOR	THE HEDGE PROJECT

DES A combination of cattle grazing & practical methods, such as scrub clearance, is used to restore heathland areas found in East Dorset. Volunteers joining us have the chance to gain a wide range of technical skills, knowledge & experience for their CV from cattle management to fencing to survey work during spring & summer months. Time: anything from 1-5 days a week. BUT Any relevant academic qualifications & certificates an advantage but not vital, however the drive to make a difference to the local environment is essential. ASK Kayleigh Winch, k_winch@hotmail.co.uk 07795 678300 during office hours for more information or to arrange a visit.

REF	2707-FOCUS-30/9	JOB	VOLUNTEER COUNTRYSIDE RANGER
BE4	28/9/16 IV 7/10/16	LOC	SOUTH DOWN FARM, MALBOROUGH, NR SALCOMBE, S DEVON
PAY	0*	FOR	NATIONAL TRUST

DES Help care for a large coastal property. Carry out practical estate maintenance work, assisting the team & vols to maintain high quality access & interpretation across the 8000 acres. Develop strong practical skills, gain experience in leading groups & vols, gain knowledge & experience in maintaining a wide range of habitats & be based within a leading conservation charity. Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm (flexible) & occasional weekends. *Travel expenses, training budget & in house training, accom provided. BUT You will have a good understanding of the countryside & recreation with a good basic knowledge of practical skills & a desire to improve. You must be committed to a career in the

conservation sector. Self motivated, able to work with a small team & a wide sector or vols. Enthusiastic & have a passion for the outdoors. Willing to work outside in all weathers with a "have a go" attitude. You'll need transport & a full driving licence. ASK emma.reece@nationaltrust.org.uk 01548 562344 for details & an application form

REF 550-FOCUSR-OK3 FOR FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL
BE4 Ongoing LOC SLAPTON LEY
JOB DES / BUT

Conservation Monitoring Volunteer Required all year. Duties might incl: managing information display at fishing hut, keeping clean, sightings & publicity boards up to date; checking nature trail for safety & quality reporting on action needed; light clearing of trail-side vegetation using hand tools; long term monitoring of climate, birds, insects, plants &/or people; supporting conservation team, to maintain reserve. Need to be able to inspect condition to agreed standards & note actions needed.

Admin & Marketing Volunteer Duties might incl: updating database information, promotion materials e.g. creating & delivery posters, newsletters & e-newsletters; marketing research e.g. gathering local contacts info; promotional event support; support implementation of marketing plan. Need to be able to create information to agreed standards & note actions needed. Both: 1 session per week, 2-3 session per week, each lasting 1-4 hours. Training in management aims & objects of FSC. Tea, cake & lunch provided. ASK Lizzy Mooney, volunteer.sl@field-studies-council.org 01548 580466

REF 2706-FOCUS-OK3 JOB **FOREST SCHOOL VOLUNTEER OFFICER**
BE4 N / A LOC KINGSWOOD, BRISTOL
PAY Training FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS – TREE LIFE CENTRE
DES 2 days per week. As a Forest School Volunteer Officer you will help run & develop our Forest School

programme, working with school groups, parent & toddler groups, & youth groups. There will also be the opportunity to help out with the maintenance & improvement of our site, which we have been developing to promote biodiversity & encourage local wildlife, whilst also being a safe & accessible area for Forest School to take place & the public to enjoy. Full training programme including working with children, first aid, health & safety & risk assessment. BUT You don't need experience, just enthusiasm & the desire to work with children & young adults in the outdoors. DBS checks required. ASK Jason Leck, 0117 9605447 j.leck@tcv.org.uk

REF 2708-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **VOLUNTEER GARDENER**
BE4 Ongoing LOC ASHPRINGTON, TOTNES
PAY Tool training & expenses FOR THE SHARPHAM TRUST
DES Working in & around the 10 acre garden within the walled garden, formal garden & woodland garden. Tuesdays – at least half a day. BUT No skills required, must enjoy working outdoors. ASK Contact Jacqui by email, volunteer@sharphamtrust.org

REF 2709-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **INFORMATION CENTRE WARDENS**
BE4 Ongoing LOC SEATON WETLANDS, DEVON
PAY 0 FOR EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL
DES Be the public face of Seaton Wetlands, welcome people, answer questions about the site & share any knowledge on wildlife & birds seen in the area. In the Discovery Hut there is a nature table which the Wardens can show to children. Make tea & coffee, hire out the mobility tramper & pond dipping equipment & record visitor data. Fun & varied role on Saturday or Sundays (Monday during the summer). Training sessions are run for Wardens on the Tramper & First Aid. Also social events. BUT Enjoy meeting people & have great communication skills. ASK Countryside Team 01395 517557 countryside@eastdevon.gov.uk

REF 2710-FOCUS-30/9 JOB **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION RANGER**
BE4 3/10/16 LOC TORBAY
PAY Graduate training scheme; free accomm FOR TORBAY COAST & COUNTRYSIDE TRUST
DES 6-12 months, around 37 hours per week including evenings & weekends. This scheme will allow you to develop your theoretical skills combining them with practical skills in this volunteer work placement. We run an innovative & exciting environmental education programme for a wide diversity of participants from nursery through to adults. Activities include: ecological studies in rocky shore; fresh water; woodland & meadow habitats; local food & farming; horticulture & forest school. This intensive graduate scheme offers training across the board in the charitable & environmental sector, thus ensuring at the end of the placement a full set of skills have been acquired to enter into a chosen career path. 90% who have completed the placement secure jobs in the environmental education, conservation or teaching sector. Opportunity to undertake further educational qualification such as a part time Master's degree might be available. Free shared accommodation provided at Trust sites. BUT Qualified to degree level. Required attributes include: knowledge of nature conservation & marine conservation issues; knowledge of the benefits of outdoor education & sustainability; willingness to work in the field in all weathers; current driving licence; an unbiased approach to people & ability to deal with people of all ages & backgrounds. ASK www.countryside-trust.org.uk/about-tcct/vacancies-2 or heather@countryside-trust.org.uk

A charity organising a wide range of weekend tasks throughout Dorset. We help the National Trust, Dorset Wildlife Trust, Heritage Coast, Amphibian & Reptile Conservation, & more. Full details are on the website at www.dcv.org.uk, contact by text or answer-phone message on 07923 498760, or email DCVpublicity@gmail.com

Have a go at coppicing and learn about the reasons we use this technique to help maintain a healthy woodland. Join us for this and other activities such as traditional dead hedging. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month from October to December. Contact: Lucy, NT East Devon, 01297 680507, lucy.buckingham@nationaltrust.org.uk

First Saturday of the month (Oct to Feb) Work party
 East Devon, East Devon Ranger Team, National Trust Contact: Lucy 01297 680507,
 lucy.buckingham@nationaltrust.org.uk Have a go at hedge-laying & learn about volunteering , woodland
 management & countryside conservation with the National Trust.

International:

REF F552-FOCUS-OK3 JOB **AFRICAN BAT RESEARCH VOLUNTEER**
 BE4 N / A LOC MALAWI
 PAY Training FOR AFRICAN BAT CONSERVATION

DES 2 weeks minimum, up to 4 months or more. We are conducting a national monitoring programme as well as conducting a number of smaller research projects about bats & biodiversity including education & awareness. Your time as a volunteer will be spent assisting ABC scientists with field research, community education & awareness including bat trapping & acoustic monitoring, creating a guide to bats in Malawi, roost surveys, habitat assessments, insect sampling, small mammal monitoring, & radio tracking bats (at specific times of the year). You will be trained in bat trapping & acoustic surveys, GIS mapping, insect trapping & pinning, vegetation & habitat sampling BUT Must be 18 years or older, be in good health & willing to live remotely in a bush camp. Experience of conducting ecological field work or bush experience in Africa beneficial. ASK www.africanbatconservation.org/volunteer.html
 volunteer@africanbatconservation.org

Conservation Volunteers Australia offers projects starting weekly across Australia, ranging from urban to outback, from desert to coast and everywhere in between! Activities are team based and include tree planting, habitat restoration, wildlife surveys, track building, seed collection etc. Reasonable cost for meals, accommodation and project-related travel applies. bookings@cva.org.au
www.conservationvolunteers.com.au

Conservation expeditions to Guatemala designed for wildlife enthusiasts with a passion for exploring the tropics. Specialising in reptiles & amphibians. Full field ecology training provided. Longer research placements possible. A willingness to participate is all it takes to make this world a better place. Contact info@explorewithindigo.com
www.explorewithindigo.com

Organic & Biodynamic Farming in South Africa
 This project is looking for like-minded people who are interested in organic farming & self-sufficiency. Volunteers receive free accommodation & food. Please visit: www.volunteer4africa.org for more information.

Nature Retreat & Winery in South America
 This project is currently looking for volunteer assistance in the small winery, with cabin & tree house construction, & other tasks. Volunteers receive free accommodation. Visit: www.volunteerlatinamerica.com

Volunteer at Wildlife Sanctuary
 This project is looking for help with animals and activities within the sanctuary. Volunteer tasks include maintenance of monkey habitats and greenhouse/nursery maintenance. Volunteers receive free accommodation with a fully equipped kitchen to prepare meals. Visit www.volunteerlatinamerica.com

Conservation Volunteers New Zealand offers projects starting weekly from Wellington, Auckland, Punakaiki and Christchurch! Activities are team based and include tree planting, habitat restoration, wildlife surveys, track building, seed collection etc. Reasonable cost for meals, accommodation and project-related travel applies. www.conservationvolunteers.co.nz
bookings@conservationvolunteers.com.au

Join our conservation & community projects, where volunteers & student groups from across the globe are invited to make a real difference. The Oak Suite, Guardian House, Borough Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2AE 01483 860560
enquiries@worldwideexperience.com Facebook: Worldwide Experience, Twitter: @WorldwideExp, Instagram: worldwide_experience, Youtube: WorldwideExperience1

Key:	REF CJS reference no. (job number – source – delete date)	JOB Title
BE4	Application closing date IV = Interview date	LOC Location
PAY	£ range - usually per annum (but check starting point)	FOR Employer
DES	Description of Job BUT Person Spec / Requirements	ASK More details from / How to apply

CJS Suggestions: Please check the BUT section to ensure that you have all of the required qualifications / experience before you apply. Contact ONLY the person, number or address given & if an SAE is required double check you use the correct stamps.

**PLEASE REMEMBER to DOUBLE CHECK the BE4 (closing date) of the vacancies.
 And please contact only the person, telephone number, email address given.
 This CJS Focus was published 19/9/16.**

The CJS Team would like to thank everyone who has contributed adverts, articles and information for this CJS Focus publication.
 Next edition will feature Overcoming Barriers, published 14/11/16

A4 sides this CJS Focus: 26 Adverts: 60 - Details believed correct but given without prejudice, Ends.