



# Countryside Jobs Service

Focus on Volunteering

In association with TCV, the community volunteering charity



**17 September 2018**

## Winter is coming – time to volunteer!

by John Bark, The Conservation Volunteers

Hardy folk who earn their living in the countryside generally agree with Alfred Wainwright that "There's no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing." But what if you are a volunteer? Given the choice, how many turn out when an icy east wind scythes across the moors or cold drizzle drenches fly-tipped urban scrub?



**John Preston at TCV Hollybush Leeds for Big Green Weekend (TCV)**

The good news is that a lot of people do! Last year, 127,000 people were inspired to connect with local green spaces across England, Scotland and Northern Ireland by community volunteering charity The Conservation Volunteers (TCV). Even in the depths of winter, TCV volunteers do vital conservation work at Local Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, school grounds, waterways, wetlands, woodlands, coastal paths and urban parks. You will find them among the lakes of Fermanagh, in London's Olympic Park, in Scotland's biggest urban nature park, counting dormice in Kent, building stone walls in the heart of England and recycling wood in Inverness.

The charity provides transport, tools, equipment and project leadership through paid staff helped by 'key volunteers' who commit to a regular number of hours every week. The work to be done is agreed with landowners (TCV owns no land) and may be a one-off project or part of a longer-term management agreement. Financial support for TCV comes from local and national government, private organisations, charities, trusts, landowners and lotteries, including support received from the players of People's Postcode Lottery, whose recent

£400,000 Green Trust funding has helped us support even more communities this year.

Volunteer enthusiasm does not drop off in colder weather, according to one TCV project leader in the South of England: "We probably get more work done in the winter. Warm weather can sap your energy and summer holidays often mean fewer volunteers are available." (New people are more likely to start in summer though, especially students on vacation looking for work experience.) While there may be nothing better than a cold, calm November day for getting heavy work done, there are obviously limits where health and safety are



**Regular volunteer David Ray at Cassiobury Green Gym (David Ray)**

concerned. Ice and snow might prevent access to a remote site, while project leaders need to keep an eye on team morale, perhaps calling an early finish on days when it just will not stop raining.

Volunteers include young and old from diverse backgrounds with varying experience of conservation volunteering. Many have a long-held passion for caring for the environment in general or a special local place. But there are always first-timers seeking a taste of the delights of outdoor work or looking to improve employment prospects by learning new skills. Some are employees of partner organisations who volunteer with their colleagues. Others want to improve physical fitness or overcome health issues – TCV's Green Gym provides a way for people to take part in healthy outdoor activity at a pace that suits them.

TCV also brings lasting benefits to green spaces and local people by supporting a network of independent local Community Groups across the UK.

The seasons bring variation in the work carried out, but some things never change. For team leaders, that means site scheduling, risk assessment, safeguarding, training, publicity, tool care and ensuring adequate supplies of tea and biscuits. Many of the activities they manage can take place at any time of the year. These include health walks, citizen science, fence making, foot-path construction and resurfacing, reviving dead ponds, bench installation, way-marking and litter picking. Hibernacula, bug hotels, bird boxes and other homes for wild creatures are also made all year round, often by children who are delighted to get involved. TCV runs many activities for around 20,000 kids, including forest schools in term time to encourage a lifetime habit of caring for the environment

In addition, there is a pattern of activities dependent on the seasons and the need to avoid disturbance to breeding wildlife.

Spring is all about preparation for growing, with volunteers busy in community gardens and allotments, building new beds, digging over soil and spreading compost. It's also the best time for walling and dune work, which are much easier to carry out in cooler weather.



Oasis Garden Green Gym Camden London (TCV)



Winter Woodland Festival at Skelton Grange (Junyi Chew)

Summer is for fighting weeds and invasive species: ragwort, bracken and Himalayan Balsam meet their doom while thistles are removed from grasslands and meadows, paths are cut back, community gardens weeded, grass mown, hay cut and wild flower meadows scythed.

Autumn, after the nesting season is a good time for woodland work: coppicing, tree planting, tree felling, hedging, and scrub clearance. Volunteers can now also be seen in waders and wellingtons, caring for living community ponds. And as the nights draw in, the work goes on...

Winter is for digging over beds in community gardens and allotments, and yet more tree felling and rounds of scrub clearance, especially rhododendron, blackthorn, and bramble. It is also the season for warming bonfires, toasted marshmallows and mince pies.

Over nearly 60 years of conservation volunteering, TCV has enabled people to join in and feel good despite the Great British weather. This winter will be no exception, whether it brings a "Beast from the East" or a "Wimp from the West". What about you?

Find out more on [www.tcv.org.uk](http://www.tcv.org.uk) Tel: 01302 388 883 or Email: [information@tcv.org.uk](mailto:information@tcv.org.uk)



REF	350-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER - NORTH EAST</b>
BE4	Ongoing	LOC	DUNDEE - TO COVER NORTH EAST SCOTLAND
PAY	Training / expenses	FOR	SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST

Any full day Monday to Thursday. We are looking for volunteers to work with our Reserves Project Officer based at Dundee to undertake a varied range of outdoor practical tasks on our nature reserves such as grassland, woodland & peat bog management. Travel from Dundee to the work sites & back is provided. You should be interested in the environment & carrying out physical work outdoors sometimes in poor weather. Willing to work as part of a team. Contact Peter Gilbert [pgilbert@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:pgilbert@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk) for details

REF	1997-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERING</b>
BE4	Ongoing	LOC	EDINBURGH
PAY	0	FOR	LOTHIANS CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

We carry out practical nature conservation work every weekend in and around Edinburgh and the Lothians for the benefit of wildlife, people and the environment. This can range from woodland management, removing non-native invasive plant species, pond work, meadow creation or even path maintenance. No previous experience is required and we only ask you commit to a single day task, so it's a perfect opportunity for someone who is curious about the conservation sector and wants to find out more. For further information about our current tasks and how to get involved please visit [www.lcv.org.uk](http://www.lcv.org.uk)

REF	361-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>VOLUNTEERING ROLES</b>
BE4	N / A	LOC	MILLPORT FIELD CENTRE, ISLE OF CUMBRAE, SCOTLAND
PAY	0	FOR	FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL

FSC is an environmental education charity providing informative & enjoyable opportunities for people of all ages & abilities to discover, explore & understand the environment. FSC is an independent charity receiving no core revenue funding from statutory sources & we therefore rely on fees paid by our visitors & on the generosity of donors, trust funds & grant bodies to finance our activities. Ideally we are looking for someone to welcome people to the aquarium & museum at weekends 10am – 4pm, who would be willing to do stock takes, keep shop clean, take small payments, greet anyone coming in. If willing or keen we are looking for someone to do guided tours of the museum & aquarium too. If you feel that you meet the skills we are looking for, we want to hear from you. Find out more: email Alex MacFie, Head of Centre, [alex.sco@field-studies-council.org](mailto:alex.sco@field-studies-council.org)

REF	1998-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>BEINN EIGHE NNR CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	Ongoing	LOC	BEINN EIGHE NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE
PAY	Accommodation	FOR	SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE



Stay for a month or come for up to six months. Volunteering at this reserve will give you the opportunity to work in this beautiful environment with skilled practitioners, discovering new capabilities & learning new skills. This is an excellent chance to gain work experience. Volunteering in the Highlands of Scotland, make new friends, improve your CV & exp Highland life at Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve. Volunteers should bring an enthusiasm for the nature of Scotland, a willingness to learn new skills & a good level of fitness would be an advantage. We need help with a variety of estate work incl woodland management, path maintenance, deer management, species monitoring & help with visitor management incl working in our Visitor Centre (open Easter to late October). More information about Beinn Eighe & Loch Maree Islands NNR can be found at: <https://c-js.co.uk/2GWsA3K>. For more information or to apply email [alison.rowe@nature.scot](mailto:alison.rowe@nature.scot) or phone 01463 7001660.

REF	351-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	Ongoing	LOC	GRANGEMOUTH (covering East Central Scotland)
PAY	0	FOR	SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST

Any day Monday to Thursday. You are free to choose your commitment but if you volunteer, you must be available for a full day. A varied range of outdoor practical tasks on our nature reserves such as grassland, woodland & peat bog management. Travel from Grangemouth to the work sites & back is provided. You should be interested in the environment & in carrying out physical work outdoors sometimes in poor weather. Willing to work as part of a team. Information from [pgilbert@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:pgilbert@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk)

REF	1999-FOCUSR-28/12	JOB	<b>HABITAT RESTORATION VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	Ongoing	LOC	FORRES
PAY	Training	FOR	WILD THINGS!

4 - 8 hours a month. We need enthusiastic volunteers to help with our Habitat Restoration Programme removing Giant Hogweed and other invasive non-native species from the River Findhorn. Find out more from Elspeth Nawrocki on [enquiries@wild-things.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wild-things.org.uk)

**We are seeking volunteers** to join in with a range of practical conservation tasks and biological recording, including surveys. Based in Balloch Castle Country Park. Thursday 11 - 3. Lunch and refreshments and out of pocket expenses paid. No prior experience necessary as on the job training is provided. Contact: 07909 595283 [wdc.greenspace@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:wdc.greenspace@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

**Butterfly Conservation Scotland's 'Bog Squad'** runs regular bog restoration sessions with volunteers on peatland sites throughout central Scotland. Tasks usually include installing dams, clearing scrub and conducting peat depth surveys. More information is available on our blog <http://bogsquad.weebly.com/> Get in touch with David Hill at [peatproject@btconnect.com](mailto:peatproject@btconnect.com) or on 01786 459813

**There are regular Green Gyms** (Wednesdays) and 5 Ways Well Green Gyms (Fridays) at University Hospital Ayr & Ailsa. With a variety of practical conservation tasks (gardening, food growth, woodland management etc), and healthy walking educational activities. Find out more on <https://c-js.co.uk/2NgMmsX> or contact David on [d.meechan@tcv.org.uk](mailto:d.meechan@tcv.org.uk)

**A nice walk on an iconic mountain** in the National Park, with a spade. 19/9/18 - Cobbler path. 2/10/18 – Ben Lomond path. 19/10/18 - Ben A'an path. 20/10/18 - walking Ben Ledi path all days involve completing a "drainage run". Be prepared for a physically active day in the mountains, with a long, steep walk & manual labour. Free transport from Balloch. [volunteering@themountainsandthepeople.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@themountainsandthepeople.org.uk)

**3 & 24/10/18** - a nice walk on an iconic mountain in the National Park, with a spade. We will be walking Loch Muick paths completing a "drainage run". Be prepared for a physically active day in the mountains, with a long, steep walk and manual labour. Free transport from Braemar. [volunteering@themountainsandthepeople.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@themountainsandthepeople.org.uk)

**A unique 5 year landscape scale** project which offers a range of volunteer opportunities to get involved in enjoyable and rewarding conservation work around Scotland's National Parks. Help protect and enhance upland habitats, while getting out in the Scottish Mountains, discover new places, meet people and learn new skills. [www.themountainsandthepeople.org.uk](http://www.themountainsandthepeople.org.uk)

**The Green Team are recruiting** for Adult Volunteer Leaders (21+) to support their Green Volunteer Programme for young people aged 12 - 18yrs. If you enjoy the outdoors and working with young people, free at weekends and keen to join a like-minded team of enthusiastic people then please contact [mandy@greenteam.org.uk](mailto:mandy@greenteam.org.uk) or 0131 3377227. Free training and expenses provided.

**Help with invasive species removal** across Perthshire, Angus, Aberdeenshire, Moray & Highland. Variety of volunteer opportunities; adopt a mink raft, treat invasive plants, conservation work days, survey work. In return we can offer training & qualifications. No experience necessary. Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI). More information: [www.invasivespecies.scot](http://www.invasivespecies.scot) Email; [sisi@nature.scot](mailto:sisi@nature.scot)

**Friends of Eglinton** – Every second Wednesdays and Saturday 9:30am – 12:30pm. Eglinton Country Park. Come along, meet new people, get active and feel great. Tools and training provided. Contact North Ayrshire Ranger Service on 01294 551776 or email [joannejohnstone@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:joannejohnstone@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) for further information.

**Roving Volunteers** – Conservation volunteering, various days. Help support North Ayrshire Ranger Service by taking part in a variety of conservation tasks in and around North Ayrshire sites. No experience required, tools and training provided. Contact North Ayrshire Ranger Service on 01294 551776 or email [graemewalla@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:graemewalla@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) for further information.

**A nice walk on an iconic mountain** in the National Park, with a spade. 25/09/18 - walking the Mayar path or 26/9/18 - walking the Snub path. Completing a "drainage run". Be prepared for a physically active day in the mountains, with a long, steep walk and manual labour. Free transport from Perth. [volunteering@themountainsandthepeople.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@themountainsandthepeople.org.uk)

**The research vessel Actinia** run by FSC Millport's capable crew is the ideal vessel for charter and research use in the Firth of Clyde and further afield, with expert equipment on board and room for 10 passengers. For more information call Alex MacFie on 01475 531 420 or email [enquiries.mil@field-studies-council.org](mailto:enquiries.mil@field-studies-council.org)

## The Importance of being a Trustee

By Kathy Wormald

Officially the role of a trustee should be on the governance of the organisation. They play a very important role in making sure that the charity is run in the



**Two Trustees demonstrating shadow puppetry at an away day** (Froglife)

charities operate, the challenges they face and the complexity of their funding streams. Trustees with



interests of the people, or in our case, the wildlife, that it is there to support. They ensure that the charity has a clear strategy, and that its work and goals are in line with its vision. They are the 'guardians of purpose', making sure that all decisions put the needs of the beneficiary first. Well if this is not daunting enough, most trustees find that their roles incorporate a lot more than this. For most charities, particularly the smaller ones the volunteer trustees play a central role in ensuring that the day-to-day operations of the charity are running as smoothly as possible.

Although the role of some trustees is wide and varied, it is also very interesting. Being a charity trustee gives people who wish to volunteer the opportunity to obtain inside knowledge on how

specific expertise can give an enormous amount to a charity, most small charities do not have the resources to employ expertise in areas such as human resources, fundraising, IT or legal matters and help in these areas is incredibly valuable.

I am the CEO of The Froglife Trust, a wildlife conservation charity, with a specific focus on the conservation of reptiles and amphibians, and their habitats. It is not easy to garner support for these species, they are often viewed as uncharismatic and not liked, so it is really important for us that our trustees are knowledgeable about our species and committed to our cause.

We have eight trustees on our board, three of these bring professional wildlife conservation and species specific expertise.

However, because we are passionate about encouraging people from all walks of life to get involved in our work and most of our work is 'on the ground' taking direct action to conserve our species, our other trustees bring different experiences. We have trustees with creative arts, social services,

business and engineering expertise. Engineering I hear you say, what has that got to do with wildlife conservation! Well quite a lot actually. We do a lot of building work such as building and installing dipping platforms, interpretation boards and boardwalks and some of our research requires engineering skills such as making frames for wildlife cameras, so this skill set is very useful to us. We also pride ourselves on

reaching hard to reach communities through creative projects, our trustees that bring creative and social work expertise help us a lot in this field. Whilst trustees with business backgrounds help us with our trading company, financial, HR and other matters.



**Trustee Gordon MacLellan**  
Storytelling (Froglife)



**Vice Chair Roger Downie** (Froglife)

"I became a Trustee of Froglife because I think the organisation takes a very broad and imaginative approach to the conservation of and promotion of interest in the UK's amphibians and reptiles. As a professional herpetologist, I felt that I could help Froglife develop, but also that I could gain from interactions with the organisation's enthusiastic staff and other trustees." Roger Downie, Froglife Vice Chair.

I am very fortunate at Froglife to have a very supportive board of trustees, who are happy to help out and provide their expert opinion, but refrain from meddling. It is important for trustees to remember that their responsibility is the governance of the organisation and they pay their staff to look after the day-to-day operations. However, getting the balance right can be tricky, particularly when you are asking your trustees for their specialist opinion. This often means that they need to have the detail of the issue that advice is sought on, and sometimes the boundaries do become murky, and it is not unknown for trustees to stray into the territory of the senior management. This is entirely understandable but also needs to be checked and trustees often have to take a discretionary view on matters. This does make the role of the trustee very interesting and informative.

Trustees offer their time on a voluntary basis, and as a former trustee of several organisations myself, I think that this is a great way to give your time to a charity. Many people have a lot to offer and by giving up some time you can make a big difference. Being a trustee can also help to further your career, it could lead to employment or help when applying for more senior roles.

It is best if the board reflects societal diversity, it helps the charity to understand the needs of all groups and how to engage with people from varied backgrounds. The reality is that many charities battle to attract such diversity. Some argue that the reason for the lack of diversity is that the board consists of those who are passionate about the cause and this excludes some people. I would argue that there are people in every culture and society



**Chair Linda Wenlock with Charlie Dimmock** on a radio programme (Froglife)

that care about certain causes, our job is to find the ones that care about our cause and encourage them to be involved.

Finally a big thank you to all trustees that are contributing, your efforts are greatly appreciated, and to those reading this who are not currently a trustee an invite to consider getting more involved in a cause close to your heart.

For more information about Froglife visit [www.froglife.org](http://www.froglife.org)

## Wales:

**Knighton Tree Allotments Trust** seeks volunteers to join its woodland conservation weekly workdays on alternating Thursdays and Sundays. We are a group who come together to learn woodland skills and manage woodlands for the benefit of wildlife and our members. For more information please see <http://bit.ly/2kMTxLP> or email [woodland@tveg.org.uk](mailto:woodland@tveg.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 [info@keepwalestidy.cymru](mailto:info@keepwalestidy.cymru)

**Wild Ground (formerly NEWWildlife)** is a small charity with nature reserves across Wrexham, Flintshire and Denbighshire, which we look after for wildlife - especially the great crested newt. Join our Reserves Team for varied tasks across all of our reserves. Please email us on [info@wild-ground.org.uk](mailto:info@wild-ground.org.uk) or call 01978 269568.

**Restoring and caring for the woodland**, wildlife and unique history of Penllergare Valley Woods. We have volunteer roles in woodland conservation, gardening, and helping in our Coffee Shop. If you would like to volunteer or make a donation, please visit our website ([www.penllergare.org](http://www.penllergare.org)) or contact us directly at 01792 344224, [contact@penllergare.org](mailto:contact@penllergare.org)

**Volunteering opportunities on our new 'Get Active for Wildlife'** project on our 40 acre nature reserve at Denmark Farm Conservation Centre, Lampeter, Ceredigion, SA48 7PN. We have volunteer taster days, work days and training days planned, so come and join us! For more information please contact Linda at [linda@denmarkfarm.org.uk](mailto:linda@denmarkfarm.org.uk)

REF	2000-FOCUSR-OK2	JOB	<b>TRUSTEE</b>
BE4	Ongoing	LOC	GWENT, SOUTH WALES
PAY	Training and expenses reimbursed	FOR	GWENT WILDLIFE TRUST

Approx 1 day per month. Do you have a passion for wildlife conservation and expertise in the field of ecology, environmental education or charity and business management? With a new 5-year strategic plan in development and significant investment being made in fundraising and project development, this is a particularly dynamic time to join Gwent Wildlife Trust's Council as a trustee. We'd particularly like to hear from anyone with a background in fundraising, charity finance, ecology or law. Visit [www.gwentwildlife.org/jobs](http://www.gwentwildlife.org/jobs) or email [info@gwentwildlife.org](mailto:info@gwentwildlife.org) for more info.

REF	2001-FOCUSR-2/11	JOB	<b>FRIENDS OF FELIN - GREEN ACADEMIES PROJECT VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	?	LOC	ERDDIG, FELIN PULESTON OUTDOOR CENTRE
PAY	Volunteer card	FOR	NATIONAL TRUST - ERDDIG

Would you like to work with nature and wildlife? Are you ready for some hands-on action? Are you 14 years or older? Become a Friend of Felin volunteer and help us look after our community garden, allotment and orchard. No previous experience required, we will help you grow the skills and experience to look after nature on your doorstep. We meet every 2nd Saturday of the month, from 10am to 3pm at Felin Puleston Outdoor Centre on the Erddig estate, Wrexham, LL13 7RF. The Green Academies Project supports young people and local communities to grow the skills and experience they need to look after nature on their doorstep. GAP is part of Our Bright Future, a £33m programme funded by the Big Lottery Fund. Contact: [mieke.delathouwers@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:mieke.delathouwers@nationaltrust.org.uk), 01978 356 223. Website: <https://c-js.co.uk/2CrCTLj>. Facebook: [www.facebook.com/GreenAcademiesProjectNT/](http://www.facebook.com/GreenAcademiesProjectNT/), [www.facebook.com/ErddigNT](http://www.facebook.com/ErddigNT)

REF	2002-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>GUIDED WALK LEADER</b>
BE4	Ongoing	LOC	NORTH WEST WALES
PAY	Expenses	FOR	WOODLAND TRUST

Your volunteering role will include planning, promotion and delivery of guided walks at our beautiful sites in North West Wales. Coed Cadw (the Woodland Trust in Wales) manages over 100 sites across Wales, a diverse mix of urban and rural woods. You will share your natural enthusiasm, people skills and passion for nature, history and stories to help us engage with visitors through the delivery of guided walks. You will deepen visitor awareness of the work of the Trust through leading people on group walks in a welcoming, safe and enjoyable way. You will be provided with regular support from your volunteer manager and you will be volunteering in conjunction with at least one other volunteer or Trust member of staff who will act as a back marker for you on the day of your guided walks. Visit <https://c-js.co.uk/2o6g9q8> for further information.

REF	2003-FOCUSR-30/11	JOB	<b>MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS</b>
BE4	30/11/18	LOC	RSPB NEWPORT WETLANDS VISITOR CENTRE
PAY	Training and local travel expenses	FOR	RSPB CYMRU

1 day per week (Wednesdays or Saturdays). We have vacancies in our team of maintenance volunteers who look after the building and environs, ensuring that visitors have an enjoyable, engaging and safe experience whilst at the reserve. Duties include vegetation management, repairs, DIY tasks, litter picking etc. No previous experience required and relevant RSPB clothing, training and protective equipment supplied. Our reserve website is <https://c-js.co.uk/2NXtJqB>.

Contact email for applications or more information is [newport-wetlands@rspb.org.uk](mailto:newport-wetlands@rspb.org.uk) and Visitor Centre contact number is 01633 636363

REF 369-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK ACTIVITY VOLUNTEER**  
 BE4 N / A LOC PEMBROKESHIRE  
 PAY Expenses & training FOR PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Our Activity Volunteers support the National Park's Activities & Events programme, chatting to participants, keeping groups together on a guided walk, helping out on bat walks / twilight walks, family events & at our centres, Carew Castle, Castell Henllys & Oriel y Parc. No fixed amount of time required. Opportunities are available to become Volunteer Walk Leaders & full training such as walk leader training, first aid & risk assessment is provided. Please contact the National Parks' Volunteer Co-ordinator, Gayle Lister [gaylel@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk](mailto:gaylel@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk)

REF 2004-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **GREEN ACADEMIES PROJECT VOLUNTEER**  
 BE4 N / A LOC ERDDIG, FELIN PULESTON OUTDOOR CENTRE  
 PAY Volunteer card FOR NATIONAL TRUST

Conservation & horticulture volunteering at Erddig with the Green Academies Project (GAP), National Trust, Wrexham. The GAP team at Erddig is looking for volunteers with a love for the outdoors, nature conservation & / or horticulture to help us develop & maintain our community green spaces at Felin Puleston & in our local communities. You can also get involved in delivering outdoor activities, support & encouragement for our young volunteers. Roles & time commitment are very flexible depending on the availability of our volunteers. GAP supports young people 11-24ys & local communities to grow the skills & exp they need to look after nature on their doorstep. We help them develop a passion for the environment, learn new, practical skills & prepare for education & employment. GAP is part of Our Bright Future, a £33m programme funded by the Big Lottery Fund. Contact: [mieke.delathouwers@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:mieke.delathouwers@nationaltrust.org.uk), 01978 356 223. Website: <https://c-js.co.uk/2CrCTLj> Facebook: [www.facebook.com/GreenAcademiesProjectNT/](https://www.facebook.com/GreenAcademiesProjectNT/), [www.facebook.com/ErddigNT](https://www.facebook.com/ErddigNT)

### Northern Ireland:

REF 2005-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **EVENT VOLUNTEER**  
 BE4 Ongoing LOC NORTHERN IRELAND  
 PAY Expenses FOR WOODLAND TRUST

We are looking for active and enthusiastic volunteers to assist at agricultural events at various locations in Northern Ireland. In this role you will have the opportunity to utilise your communication and people skills to work alongside other volunteers, to engage with the public and support event delivery. You will be using your natural enthusiasm, practical and people skills and your passion for nature to help us interact with the public to encourage them to become engaged with the Woodland Trust's work. Visit <https://c-js.co.uk/2MMP0qk> for further information.

REF 2006-FOCUS-OK3 JOB **VOLUNTEER RANGER**  
 BE4 Ongoing LOC CROM ESTATE, NEWTOWNBUTLER, CO. FERMANAGH, BT92 8AJ  
 PAY Accommodation\* FOR NATIONAL TRUST FERMANAGH

25-30 hpw for up to 1 year. Assist in the management of Crom Estate, working on a wide range of practical conservation skills. Monitoring work including compilation of fauna surveys & botanical quadrats / transects. Invasive species control. Environmental education & interpretation work including website articles & press releases. Maintaining good working relationships with tenants, farmers, neighbours, other voluntary organisations, local communities & local authorities. Welcoming & liaising with visitors by providing information & guidance, which may include public speaking & guided walks. Undertaking such other appropriate practical & administrative tasks. This role will suit you if you: enjoy working outdoors in all weather conditions; work well as part of a team; have an appreciation & enthusiasm for the wildlife & the outdoors; prepared to undertake physical work; full driving Licence essential. \*Various household bills, travelling expenses, on the job training, & potential certified training (as & when needed by property). Email [jade.blair@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:jade.blair@nationaltrust.org.uk) for more info.

REF 2007-FOCUSR-2/11 JOB **LOUGH BEG FIELD OFFICER**  
 BE4 31/10/18 LOC LOUGH NEAGH AREA  
 PAY Training and travel expenses FOR RSPB

The overall purpose of the role is to support the RSPB's scientific monitoring work at Lough Beg and promote the importance of the area for breeding waders and other priority species. Suitable for: a recent ecology (or similar) graduate seeking career in conservation; someone seeking a career change who requires work experience in this field; training and exp in carrying out a wide range of survey and monitoring work related to breeding waders. Contact Colin Graham [colin.graham@rspb.org.uk](mailto:colin.graham@rspb.org.uk)

**The Belfast Hills Partnership conservation** volunteers meet on the last/second last Saturday morning each month to do a variety of practical conservation tasks throughout the Belfast Hills. The tasks suit a wide range of ages and abilities and no experience is necessary. For more information, visit: <http://belfasthills.org/get-involved/volunteer/> or email [lisa.critchley@belfasthills.org](mailto:lisa.critchley@belfasthills.org)

**CJS Volunteer Directory has details of the following throughout the year so if you are not looking at the moment remember to check back with us when you are at <https://c-js.co.uk/CJSVolunteer>**  
**Voluntary Organisations**  
**Volunteer roles**  
**Surveys & fieldwork opportunities**  
**Apprenticeship & Intern roles**

## Becoming a livestock checker

By Sian Parry



**Sian Parry, Conservation Grazing Officer with lambs** (Lancashire Wildlife Trust)

7 years ago after volunteering for the Lancashire Wildlife Trust (LWT) I was lucky enough to gain an apprentice position in the Conservation Grazing Team and have progressed to become the Conservation Grazing Officer. I now work with volunteers across many sites throughout Lancashire, Greater Manchester and North Merseyside, who visit their local reserve, usually one day a week for around an hour to check that the livestock are all in good health and safe with both animal and human generally enjoying being out in the country.



**Lancashire,  
Manchester &  
N Merseyside**

Days are very varied - although often life as a Conservation grazing animal, and volunteer, is pretty laid back and straightforward. The cows, sheep, ponies and goats that we look after do an excellent job of grazing nature reserves providing a varied mosaic of habitat for wildlife such as snipe or red shank as well as invertebrates. The animals are nearly all bucket trained so that when the volunteers go out to check them they come running to meet them for a little treat and sometimes a back scratch! This allows us to check them over carefully for any problems such as illness or wounds and simply enjoy being in nature with the livestock.

Bagot goats, and Exmoor ponies. We lamb and kid in the Spring and work with local farmers to calve throughout the summer. Each species has their own specialty grazing with cattle doing better on wetter land; whilst, as sheep have smaller mouths, they are better at getting new shoots out from within species that we are wanting to keep e.g. birch saplings out of heather patches on dune heathland. Ponies graze in a different manner again preferring scrub grasses over flowering plants.

As the animals move around reserves their dunging patterns provide microcosms of habitats for insects, such as dung beetles; their hoof prints open up the earth for the less dominant plant species to be able to flourish. They can also spread seed from one area of a reserve to another, again through their dung, allowing plants to disperse across greater areas than they might do otherwise.

There is nothing so peaceful as being out with the animals on a cold winter's morning or late summer's afternoon. In today's hectic world, visiting the livestock and nature reserves provides a respite from the demands of daily life and allows volunteers space to renew their energy, helping the environment at the same time.



**Longhorn at Lightshaw Meadow Nature Reserve** (Lancashire Wildlife Trust)

Throughout the year we do different tasks ranging from cattle round ups for health checks to lambing, shearing, and vaccinations all of which volunteers can get involved with as much or as little as they like. We transport the animals between sites in Spring and Autumn, depending on the grazing needed, but they stay outside all year round so need constant checking.

Livestock volunteers come from all walks of life as it is quite a flexible role; here at the LWT we simply ask that our checkers commit to the same day each week but can check on the animals anytime during that day (some reserves do have opening times but others are open access). Some people combine their checks with their hobbies and do bird watching or insect surveys whilst they are on site so it's a very pleasant visit.

One of our newer volunteers tells below how she came to be a livestock checker and how she hopes it will help her future career.

### Lucy's story

I was attracted to being a Livestock Checker Volunteer (LCV) as I wanted to put my college studies into practice. At the time I was completing a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Animal Management & Animal Nursing. I thought it would complement my studies in the reality of handling livestock, identifying the signs and symptoms of certain health problems and indeed the benefit of having them on the reserve.



**Golden Guernsey goats at Freshfield Dune Heath** (Lancashire Wildlife Trust)

On becoming a LCV I received guidance and support



**Lucy learning to shear** (Lancashire Wildlife Trust)

from the Grazing Officers. They explained what we should be looking out for on our checks and what documentation should be completed during each check. As a LCV we are required to ensure all animals are present and are not showing any signs of ill health. If an animal looks to be suffering we can contact one of the Grazing Officers who are able to visit the animal and check if any action needs to be taken. This information is logged to ensure the next LCV knows what to look out for and that it has been reported.

I love being a LCV. It has allowed me to develop the skills and knowledge I had gained theoretically in college. I have learnt so much more about livestock, their role on site and signs and symptoms of ill health. By being a LCV it has enabled me to gain invaluable experience and has given me something to commit to week in and week out. It certainly has narrowed my course choices for university and has directed me to courses more appropriate to this field of work. I feel privileged to have been trusted to check on the livestock each week and indeed to feel part of the team. This hands on experience has been an eye opener to how much time and dedication goes into the care of the livestock. This role has broadened my knowledge and I love working in this field.

Lucy Hiller

If you would like to get involved like Lucy then please get in touch via the Lancashire Wildlife Trust website <https://www.lancswt.org.uk/support-us/volunteer>

### North East:

REF	2008-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISER RSPB</b>
BE4	?	LOC	HOMEBASED – NORTH EAST
PAY	Training / expenses	FOR	RSPB

Part time long term placement, required for 1 hour / month. The RSPB is looking for Volunteer Fundraisers in the North East to help manage our Pin Badge boxes in their local communities. The RSPB speaks out for birds and wildlife, tackling the problems that threaten our environment. We are the largest wildlife conservation organisation in Europe with over one million members, and our work largely depends on money donated by the public. The Volunteer Fundraisers will be in charge of placing and servicing the boxes by collecting and banking donations every 4 weeks as well as restocking the badges. The only requirements are enthusiasm, basic computer knowledge and access to the internet. All necessary training is provided. The role is very flexible and works with anyone's schedule. All donations go towards protecting wildlife in the North East. Last year, the team raised an incredible £210,000 in donations from our pin badge boxes. Could you help us raise even more? For more information contact Polina Utkina, 01912334312, [polina.utkina@rspb.org.uk](mailto:polina.utkina@rspb.org.uk)

REF	2009-FOCUS-OK3	JOB	<b>VOLUNTARY RIVER STEWARD</b>
BE4	Ongoing	LOC	SHEFFIELD
PAY	Training / uniform / expenses	FOR	RIVER STEWARDSHIP COMPANY

2 or 3 days per week for a continuous 9 month period. The Voluntary River Steward will assist the RSC Landscape team to deliver a variety of waterway maintenance tasks and habitat improvements on Yorkshire's waterways. The successful post holder will gain experience in tasks including: felling, coppicing and pollarding trees; planting trees, shrubs and other flora; habitat creation such as the erection of kingfisher perches and otter holts; invasive species control and litter and debris management within the river channel, banks and riverside footpaths. There will also be an opportunity to assist in the delivery of a variety of community engagement activities, such as running practical volunteer days, waterway-related and environmental workshops in schools and guided walks. Contact Sarah Emberson [sarah.emberson@the-rsc.co.uk](mailto:sarah.emberson@the-rsc.co.uk)

REF 2010-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **EDUCATION TEAM VOLUNTEER**  
 BE4 Year round applications welcomed LOC The Yorkshire Arboretum, Castle Howard, York YO60 7BY  
 PAY Free membership of the Arboretum + discounts FOR THE YORKSHIRE ARBORETUM

Usually around 5 hours a day when a school is visiting. The Yorkshire Arboretum offers a lively and very popular programme of activities for Schools linked to the National Curriculum. Additional volunteers are needed to join the Education Team to help with an increasing number of school visits. Experience with children, in either a school or an informal setting is useful and a willingness to work outdoors in all weathers is needed. For more information please visit [www.yorkshirearboretum.org/volunteering](http://www.yorkshirearboretum.org/volunteering)

REF 2011-FOCUSR-1/2 JOB **VISITOR ENGAGEMENT VOLUNTEER**  
 BE4 N / A LOC RAINTON MEADOWS OR LOW BARNES NATURE RESERVE  
 PAY Expenses on discussion / training / uniform FOR DURHAM WILDLIFE TRUST

One weekend day a week. You will be supporting the income generation team and visitor centre assistants with their events; being an ambassador for Durham Wildlife Trust; promoting and impassioning the wildlife and wider benefits of the nature reserve; attending events on the day, helping with car parking, sign-in, entrance fees and general tasks; talking to members of the public about membership, signposting them and being a welcoming face for the site; helping to keep entrance areas and bathrooms clean and tidy and keep the visitor centre looking welcoming; focus on weekends and schools holidays, when the site is busiest. What will you get out of it? Learn about different wildlife and the work of Durham Wildlife Trust; gain confidence in speaking to people; helping to raise income for wildlife conservation from Tees to Tyne; be part of a wonderful team of staff and volunteers; gain friendship and socialization. Contact Zoe Hull [zhull@durhamwt.co.uk](mailto:zhull@durhamwt.co.uk)

REF 2012-FOCUSR-12/10 JOB **BINOCULAR & TELESCOPE ADVISER**  
 BE4 ? LOC RSPB OLD MOOR, BARNESLEY  
 PAY ? FOR RSPB

Minimum of one weekend day a month. We have lots of visitors to Old Moor who are interested in buying a pair of binoculars or a telescope but don't know which options would suit their needs. We want someone who knows what they are talking about but won't blind the visitors with jargon. We want them to enjoy their visit to this super site and your help and advice can help make their visit a memorable one. This is the perfect chance to work with a friendly team and meet lots of people. You'll get to learn more about the reserve and see how a busy visitor centre is run while developing your knowledge of all the latest brands and developments in the optics world. You will get to work on your face to face and customer service skills through one to one work and group interactions. If you are interested in this exciting role please email [volunteer.oldmoor@rspb.org.uk](mailto:volunteer.oldmoor@rspb.org.uk)

REF 2013-FOCUS-2/11 JOB **RESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER INTERN - BLACKTOFT SANDS**  
 BE4 ? LOC BLACKTOFT SANDS, GOOLE, NORTH HUMBERSIDE  
 PAY Accommodation FOR RSPB

Looking to get a unique high quality experience in all aspects of reserve management? This is a great opportunity to gain some fantastic experience working in all aspects of conservation, with relevant training provided as required. During your placement, you will become a full member of the reserve teams, gaining invaluable experience in both practical management and visitor and people engagement, learning how to manage an RSPB reserve, and working with a dedicated team of staff and volunteers. Specialist knowledge is not necessary, but an enthusiasm for wildlife and an interest in conservation is. You must be happy working outdoors in all weathers and confident talking to visitors. Time Commitment: 6 or 12 months. Our internships are designed to offer work experience and doing an internship does not guarantee future employment with the RSPB. For more information and to apply please contact Sara Macias Rodriguez, Blacktoft Sands, Tel: 01405 704665 email: [sara.maciasrodriguez@rspb.org.uk](mailto:sara.maciasrodriguez@rspb.org.uk)

REF 2014-FOCUSR-1/2 JOB **RANGER VOLUNTEER**  
 BE4 1/2/19 LOC HARDCASTLE CRAGS, HEBDEN BRIDGE  
 PAY Travel expenses FOR NATIONAL TRUST

By getting involved, you could: help look after important landscapes for future generations; use your passion for the outdoors and share your knowledge with visitors; work alongside passionate countryside management professionals and learn new skills along the way; join a friendly and varied team and make some new friends. What's involved? Help the ranger team with practical work to keep the countryside in great condition, dry stone walling, scything hay meadows, improving our ancient woodland, footpath maintenance, construction tasks, invasive species removal, timber extraction and general estate repairs. Act as information assistants for the National Trust, communicating with the public whilst onsite, maintaining exceptional standards of customer service as part of delivering the visitor experience. Maintenance of vehicle and cleaning tools and maintaining a clean and tidy workshop, container and yard. Make each visitor feel welcome and help people understand why we need to take care of special places and thinking about the needs of all visitors. Let staff know of any issues with fences, footpaths etc and maintain good relationships with people who share the land. Contact: Emily Taylor, 01535 607075, [emily.taylor@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:emily.taylor@nationaltrust.org.uk)

REF 2015-FOCUS-5/10 JOB **EAST RESERVES VOLUNTARY TRAINEE**  
 BE4 5/10/18 LOC YORK  
 PAY Travel expenses / training budget FOR YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

3 days a week on a 12 month placement. Our East Reserves Team working across the Vale of York & into East Yorkshire are looking for a passionate individual to join the team to assist staff to undertake practical land management tasks, assist with the delivery of volunteer task days & help with reserve administrative management. You will learn about the management of some of our most beautiful nature reserves giving you a broad range of practical & administrative skills across different habitats & further protecting Yorkshire's wildlife. From our first nature reserve Askham Bog with its mosaic of fen, woodland & meadow through to an SSSI located on the cliffs at Flamborough, you'll be working with a broad range of habitats & associated fauna & flora. To apply for this role please contact: [volunteering@ywt.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@ywt.org.uk) or visit <https://c-js.co.uk/2Nhhj4L>

REF	2016-FOCUSR-2/11	JOB	<b>WEEKEND FARM VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	?	LOC	WHIRLOW HALL FARM TRUST, S11 9QF
PAY	Full training, local travel costs	FOR	WHIRLOW HALL FARM TRUST

Are you a would-be farmer or someone with farming experience? We are looking for help on the farm on Saturdays and / or Sundays between 8am and 12pm (minimum once a month on a rota basis). You will assist the Farm Team but must be able to work independently or in a small team. Tasks include animal care: feeding, watering, mucking out, sweeping, bedding down and / or horticultural: weeding, harvesting, watering; and other farm duties. You need to be 16 years of age or over and you will be required to have a DBS check. Contact Alison Armes, [alisona@whirlowhallfarm.org](mailto:alisona@whirlowhallfarm.org)

REF	2017-FOCUSR-12/10	JOB	<b>WELCOME VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	?	LOC	RSPB OLD MOOR, BARNSELY
PAY	Training	FOR	RSPB

Our welcome is the most important part of the Old Moor Experience; inspiring everyone to give nature a home. You'll be an essential member of the Old Moor team, welcoming thousands of visitors to the reserve. A vital part of the role is to thank existing members for supporting us and inspire people about the work we do and warm them up to the idea of membership. You don't need to be a bird or wildlife expert as training is always given - it's much more important that you are good with people and are willing to learn and recruit new supporters to the RSPB. Can range from one day a week to whole weekends to suit you. If you are interested in this exciting and vital volunteering role please email [volunteer.oldmoor@rspb.org.uk](mailto:volunteer.oldmoor@rspb.org.uk)

REF	2018-FOCUS-2/11	JOB	<b>VOLUNTEER OFFICER</b>
BE4	N / A	LOC	KIRKSTALL, LEEDS
PAY	Training, expenses	FOR	TCV, HOLLYBUSH

3-5 days a week for 6 months. Joining TCV as a Volunteer Officer & assisting staff with the delivery of practical conservation work has a wide range of benefits to offer you. These include: developing useful & transferable practical conservation skills, using a multitude of manual & powered tools, formal courses in First Aid, leadership, safeguarding & risk assessment, developing your group leadership & project organisation skills, learning event organising & publicity skills with a national charity, improving your confidence, self-esteem & interpersonal skills, inclusion training to enhance your ability to support volunteers with diverse individual needs. Being supported in your role by experienced staff through an individual development plan & regular meetings. Work exp with flexible hours & responsibilities as desired & a personal budget for work clothing & travel expenses (incl. bus travel within Leeds reimbursed). Contact [ian.dowson@tcv.org.uk](mailto:ian.dowson@tcv.org.uk)

REF	2019-FOCUS-15/2	JOB	<b>VOLUNTEER RANGER - FARNE ISLANDS</b>
BE4	17/2/19 IV 28/2/19	LOC	FARNE ISLANDS
PAY	Expenses / training	FOR	NATIONAL TRUST

Visitor work & seabird monitoring. Experience of customer service & wildlife conservation preferred. Apply online on National Trust website - search 'Farne' & email cv & covering letter to [gwen.potter@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:gwen.potter@nationaltrust.org.uk)

REF	377-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>LAND OF OAK &amp; IRON EVENTS VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	Ongoing	LOC	DERWENT VALLEY, NE ENGLAND
PAY	Training	FOR	LAND OF OAK & IRON (THROUGH GROUNDWORK NE & CUMBRIA)

Approx 1 day / month. Provide support to the Land of Oak & Iron staff team & partner orgs in organising & helping on the day at a range of events to promote Land of Oak & Iron & opportunities for local people to take part. Tasks may incl event planning & publicity, setting up on the day, running activities & talking to members of the public. Individuals need no prior exp, just enthusiasm & passion for the area. Find out more from Kath Marshall-Ivens [kath.marshall-ivens@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:kath.marshall-ivens@groundwork.org.uk) 01207 524883 / 07966 330028

REF	2020-FOCUSR-2/11	JOB	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT ASSISTANT</b>
BE4	N/A	LOC	STOCKSBRIDGE, SHEFFIELD
PAY	Training / travel expenses	FOR	THE STEEL VALLEY PROJECT

We couldn't carry out the work we do without our volunteers. Whether it's practical conservation tasks on local nature sites, environmental education sessions with local schools or community events, becoming a volunteer with us is a great way to get involved with fantastic environmental projects. In return for your time, we provide training and supervision in a range of countryside skills and environmental conservation projects. We endeavour to provide opportunities to work towards practical qualifications required in the environmental industry. Volunteers have gained certificates in using power tools such as chainsaws, strimmers and First Aid at Work, whilst volunteering with us. So whether you're looking to become part of the next generation of countryside professionals, would like to contribute something positive to your local environment or are looking for a friendly and sociable atmosphere in which to volunteer, SVP can provide you with a great opportunity. Register your interest at [info@steelvalleyproject.org](mailto:info@steelvalleyproject.org) and we can send out further information and book an informal meet and greet.

**Discover beautiful woodlands** around Prudhoe with Land of Oak & Iron and Friends of Prudhoe Woods. Join our friendly volunteer group & take part in woodland management tasks every Tuesday & Thursday, no experience necessary, wear outdoor clothes & bring a packed lunch. Peter Binns 07922 105403 [peter.binns.57@gmail.com](mailto:peter.binns.57@gmail.com) [www.landof oakandiron.org.uk](http://www.landof oakandiron.org.uk)

**We deliver regular volunteer days**, working to maintain and tidy up the rivers. Work includes litter picking, removing debris, cutting back vegetation and pulling out invasive species. All tools and PPE are provided, as well as hot/cold drinks and biscuits. 10am to 1pm. Sheffield every Tuesday, Leeds usually on a Friday. Contact: Sarah Emberson 0114 354 0012 [sarah.emberson@the-rsc.co.uk](mailto:sarah.emberson@the-rsc.co.uk)

**Conservation volunteers: the Land Management**

Team at Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust is looking for practical conservation volunteers. Every weekday 10am to 3pm, at various locations across Sheffield and Rotherham. No experience required. For more information, contact us at [volunteering@wildsheffield.com](mailto:volunteering@wildsheffield.com) or 0114 2634335

**Exciting volunteering opportunities**

at this lovely 120 acre site near Malton, North Yorkshire. Volunteering roles in site maintenance, gardening, education, visitor services and administration. Your chance to gain useful experience, use your skills and help a very worthwhile organisation. Find out more at [www.yorkshirearboretum.org](http://www.yorkshirearboretum.org)

**Join our practical conservation volunteer**

days every Friday at sites across the Lower Aire Valley, near Kippax and Garforth. Meet our friendly team of volunteers helping to create habitat for glow worms, wild flowers, butterflies and more. No experience needed and we provide all the equipment. Email [volunteering@ywt.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@ywt.org.uk) for details.

**Discover beautiful woodlands**

in the Land of Oak & Iron (around the Derwent Valley in NE England), learn how to manage woodland habitats or maybe how to make charcoal. Tasks every Monday, no experience necessary, wear outdoor clothes & bring a packed lunch, drinks provided. Peter Downes 07484 093411 [pdownes@durhamwt.co.uk](mailto:pdownes@durhamwt.co.uk)

**Help Barnsley's wildlife!**

Join our practical conservation days every Fridays and alternate Saturdays at sites across the Dearne Valley. Meet our friendly team of volunteers helping to create habitat for otters, willow tits, butterflies and more. No experience needed and we provide all the equipment. Email [volunteering@ywt.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@ywt.org.uk) for more details.

**Northumberland National Park**

is looking for a partner to organise and deliver a series of residential volunteering tasks in summer 2019 and 2020. The task is sphagnum relocation by hand, encouraging bare peat restoration. The site is Cheviot - on the Scottish border. All queries / expressions of interest to [abi.mansley@nnpa.org.uk](mailto:abi.mansley@nnpa.org.uk)

**St Nicks is a 24-acre nature** reserve in York. Supporting over 860 species, our site boasts beautiful views and amazing wildlife sightings. Volunteering with us is a great way of gaining practical conservation experience, identification skills or just meeting new people so why not get in touch and get involved? [volunteer@stnicks.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@stnicks.org.uk) <https://stnicks.org.uk/>

**North West:**

REF	2021-FOCUS-OK3	JOB	<b>MYPLACE ECOTHERAPY VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	N/A	LOC	LANCASHIRE
PAY	Training / expenses	FOR	LANCASHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

Up to 4 hours per week. Myplace works with people who have physical or mental health issues and / or are experiencing long-term unemployment. We aim to empower people, encouraging them to take action, participating in environmental activity that has positive benefits for their own health and mental wellbeing, as well as for their local community. We do this through the delivery of 5 themes of Ecotherapy: Conservation, Growing, Nature Walks, Mindful Environments and Bushcraft. Volunteers are needed to help support our weekly sessions which are delivered across East, West and Central Lancashire for all ages (13+). This role will suit people who are empathetic with good interpersonal skills and are able to work with people from all walks of life. If you would like to make a difference in a person's life whilst developing new skills and knowledge then get in touch: [myplace@lancswt.org.uk](mailto:myplace@lancswt.org.uk) 01772 872007

REF	400-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>VOLUNTEERS</b>
BE4	N / A	LOC	WEAVERHAM, CHESHIRE
PAY	0	FOR	MERE BROW FARM LTD

12.5 acre permaculture led organic farm in Cheshire. We are always looking for volunteers (with or without experience) to come and join us and help us for as much or as little as volunteer can commit to. Contact Sadie Platt, 07808774173, [sadie.platt@merebrowfarm.co.uk](mailto:sadie.platt@merebrowfarm.co.uk) or find out more on [www.facebook.com/merebrowfarm](http://www.facebook.com/merebrowfarm)

REF	2022-FOCUS-21/9	JOB	<b>ASSISTANT WARDEN VOLUNTEER INTERNSHIP</b>
BE4	23/9/18	LOC	MARSHSIDE RSPB RESERVE
PAY	Training and expenses	FOR	RSPB

3 days per week for 6 - 12 months. We are looking for an enthusiastic and friendly person who likes a challenge to take this fantastic first step into conservation. We will provide you with valuable work experience and help to develop new skills in all aspects of working on a nature reserve such as practical habitat management, maintenance of reserve infrastructure, wildlife surveys and monitoring, leading volunteer work parties, leading public events and maintaining records and producing reports. You need a keen interest and enthusiasm for wildlife and conservation, the ability to work in a team and work on your own initiative, good communication skills, ability to undertake physical activities, a full UK driving licence and 18 years old or over. More information, contact Alex Pigott 01704 211690 [alex.pigott@rspb.org.uk](mailto:alex.pigott@rspb.org.uk)

REF	2023-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>EVENTS &amp; ACTIVITIES VOLUNTEERS</b>
BE4	Ongoing	LOC	BROCKHOLES NATURE RESERVE, PRESTON, LANCASHIRE
PAY	Travel expenses*	FOR	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside

Brockholes has a packed & varied programme of events & activities running throughout the year for visitors of all ages from tots to grown ups! We run lots of children's activities, walks, talks, theatre performances & even Santa comes to Brockholes in December. Events & Activities Volunteers assist us with event set up, meeting & greeting, delivering the sessions & packing away at the end & helping to ensure that everyone has a fantastic experience! The majority of our events & activities are held at weekends & school holiday periods, so you will need to be available to volunteer then.

\*Free parking, restaurant & shop discount, 20% discount at Cotswold Outdoors, induction programme. Go the [www.brockholes.org](http://www.brockholes.org) to find out more



**Do you live in Cumbria**, near the coast and have an interest in herpetology? Do you fancy joining our wonderful team of volunteers to help the endangered natterjack toad by becoming a dedicated monitor? We would love to hear from you! For more information & contact <https://www.arc-trust.org/natterjacks-in-cumbria>

**We're a community environmental charity** supporting growing projects across Preston. We run 2 community gardens where we raise plants to support our members, grow food for distribution amongst those in need and provide a safe and welcoming space for anyone who'd like to volunteer. Contact us at [letsgrowpreston@gmail.com](mailto:letsgrowpreston@gmail.com)

**Volunteer work days run annually:** Oct - March on our reserves across North Lancashire. We carry out a wide range of practical estate management and conservation work in woodlands, grasslands and wetlands. For more information see [www.lancswt.org.uk](http://www.lancswt.org.uk) or contact Steve Ryder on [sryder@lancswt.org.uk](mailto:sryder@lancswt.org.uk)

**Gems in the Dunes** is looking for hard working and committed volunteers to assist with habitat management work and species monitoring for some of the UK's rarest wildlife including natterjack toads, petalwort and northern dune tiger beetles. Based in Ainsdale, Merseyside. Contact [gems-in-the-dunes@arc-trust.org](mailto:gems-in-the-dunes@arc-trust.org) for more information.

**Join friendly Chester National Trust Volunteers** for a day: details see our website: <https://chesterntv.wordpress.com/> CNTV Tuesday & Thursday groups do voluntary work at NT sites across Cheshire, Merseyside, Wirral in alternate weeks. Previous experience unnecessary, a job for everyone, Tools provided, friendly welcome – Brian Payne, [briansue.payne@btinternet.com](mailto:briansue.payne@btinternet.com)

## How volunteering got me the job

By Beth Aucott, Warden for the RSPB

Before I went to university I wanted to be a vet. I did all the relevant work experience, slaved over my personal statement, was predicted all of the correct grades and got rejected from every vet school I applied to. It was real kick in the teeth. I'd wanted to be a vet since I knew what one was so suddenly I was having to re-think my entire life plan. After careful consideration and lots of lists I decided I wanted to work in conservation so off I went to study Zoology, in the naive belief that when I graduated I'd be perfectly equipped to get out there and save some species.



I graduated university four years later as a Master of Science and came to the depressing realisation that I had no skills or experience that set me apart from the thousands of other people who had thrown their mortarboard in the air that summer. I could use a whole host of computer programmes, understood the science of numerous ecological processes and could carry out research but apart from building the odd bat box from my rather sporadic attendance to conservation society events I had no practical experience of conservation.



**How to put in a boardwalk was just one of the many things learnt** (Beth Aucott)

Whilst frantically searching for a job I could do or a way to boost my CV I discovered that Staffordshire Wildlife Trust ran a midweek work party. I pinged them an email asking if I could come along to hopefully learn more about such things as coppicing and rush cutting and maybe gain some new practical skills. A week later saw me board the mini bus they used to transport volunteers, slightly nervous and not sure what I may have let myself in for. The day was brilliant. We spent the day pulling ragwort, which is not everyone's favourite job, but I was surrounded by people willing to share their knowledge with me and I had the chance to get up close to lots of wildlife. Over the following 11 months I worked on reserves all around the county, learnt how to use a brushcutter, became very well acquainted with bowsaws and loppers, erected my first fence and was educated on all types of flora and fauna. Lucy, the Reserves Assistant, was amazing; taking the time to explain everything to me and as time went on giving me a chance to try new things beyond the normal remit of a midweek volunteer such as carrying out safety checks by myself and even leading the work party when she wasn't there.

As well as providing me with relevant skills and knowledge, volunteering gave me a chance to see what practical conservation work really entailed. It varied greatly but things such as sinking thigh deep in a bog with a brush cutter, being scratched to bits by

gorse, getting soaked to the skin whilst putting up a fence and continuing the same job week after week were all part of reserves work and I returned each week, to step back onto the minibus, with a smile on my face.



**Sometimes work conditions were interesting!**  
(Beth Aucott)

Heritage Lottery Fund and hosted by a number of Wildlife Trusts in the South West. I spent a year with Somerset Wildlife Trust working with the Mendips reserve team, gaining more reserves experience and picking up an array of qualifications. In my feedback from my interview I was told that one of the reasons I was offered the position was that I knew what I wanted to do in future and recognised how the traineeship would help me achieve that. That aim and knowledge came from my volunteering experience; it had shown me a career path that I loved and made me aware of what I needed to do to start to walk that path.

After my traineeship I got my first job in conservation as an Assistant Ranger for the National Trust. It was a short term contract and I went on to another role with the National Trust, followed by a stint with the Wildlife Trust in Bedfordshire before reaching my current position as a Warden for the RSPB. I've been lucky enough to help care for some truly beautiful places, be involved with brilliant projects and work alongside inspiring people but I'm very aware that if I hadn't been brave enough to step aboard that mini-bus on that first day of pulling ragwort I may have taken a very different path.

beth.aucott@rspb.org.uk

## Midlands:

**Join the Salcey Forest Volunteers.** We are setting up a new group which will carry out practical tasks, maintaining & improving woodland habitat. Tools, training, tea & biscuits will be provided. For more details please contact 01604 863830 or email [brian.pollard@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:brian.pollard@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

**Are you interested in gaining experience** and skills in sustainable land management? We are a charity looking for volunteers to work alongside our team promoting ecosystem services. We are based on a 1200 acre site in rural Leicestershire near Melton Mowbray. Contact Nick Ford: [nford@sltrust.org.uk](mailto:nford@sltrust.org.uk)  
<http://sltrust.org.uk/>

**The Silverstone Woodlands Volunteers Group** improves the woodlands by taking part in activities which help trees and wildlife. It's a great way to learn new skills and knowledge, keep fit and meet new friends. Meet on second Sunday and fourth Tuesday, 10am - 2pm. We have breaks for tea and biscuits! Call 01604 863830 or email [brian.pollard@forestry.gov.uk](mailto:brian.pollard@forestry.gov.uk)

I was lucky that I loved the practical element right from the start. Over my time with the Trust we had a few other people that would join for a session and realise that the practical element wasn't for them. Volunteering is a good way to experience different parts of the sector and work out what you like. Most of my time was spent out on the reserves but I also had a chance to dip my feet into the world of education work and got involved with a couple of surveys. Those weren't paths that I wanted to pursue but it gave me a glimpse into how they work.

After a year with Staffs WT the only things holding me back from getting a job was my lack of qualifications for using machinery such as brush-cutters and chainsaws. I managed to fill this gap by getting a place on the Wildlife Skills programme – a series of traineeships funded by



**Thorswood reserve, Staffordshire. The views made the work worthwhile** (Beth Aucott)

**Lincoln Conservation Group** carries out practical nature conservation work in the Lincoln area, helping to sustain the local plant and animal life and having fun at the same time! We provide tools and training. Volunteer days (16 years +) are usually on the first and third Sundays each month.  
<http://www.lincolnconservationgroup.org.uk>

**Come and help with practical conservation** tasks on a wonderful Butterfly Conservation reserve in the Hereford area, Tuesdays and Saturdays from Sept. Scrub clearance, bonfires, tools provided. Look at [www.westmidlands-butterflies.org.uk/events](http://www.westmidlands-butterflies.org.uk/events) or contact Lucy Morton, Reserves Officer  
[lmorton@butterfly-conservation.org.uk](mailto:lmorton@butterfly-conservation.org.uk) for details

**Volunteer at Brixworth Country Park** on the third Saturday of each month to assist with practical conservation and park management jobs. Tools and training provided by rangers on the day, and some refreshments. Wear appropriate clothing, and bring a lunch if you stay all day. 10am - 4pm. Contact Debbie Samwell 0300 126 5932, brixworth@northamptonshire.gov.uk

**We run practical conservation volunteer days** across Birmingham and the Black Country. We provide tools, equipment and training (and tea and coffee!). Meet new people, learn new skills, enjoy being outdoors and make a difference to greenspaces and wildlife on your doorstep. Details from: <http://www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/whats-on>; alison.w@bbcwildlife.org.uk or 0121 523 0094.

**Join Friends of Stanmore Country Park** in Bridgnorth, WV15 5HP on our upcoming volunteer days, 10am -2pm meeting in main car park. Sunday 23rd September, Saturday 20th October, Sunday 25th November. Please bring a packed lunch, wear steel toe capped boots and bring waterproofs. Please let us know if you are planning to come, call 01746 781192

**Have fun, make friends, help wildlife!** Our volunteers help with everything from practical conservation and farming to education work and events. Whether you're able to offer a few hours a week or a few days a year, we're sure there's an opportunity to suit you. [www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/volunteer](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/volunteer) Contact: volunteer@worcestershireswildlifetrust.org 01905 754919

REF 2028-FOCUSR-OK2  
JOB **FAR INGS VISITOR CENTRE VOLUNTEER**  
BE4 N / A  
LOC FAR INGS NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE  
PAY 0  
FOR LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST



Volunteers help in the visitor centre welcoming members of the public to the reserve, giving information about wildlife, helping visitors orientate themselves & locate facilities & selling items in the shop. You will need to be friendly & enjoy meeting people of all ages & backgrounds. You must be trustworthy & numerate, happy to handle money & willing to use a till (till training will be given). A general knowledge of wildlife would be useful but this knowledge can be learnt 'on the job'. The visitor centre is open Wednesday, Thursday & Friday afternoons from 1pm until 4pm. The centre is also open weekends & Bank Holidays 10am-4pm. Volunteers are requested to do a morning or an afternoon whenever they are able. Please contact Leanne Smart on 01652 637055 or faringscentre@lincstrust.co.uk for more details.

REF 2029-FOCUSR-OK3  
BE4 N / A  
PAY Training & travel costs  
JOB **CANAL & LOCK MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEER**  
LOC NOTTINGHAM  
FOR GROUNDWORK GREATER NOTTINGHAM

To support the maintenance & upkeep of the Beeston Lock & Canal. Volunteers will be involved in various activities to help keep a 2 km stretch of the Beeston Canal including lock, maintained for boaters, walkers & the local community. Role to include: painting fences, rails, mooring posts & step edges; clearing paths, planting, litter picking vegetation clearing, manual dredging. Volunteers will show a commitment to the aims of GGN & improving outcomes for the environment. You will not be required to have experience, however, it may be useful if you have any experience of: gardening; planting; maintenance. Volunteers will be asked to complete a minimum of 3.5 hours per week, Monday to Friday. For more information please phone 0115 9788 212 or email gn@groundworknottingham.org.uk

REF 2030-FOCUS-26/10  
**Student/Long Term Volunteer Placement**

Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR with the Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project (N Shropshire)

Travel expenses are provided

If you are a student on a wildlife, countryside management or ecology course and are looking for work experience while studying, we may have an opportunity for you. Alternatively, if you are looking to change careers and enter the conservation sector, we may be able to offer you a placement to help you get started in the sector. We can offer long term voluntary placements on a part time basis that can involve practical habitat management, estate maintenance, monitoring and surveying work and helping out with public events. In house training and guidance will be provided, there may also be formal training provided. The placement would be suitable for anyone over the age of 18 who is physically fit and able to work outdoors. PPE will be provided.

Apply with David Tompkins, Volunteer Coordinator david.tompkins@naturalengland.org.uk 01948 880362

Find out more on <https://c-js.co.uk/2LMgfS1>

The Project is funded by the EU LIFE program (LIFE15/NAT/UK/000786) & the Heritage Lottery Fund



REF 2031-FOCUSR-OK3  
BE4 N / A  
PAY Training & travel expenses  
JOB **CANAL & LOCK MAINTENANCE PROJECT LEADER**  
LOC NOTTINGHAM  
FOR GROUNDWORK GREATER NOTTINGHAM

To assist the Volunteer Co-ordinator to facilitate the maintenance & upkeep of a 2 km stretch of the Beeston Canal including lock, maintained for boaters, walkers & the local community. The role includes: contacting potential volunteers; supporting volunteers on the day; co-ordination of activities on site. Volunteer Project Leaders will show a commitment to the aims of GGN & improving outcomes for the environment. You will not be required to have exp, however, it may be useful if you have any experience of: gardening; planting; maintenance; team management. Volunteers will be asked to complete a minimum of 3.5 hpw, Monday to Friday. For more information please phone 0115 9788 212 or email gn@groundworknottingham.org.uk

REF	2032-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>Administration Volunteer – Conservation and External Affairs</b>
BE4	Ongoing	LOC	GRANTHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE
PAY	Expenses	FOR	WOODLAND TRUST

There is no other organisation like the Woodland Trust and we believe our volunteers are like no other too! If you would like to put your office administration experience to good use, we would like to hear from you. This role is to support the Conservation and External Affairs (CEA) Department with general administration duties, including data input and website research. The CEA Department is responsible for the campaigning and conservation work the Trust undertakes, including work to influence policy and action at national and local government levels. Your volunteering role will be based in our friendly office in Grantham. Visit <https://c-js.co.uk/2Ln5aSz> for further information.

REF	2033-FOCUSR-OK2	JOB	<b>FAR INGS RESERVE VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	N / A	LOC	FAR INGS NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE
PAY	0	FOR	LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST



Half day to a day weekly or when available. Volunteers help the warden to carry out the management plan, maintaining and creating habitats on the reserve and helping with general maintenance of facilities. You will need to be friendly, enjoy working in a group with people of all ages and backgrounds, be prepared to work outside and get mucky. Some tasks can be physically demanding. Training will be given for the use of tools, volunteers with carpentry and mechanical skills would be very welcome. Please contact the warden Simon on 01652 634507 or [farings@lincstrust.co.uk](mailto:farings@lincstrust.co.uk)

REF	2034-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>SMALL STEPS BIG CHANGE (SSBC) VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	N / A	LOC	NOTTINGHAM
PAY	Training & travel expenses	FOR	GROUNDWORK GREATER NOTTINGHAM

Assist Family Mentors to deliver the SSBC Family Mentor programme across Bulwell & Aspley. Volunteers will be supporting families to increase their confidence & ability in group activities such as Triple P, Active Play, Stay & Play, Songs & Rhymes, Bump, Birth & Baby, Infant Massage & Cook & Play. Min 2 hours per week Monday to Saturday. Skills / exp: being a parent & / or grandparent; working with children; being supportive; a good listener; developing relationships. For more information contact Richard Owen, Volunteer Co-ordinator, [richard.owen@groundworknottingham.org.uk](mailto:richard.owen@groundworknottingham.org.uk) or call 07771348655.

REF	2035-FOCUSR-12/10	JOB	<b>EVENT VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	10/10/18	LOC	HEREFORDSHIRE
PAY	Full support, some travel expenses	FOR	HEREFORDSHIRE GREEN NETWORK

h.Energy is Herefordshire's yearly celebration of all things sustainable. On 13-14th October there are open houses, events & workshops for a low carbon future. Please help make it happen! Admin, event support, publicity... all welcome. Time: anything from a couple of hours to a day a week. To find out more contact Rebecca Tully on [events@hgnetwork.org](mailto:events@hgnetwork.org)

REF	2036-FOCUSR-2/11	JOB	<b>GARDEN PROJECT VOLUNTEERS</b>
BE4	?	LOC	BIRMINGHAM, KINGS HEATH PARK
PAY	0	FOR	THRIVE

Play an important role in our garden programmes, our administration & fundraising. Make a real difference in helping us improve & increase our services to people with disabilities. Volunteers are central to the work we do here at Thrive. We're a national charity established for 40 years & have centres in Battersea, London, Birmingham & Reading. The Birmingham Centre is located in the historic TV Gardens of Kings Heath Park, Birmingham & volunteers play an important role in our garden programmes, administration & fundraising & make a real difference in helping us improve & increase our services to people with disabilities or ill health, or who are isolated, disadvantaged or vulnerable. We work in a supportive & positive environment which offers many rewards. We ask for a commitment of one day a week, this is particularly important for supporting clients who are an integral part of our delivery teams. A DBS & references are required. Please see our website for further information. [www.thrive.org.uk](http://www.thrive.org.uk)

REF	2037-FOCUSR-2/11	JOB	<b>MARKETING ASSISTANT</b>
BE4	?	LOC	HAMS HALL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE
PAY	0	FOR	WARWICKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

Half a day to a full day per week, depending on workload. Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Partnership are looking for a Marketing Assistant. This volunteer role is a great opportunity for anyone who is looking for work experience in social media management, communication or marketing. You will be helping our team to manage our social media presence, advertise our events and update our website with latest news stories. If you would like to apply for this role, please contact Nicola at [n.lynes@staffs-wildlife.org.uk](mailto:n.lynes@staffs-wildlife.org.uk) with brief details of your skills and experience, and why you are interested in this role.

REF	2038-FOCUS-28/9	JOB	<b>HYDROLOGICAL MONITORING VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	1/10/18	LOC	WHITCHURCH, SHROPSHIRE
PAY	Full training and guidance	FOR	MARCHES MOSSES BOGLIFE PROJECT, NATURAL ENGLAND

One Thursday every four weeks for at least six months but preferably longer. We are looking for one person or a couple or pair of friends to take on the monitoring of a hydrology transect on Fenns and Whixall Mosses NNR for the Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project. This task is completed every four weeks on a Thursday throughout the year, it takes around four hours to complete and involves walking over rough terrain. No exp necessary as full training given. We are looking for a person(s) to take on this role on a long term basis if possible. Contact [david.tompkins@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:david.tompkins@naturalengland.org.uk), 01948 880362.

REF 2039-FOCUSR-2/11      JOB      **COUNTY MAPPED FLORA DIGITISATION PROJECT VOLUNTEER**  
 BE4 ?      LOC      WARWICKSHIRE BIOLOGICAL RECORDS CENTRE, WARWICK  
 PAY      Some travelling expenses (up to £5 per day) FOR      WBRC, WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
 Flexible volunteering over an arranged period of weeks, full or part-time. Volunteers are needed to help the WBRC with delivering the digitisation of the VC38 County Mapped Flora Files. These records will be used in current distribution maps in order to monitor landscape & environmental change over the recent decades in Vice County 38. This is a good opportunity to become familiar with biological recording & mapping software (Recorder 6 & QGIS), botanical nomenclature & identification. Skills: interest in botany & nature conservation; familiarity with biological recording & botanical scientific names advantageous; willingness to interpret handwritten notes & to use & develop IT skills; degree in botany or ecology advantageous. Role & responsibilities: data archiving; data entry; mapping. Contact: Mariya Tarnavska, 01926 412471 wbrc@warwickshire.gov.uk

REF 425-FOCUSR-OK3      JOB      **VOLUNTEER WILDLIFE SURVEYOR**  
 BE4 N / A      LOC      BROCKHAMPTON ESTATE, HEREFORDSHIRE  
 PAY      Training & fuel expenses      FOR      NATIONAL TRUST  
 Join our team of wildlife enthusiasts as we survey flora and fauna on the Brockhampton Estate. Take part in bat and bird surveys, butterfly transects and a wide variety of other wildlife and habitat monitoring programmes. Training and experience in identification of flora and fauna. Apply through myvolunteering on the National Trust website <http://bit.ly/2Eq2Dos> or contact [craig.cooper@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:craig.cooper@nationaltrust.org.uk) for more information.

REF 416-FOCUS-OK3      JOB      **VOLUNTARY OFFICER**  
 BE4 N / A      LOC      LEICESTER / NATIONAL FOREST  
 PAY      Travel expenses, full training provided for trainee leader roles      FOR      THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS  
 Time: 2+ days per week. A range of posts available for keen people wanting to be involved in conservation - we have opportunities for practical conservation leadership roles including for complete beginners, but also vacancies for back office work e.g. in publicity and social media, funding applications, communications for those with relevant skills. Get in touch and we will find you a niche! We are also looking for casual volunteers for our practical work days. Please contact K Thompson at [kay.thompson@tcv.org.uk](mailto:kay.thompson@tcv.org.uk)

REF 413-FOCUS-OK3      JOB      **BogLIFE PROJECT VOLUNTARY WARDEN**  
 BE4 Ongoing      LOC      Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR, & NNR Base (N Shropshire)  
 PAY      Travel expenses      FOR      MARCHES MOSSES BOGLIFE PROJECT  
 Great opportunity to assist with the restoration of part of Britain's 3rd largest lowland raised peat bog as part of the Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project. The NNR is 690ha & straddles the English / Welsh border, 4 miles from Whitchurch, Shropshire & 10 miles from Wrexham. Volunteer work parties take place every Thursday, tasks carried out include estate management, fencing, habitat management and some monitoring works. Protective clothing & in-house training provided. The role is open to anyone over the age of 18 who is physically fit & prepared to work outdoors. Apply with David Tompkins, Volunteer coordinator [david.tompkins@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:david.tompkins@naturalengland.org.uk) 01948 880362 or visit <https://c-js.co.uk/2LMgfS1>

REF 2040-FOCUSR-18/1      JOB      **DUNSMORE LIVING LANDSCAPE VOLUNTEERING**  
 BE4 N/A      LOC      BRANDON MARSH NATURE CENTRE, CV3 3GW  
 PAY      Travel expenses / training      FOR      WARWICKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST / DUNSMORE LIVING LANDSCAPE  
 The Dunsmore Living Landscape scheme, run by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, aims to link up Warwickshire's ancient woodlands, hedgerows, grasslands and ponds, and reconnect people with their local wild places. We work on nature reserves, farms and country parks throughout the Living Landscape area. Join us to get stuck in with practical habitat management and surveying in this beautiful area. Tasks include hedgerow restoration, coppicing, meadow management and wildflower surveying. Email [anna.jennings@wkw.org.uk](mailto:anna.jennings@wkw.org.uk) to get involved. See [www.exploredunsmore.org](http://www.exploredunsmore.org) for more info.

REF 1710-FOCUSR-OK1      JOB      **PRACTICAL CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS**  
 BE4 N / A      LOC      ACROSS WORCESTERSHIRE  
 PAY      Learn new skills      FOR      WORCESTERSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST  
 Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organisation, carrying out thousands of hours of practical conservation across our reserves each year. We have volunteer work parties based on reserves all across Worcestershire - joining your local volunteer group is a great way to meet new people, get fit (and stay fit!) and get closer to the wildlife that's local to you. Learn new skills alongside our experienced team. Time commitment is variable – you decide. From woodlands to wetlands, from gentle tasks to a full 'wild work-out', there is something for everyone, so why not visit our website to find out more about the opportunities local to you: <https://c-js.co.uk/2Lx8F9N> or contact Helen Dorey, Conservation Assistant & Volunteer Coordinator [volunteer@worcestershirowildlifetrust.org](mailto:volunteer@worcestershirowildlifetrust.org) or 01905 754919.

REF 1711-FOCUSR-OK1      JOB      **EVENTS & ENGAGEMENT VOLUNTEERS**  
 BE4 N / A      LOC      WORCESTER  
 PAY      Learn new skills      FOR      WORCESTERSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST  
 We're looking for friendly, engaging people to get involved and join our team! We run a series of public engagement events and activities at Lower Smite Farm and in public parks and greenspaces throughout Worcestershire across the year. From family activities to county shows, these are the perfect opportunities to engage and enthuse children and adults with the environment and wildlife conservation. You will assist with these public events and activities alongside Wildlife Trust members of staff and other volunteers. The tasks vary with the types of events but may include: engaging children and adults in outdoor, wildlife-themed activities such as walks, talks, bug hunts, pond dipping, crafts, games etc.; being an ambassador for our work; helping with set-up and pack-down at events; selling raffle tickets. Learn new skills alongside our experienced team. Time commitment is variable – you decide. See <https://c-js.co.uk/2Lx8F9N> for full details. Contact Rae or Sadie [activities@worcestershirowildlifetrust.org](mailto:activities@worcestershirowildlifetrust.org) or 01905 754919.

REF T415-FOCUS-OK3 JOB **FREE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY INSTRUCTOR TRAINING PROGRAM**  
 BE4 N / A LOC STAFFORDSHIRE, SHROPSHIRE & NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
 PAY £200 per month spending money, training, accommodation & food FOR ACUK

Free 12 month training scheme. The Firm Foundations Instructor Training Scheme is run at our 3 ACUK centres: Whitemoor Lakes is our watersports centre in Staffordshire; Pioneer Centre is our outdoor centre set near the Wye Forest in Shropshire; Benham Sports Arena is a busy indoor sports centre in Northamptonshire. We offer various qualifications across the 3 centres. You can earn nationally recognised qualifications from the British Canoe Union, British Fencing Association & many more awards ranging from watersports to climbing, archery to first aid. On top of this you will also receive centre-specific training. 2nd year option available for full salaried position & extra training. ACUK is the wholly owned operating company of registered charity Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs (NAYC). Operating upon a foundation of Christian principles & offering service regardless of race, religion or creed, NAYC has over 50 years' experience in providing people with opportunities. Open to 18-24 year olds across the UK. [www.acuk.net/firm-foundations](http://www.acuk.net/firm-foundations)

REF 1712-FOCUSR-OK1 JOB **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT VOLUNTEERS**  
 BE4 N / A LOC HINDLIP, WORCESTER & nearby nature reserves  
 PAY Learn new skills FOR WORCESTERSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

Our youth engagement team is recruiting volunteers to help deliver formal and informal outdoor learning sessions for young people between the ages of 11 - 18. We are looking for volunteers to help on a regular basis with our new Youth Group, as well as a pool of volunteers to help deliver our ad-hoc activities with uniform groups, schools and holiday activities. You can sign up to help with one or both - how much time you give is up to you. Examples of typical tasks are: leading or assisting with a range of outdoor education activities from pond dipping and mini-beast hunts, to tree ID and shelter building; supervising practical conservation tasks out on the reserves (in all weathers); helping young people to carry out wildlife surveys; helping to deliver practical activities such as bushcraft and green woodworking. Learn new skills alongside our experienced team. See <https://c-js.co.uk/2Lx8F9N> for full details. Contact Ben Rees [ben@worcestershirewildlifetrust.org](mailto:ben@worcestershirewildlifetrust.org) or 01905 754919

## Anglia:

**Help save butterflies and moths!** Heathland and meadow volunteers needed for Suffolk. Species benefiting: Silver-studded Blue, Grayling, Marbled White, Common Blue, Brown Argus, Ringlet, Small Heath etc. Work from Sep - Mar: Hay-cutting, and heathland management. Previous experience not required as training given and tools provided. Contact Helen: [helens919@gmail.com](mailto:helens919@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:lynn.allen@suffolk.gov.uk)

**LOHP Conservation Volunteer** - Join our existing team of dedicated volunteers and help restore rare fen habitat, carr woodland and dry grasslands. Anyone is welcome to join the Little Ouse Headwaters Project. Find out more at <http://www.lohp.org.uk> or contact our conservation manager Pete Fox on 07919 912045, email [pete.fox@lohp.org.uk](mailto:pete.fox@lohp.org.uk)

**Beachwatch and the Great British Beach Clean** 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](mailto:lynn.allen@suffolk.gov.uk)

REF 998-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **DRAGONFLY CENTRE VOLUNTEER**  
 BE4 Ongoing LOC Wicken Fen Dragonfly Centre, Lode Lane, Wicken, Ely, CB7 5XP  
 PAY Training FOR BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

We would like to be able to open our Dragonfly Centre at Wicken Fen every weekend and bank holiday from May-Sept every year. We need plenty of enthusiastic volunteers to help us make this a reality! If you have an interest in wildlife, like chatting to people and live within travel distance of Wicken Fen please get in touch! We would love to welcome you to our small friendly team. Full training will be given and you can do half day or full day - whatever time you can spare will be appreciated. No experience needed, all welcome! We look forward to hearing from you. Time Commitment: As much as you can give, 1 day a year or 1 day a week in the summer, it all helps us out. Contact: Fiona McKenna [fiona.mckenna@british-dragonflies.org.uk](mailto:fiona.mckenna@british-dragonflies.org.uk)

REF 2041-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **INDEPENDENT EVENTS TEAM VOLUNTEER**  
 BE4 N / A LOC ACROSS NORFOLK  
 PAY Training and expenses FOR NORFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST

On average one day per month. We are building a team of enthusiastic volunteers with excellent communication skills to represent the Trust at a variety of events throughout Norfolk. You will be supporting NWT and raising awareness of our work by providing friendly face to face contact and distributing information and events leaflets. For more information about this opportunity please visit the webpage <https://c-js.co.uk/2IUbPCv> where you will be able to download a role description and an application form or contact Alan Marchbank [alanm@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:alanm@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk) or on 01603 598360.

REF 2042-FOCUS-12/10 JOB **GREAT FEN VOLUNTARY OFFICER**  
 BE4 12/10/18 LOC GREAT FEN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
 PAY Training\* FOR THE WILDLIFE TRUST BCN

4 days a week for 12 months. Gain knowledge and experience in conservation activities from autumn, winter, spring and summer in the Great Fen, one of the most important habitat restoration projects in Europe. Half of your time spent in

restoration management (post and rail fencing, stock fencing, boundary clearance, mowing and raking. Also, step, stile, gate, hide and bridge building, signage, way-marking, ditch and pond management). The other half in one of the most wide ranging and advanced restoration monitoring programmes in the Wildlife Trusts. Including surveys for butterflies and dragonflies, aquatic invertebrates, amphibians, bats, water voles, aquatic and terrestrial plants, and helping to carry out fixed-point photography, trail cameras, and drone photography, and associated data collation and processing. \*Extensive training programme cover species identification, survey and monitoring techniques, and brush cutter and chainsaw. Email Henry Stanier, Great Fen Monitoring & Research Officer, henry.stanier@wildlifebcn.org for an application form.

REF	2043-FOCUSR-28/9	JOB	<b>MASTER GARDENER</b>
BE4	28/9/18	LOC	BRECKLAND AND WEST NORFOLK
PAY	Training / travel expenses	FOR	GARDEN ORGANIC

Do you have a passion for growing your own fruit & veg? We are looking for Volunteer Master Gardeners to spread the word of organic gardening in your local communities. Part of the Growing Communities Project, this exciting role is looking for people with a couple of years growing exp, & the ability to share your love of gardening with others. The role asks for around 30 hours volunteering a year & in return you join a growing network of enthusiastic volunteers, access to Garden Organic's fountain of knowledge plus free training & workshops. Join us for a free induction workshop on 29 & 30 September in Thetford. For more information or to book your place, contact the Project Co-ordinator breavill@gardenorganic.org.uk

REF	2044-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>SHOWING PEOPLE WILDLIFE VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	N / A	LOC	ACROSS NORFOLK
PAY	Training and expenses	FOR	NORFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST

On average one day per month. We are looking for friendly, outgoing people who have knowledge of and enthusiasm for wildlife and conservation, have good communication skills and are confident in dealing with people of all ages to raise interest in and awareness of Norfolk's wildlife by showing members of the public / visitors to sites some of Norfolk's most spectacular wildlife events. These could include Great Crested Grebes' courtship displays, Marsh Harriers passing food to each other, Swallowtail butterflies emerging, or other wildlife spectacles that you have knowledge of or interest in. For more information about this opportunity please visit the webpage <https://c-js.co.uk/2lUbPCv> where you will be able to download a role description and an application form or contact Alan Marchbank alanm@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk 01603 598360

REF	2045-FOCUSR-28/9	JOB	<b>VOLUNTEERS</b>
BE4	30/9/18	LOC	LANGTOFT, PETERBOROUGH
PAY	?	FOR	BEES FOR BUSINESS

Exciting local opportunity - would suit school leaver or individual 15+ looking for apprenticeship. Local award-winning organic honey farm is offering adhoc work experience, volunteering or apprenticeship opportunities in light gardening using an organic approach or beekeeping. Wide range of skills taught in return for assistance during the peak season. Great opportunity to learn and develop. Positions available immediately; fully insured; family farm. Applicants to apply by email and to arrange informal meeting: hello@beesforbusiness.com

## I've always thought about residential volunteering but wasn't sure because...

We asked Jane Shah, Residential Volunteering Development Officer some questions.

### How long are residential volunteering opportunities usually for?

Residential volunteering opportunities last from 1 week to 1 year.



### Do any of the opportunities include an element of professional training? And do I get certificates, proof of qualification or similar?

Some long term residential volunteering opportunities and our residential internship programme offer some professional certified training. The training offered is always role relevant, needs led and location dependent.



Volunteer at Rathlin West Light Seabird Centre, Rathlin Island, County Antrim (RSPB)

### Do you have people who've completed residential volunteering that have then become employees either with RSPB or other similar organisations?

Yes, we have a good track record of long term volunteering and our internships leading to employment in the conservation sector as a whole, not just with the RSPB. Many long term volunteers and interns are now our wardens and site managers having started their conservation journey as a volunteer.

**If I find that the placement doesn't suit me or I discover a new found passion for a different area (e.g. moving from practical countryside management into environmental education) can I change direction / placements or do I need to finish the placement or perhaps leave and reapply?**

It would depend on the circumstances and availability of other placements. We cannot always accommodate volunteer's wishes although we would always try to do so.

**If you have a family I don't suppose there are many opportunities for family accommodation is there?**  
Unfortunately the RSPB residential volunteering programme is not available to families.

**What about mobile coverage, wifi etc in the accommodation? Anything else, e.g. I'm arriving in my car what about parking? Pets?**

Most residential volunteering accommodation does not have a broadband connection, due mainly to cost and remoteness, however, we offer it where we can. Likewise mobile reception can be patchy. All accommodation has parking on site or nearby. Pets are not allowed in volunteer accommodation.

**Do you ever have problems with shared accommodation - I'm thinking about personality clashes type problems - and how do you resolve issues such as these?**

We are fortunate that problems with shared accommodation occur very rarely. There are a number of reasons for this. We do our best to manage expectations, and make it very clear in our literature what the nature of the living arrangements at each location are (shared bedrooms for example). Volunteers are asked to contact their volunteering location at least a week before arrival to discuss travel arrangements with the staff, and this gives them the opportunity to ask any questions they may have. Volunteers are encouraged to discuss any issues with their line manager as soon as they can, so that they can be dealt with quickly before they get out of hand. Volunteers and line managers have a network of support both in the regions and countries and here at HQ for confidential advice and guidance should the need arise. We also have formal RSPB policy that forms the backbone of our procedures for dealing with difficult issues.

**If I am out of work and on job seekers allowance, can I still claim if I'm volunteering away from home?**

Yes, you can claim Jobseekers Allowance or Universal Credit while you are volunteering. Usually there is a fortnightly sign on and we will accommodate volunteers who need to do this as far as practicably possible. We are sometimes able to provide information to support claims but we do not give benefits advice.

**How do a lot of your volunteers afford it, do they have some savings that they live off or can you work at the same time as volunteering, perhaps in the evening?**

Anecdotally we know that some work in advance of applying to save up to support themselves, some claim benefit and some do find part time jobs. However, residential volunteering is full time 5 days a week, and not

necessarily Mon – Fri 9 to 5. It can involve an element of weekend working and late starts/early finishes for which time off is given in lieu. We have a duty of care to ensure our volunteers do not overstretch themselves.



**Volunteers building a new boardwalk, Greylake RSPB reserve, Somerset Levels (David Kjaer rspb-images.com)**

**Can I keep job hunting whilst I'm volunteering with you? And what happens if I get a job in the middle of my placement?**

Yes, you can, and we actively encourage our volunteers to do so. The whole point of residential volunteering placements is to equip you with the skills and experience you need for employment in the conservation sector. If volunteers get jobs and leave then we count that as success!

To find out more about volunteering check out [www.rspb.org.uk/residentialvolunteering](http://www.rspb.org.uk/residentialvolunteering)

Over the page we hear from a previous RSPB Volunteer who got the job. Jeff Knot is now the Regional Director for RSPB Eastern England.

## Jeff Knott, the region's new director, says hello!

I first volunteered for the RSPB as a fresh faced teenager, when I joined the Phoenix Forum – a group of young people who help run the membership for our teenage supporters. This was a great experience which not only fired my passion for the natural world, but showed me just how vital volunteering is to the RSPB. After stints as a volunteer warden at our Blacktoft Sands and Arne reserves (I missed out on Havergate Island after the person I was supposed to be volunteering with fell out of a tree and broke their arm!), I was lucky enough to fall into a job in the policy teams at the Lodge. Eleven years later, and slightly less fresh faced, I'm incredibly excited to be starting as RSPB's Regional Director in Eastern England. I've lived in the region for the past 15 years, both while at university in Norwich and more recently in rural Cambridgeshire, so have seen first-hand, the amazing work we do and the huge contribution volunteers make. Volunteers founded the RSPB and I'm constantly amazed by how we have all built on that legacy, with the huge skill and variety of ways volunteers continue to support the organisation and drive it forward. Volunteering is at the heart of the RSPB's ability to save nature and I look forward to working alongside you all to keep that legacy going.



Jeff Knott ©Blanaid Denman

### South:

**General conservation work parties** around west Oxfordshire twice per month. 1st Saturday and 3rd Thursday every month. Check Facebook and website for details. [www.wychwoodproject.org](http://www.wychwoodproject.org) and @wychwoodproject. Contact James on [james@wychwoodproject.org](mailto:james@wychwoodproject.org) or 07584 262437.



**Become part of Westonbirt's vibrant** community of volunteers, helping to protect and enhance our landscape and welcome visitors to The National Arboretum. Our volunteers carry out varied roles across both collection care and visitor engagement. Visit [www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-volunteering](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-volunteering) to view current volunteer opportunities or email [alice.chadwick@forestryengland.uk](mailto:alice.chadwick@forestryengland.uk)

**CCV is a group of volunteers** who undertake a range of nature conservation tasks most Sundays in various reserves within a 20 mile radius of Chichester area for several organisations including Sussex Wildlife Trust, the National Trust and the Murray Downland Trust. See [www.chichesterconservationvolunteers.org.uk](http://www.chichesterconservationvolunteers.org.uk)

**Urban Rangers (11-24 yrs)** get together every other Sunday, 9am - 1pm at Morden Hall Park. We improve local green space and advocate for the environment. The team have ownership of conservation projects from start to finish, meaning that you will gain project management skills as well as learning practical conservation techniques. Call 0208 5456850 or <https://c-js.co.uk/2NnAfdK>

**Countryside Volunteer in London Borough of Bromley** with idverde  
Bromley is London's greenest Borough, and with so many countryside sites and reserves we run numerous volunteer workdays on sites such as High Elms and Keston Common covering tasks from coppicing, hedge laying, small tree felling, surveying and others. Contact: Andrew Harby 01689 853617 [andrew.harby@idverde.co.uk](mailto:andrew.harby@idverde.co.uk)

**Ashford Community Woodland Local Nature Reserve** is a 14-hectare area of woodland and grassland on the outskirts of Ashford, Kent. Volunteers are required to help maintain the site. Task Days are held on the first Saturday every month. Visit our website at <https://ashfordcommunitywoodland.org> for more details or Jenny Tippen 01233 622070

**Community Kitchen Garden Volunteer** - Fortnightly Tues, 2:30 - 4:40 and Sat, 10am - 12pm. Anyone can get involved at Morden Hall Park, Morden, SM4 5JD. There's no commitment or experience required to volunteer at community sessions. Just let us know that you're coming beforehand. Please book events 0208 5456850 <https://c-js.co.uk/2NnAfdK>

**Assistant Ranger Volunteers at National Trust's Morden Hall Park**, Morden Hall Rd, Morden, SM4 5JD  
Flexible days and times (18+). We need people that have a passion for being outdoors and want to encourage young people to share that passion. You will have a hands-on role. Please book on 0208 5456850 <https://c-js.co.uk/2NnAfdK>

**Hounslow Heath Green Gym** is a volunteer led Green Gym located in the heart of Hounslow, this incredible nature reserve containing a mix of rare acid grassland, heath, woodland, wildflower meadows and wetlands. Join like-minded people to care for Hounslow Heath every Tuesday 10.45am – 2pm. Contact details: hounslowheathgg@outlook.com

**Join our regular Tuesday group** at FSC Epping Forest. The centre buildings are set within their own grounds which include paths, woodland, lawns, ponds, raised beds, sensory and butterfly gardens and teaching facilities such as outdoor classrooms. We are seeking hard working and reliable individuals to assist with the upkeep and ongoing development of these grounds. volunteer.ef@field-studies-council.org

**Join us this autumn and winter** when we will be scrub clearing on downland, heaths and meadows. Also there's our annual visit to water meadows on the River Itchen to maintain the network of channels then watch the controlled flooding. Phone 023 92325570 or see www.hcv.org.uk

**Support FSC London to engage schools, adults & families** with the environment. Give as much or as little time as you can. Our roles can be tailored to your skills, interest and circumstances. Current roles: Education Support volunteer and Allotment & Conservation volunteer. Contact volunteer.london@field-studies-council.org

**Are you passionate about our heritage** and want to give something back? At Tattershall Castle our volunteers help us carry out all sorts of roles, from delivering education visits to helping out during exciting and busy event days. See: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tattershall-castle>. If you would like to know more contact Maggie on 01526 342543

**London Borough of Bexley offers placements** / work experience for colleges and universities. This can be offered up to 5 days a week also in blocks during college / university breaks. We will do our up most to work around the applicant's needs. To apply for this position please firstly contact: Ian Holt: ian.holt@bexley.gov.uk Phone: 07791 595248

**Wildlife For All is a nature conservation** charity with reserves in Sussex and South Africa. Our pioneering approach produces consistent project success and helps our team to be the best they can be. Please contact Becky regarding short and long-term opportunities to join our work. For more information, see [wildlifeforall.org](http://wildlifeforall.org)

**West Herts Work Party Volunteer:** We're looking for volunteers to help us with the practical management of nature reserves in west Hertfordshire. You will gain experience in habitat management, learn about the nature reserves and their wildlife, and meet a lot of friendly people with similar interests. To get more involved <https://c-js.co.uk/2MOoHAT>

**Do you enjoy working outdoors?** Would you like to improve wildlife habitats and maintain the local landscape? GreenAcres Epping Forest in North Weald, Essex runs a Volunteer Day on the last Tuesday of each month, 10am - 3pm, with training and tools provided. Wear weather-appropriate clothing and sturdy boots. Contact: [julia.rolf@greenacresgroup.co.uk](mailto:julia.rolf@greenacresgroup.co.uk)

**Volunteering opportunities at Abberton Reservoir** including tearoom, visitor centre, education, events, reserves. Join our team; meet like-minded people and help local wildlife. No experience needed. Email [abberton@essexwt.org.uk](mailto:abberton@essexwt.org.uk) or call 01206 738172.

**Pevensey Road Green Gym** is a great opportunity for local people to help maintain this beautiful nature reserve in Hounslow. Volunteer with us every Monday 10.45 - 2pm. It is a free fun way to keep active, meet people and learn new skills. Contact details: [gg-hounslow@tcv.org.uk](mailto:gg-hounslow@tcv.org.uk)

**An environmental and community charity.** Transforming lives and places in the communities we serve. Our strength lies in working in partnership with other organisations, adopting a sustainable and holistic approach, actively involving communities in the regeneration process. Volunteer enquires always welcomed! 01273 022320 [south@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:south@groundwork.org.uk) [www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/south](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/south)

**The Thanet Coast offers free training** and support for volunteer 'Coastal Wardens/Guardians' to help look after sections of coastline and monitor activities, wildlife or join practical tasks - from non-native species control, beach cleans, school field trips to helping run educational 'Seashore Safaris'. Further information: [nekmpa.org.uk](http://nekmpa.org.uk) or contact us at: [thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk)

**Support FSC Epping Forest** to engage schools, adults & families with the environment. Give as much or as little time as you can. Our roles can be tailored to your skills, interest and circumstances. Current roles: Education Support volunteer and Grounds volunteer. Contact [volunteer.ef@field-studies-council.org](mailto:volunteer.ef@field-studies-council.org)

**Volunteer with London Borough of Bexley.** Based at Lesnes Abbey Woods focusing on nature conservation within the woodland and management of the formal gardens. Tasks will include heathland, woodland, pond and meadow management alongside wildlife surveying. Woodland conservation volunteers – Every Wednesday 10am – 4pm & Garden Volunteers – Every Tuesday 10am – 1pm. Contact: Fay Smith: [fay.smith@bexley.gov.uk](mailto:fay.smith@bexley.gov.uk) 07989 135725

**Winter Wednesday Work Parties** at Chafford Gorges Nature Park - Essex Wildlife Trust. Passion for nature? Help your local wildlife! See rare plants and animals and learn Conservation techniques. Meet at Chafford Gorges Nature Park Visitor Centre RM16 6RW 9:30am - 3:30pm. Wear appropriate clothing – steel toe capped boots useful. Bring water and packed lunch. Contact: 01375 484016 or [deanw@essexwt.org.uk](mailto:deanw@essexwt.org.uk)

**Richmond Green Gym** is a unique and free opportunity for local people to get involved in transforming Mereway Nature Park and Orchard for the benefit of wildlife and the local community. Join in the group every Wednesday 10.45 - 2pm for practical conservation activities. Contact details [gg-richmond@tcv.org.uk](mailto:gg-richmond@tcv.org.uk)

**Enjoy seasonal scrub clearance**, path maintenance, woodland management, signage making (carpentry in our Horton Country Park workshop) & pond restoration task days with our great conservation crew. Task days run Tues, Weds and Thurs in North Surrey & Kingston areas. Info: [www.lowermoleproject.org.uk](http://www.lowermoleproject.org.uk); Lower Mole Partnership Facebook; Twitter @ExploreSurreyUK; call 01372 743783.

**Habitat management / surveying** for rare reptile species on SSSI Lowland heathland sites across the Surrey / Hampshire Weald. We meet every Tuesday at the Witley Centre. Contact: Ralph Connolly ARC Weald Volunteer Coordinator, ARC, Witley Centre, Godalming, Surrey GU8 5QA [ralph.connolly@arc-trust.org](mailto:ralph.connolly@arc-trust.org) 07387 261217 [www.arc-trust.org](http://www.arc-trust.org)

**RSPB Stour Estuary Reserves Work party** volunteers meet 9:30 to 3:30pm on Tuesdays or Wednesdays at Wolves Wood, Hadleigh, and Stour Wood. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers who are happy being outside in all weathers to join our friendly team to help with our essential practical habitat management work this autumn/winter. Contact Clare Westley [stourestuary@rspb.org.uk](mailto:stourestuary@rspb.org.uk)

**Enjoy seasonal scrub clearance**, coppicing, path/step work & pond restoration task days with our great conservation crew. Task days run Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs and 1 - 2 Sundays/month in NE Surrey, Croydon & Sutton areas. Also voluntary livestock checker/farm helper opportunities. Info: call 01883 341140 [www.downlandsproject.org.uk](http://www.downlandsproject.org.uk); Downlands Partnership Facebook; Twitter @ExploreSurreyUK @downygrazers

REF 1762-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **GARDENS VOLUNTEERS – WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP**  
BE4 N / A LOC FOREST HILL, LONDON  
PAY Training & reasonable travel expenses FOR HORNIMAN MUSEUM & GARDENS

The Horniman Museum and Gardens welcomes a wide range of people, including many young families, each year. We are currently recruiting volunteers for a new Gardening Group for Summer 2018. The Group will meet one Wednesday per month (9.30-12.30pm). Ideally, we are looking for individuals who are able to commit for a minimum period of 6 months and attend at least 3-4 sessions each 6 month period. It's a great way to get outside, meet new people and support the museum, focusing on a range of tasks in the Horniman Gardens under the supervision of our horticulturalists and gardeners. Volunteers should be aged 18 and over for this opportunity. Group meets around the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Please note that you will be required to attend a taster session first to find out more about the role and for us to meet you. To find out more and apply, either: visit our website <https://c-js.co.uk/2LvKexq>. Email [volunteering@horniman.ac.uk](mailto:volunteering@horniman.ac.uk) Call 020 8291 8165.

REF 2046-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **SWINGBRIDGE ENVIROBOAT VOLUNTEER CREW**  
BE4 N/A LOC SURREY  
PAY Training / expenses FOR SURREY CARE TRUST

Experience is not required as training is provided but we do need people with a good sense of humour, patience & empathy to encourage our supported volunteers who may have mental health problems, mild learning difficulties or are dealing with addiction or the aftermath of family breakdown or unemployment. Work undertaken by our crew includes cutting back overgrown vegetation to improve views, access & safety, creating wildlife havens, hedge maintenance & planting, painting lock gates, litter clearance & controlling invasive species. For more information email [swingbridge@surreycaretrust.org.uk](mailto:swingbridge@surreycaretrust.org.uk)

REF 2047-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **SULGRAVE MANOR GARDEN VOLUNTEERS**  
BE4 Ongoing LOC SULGRAVE MANOR, OX17 2SD  
PAY Expenses / training FOR SULGRAVE MANOR TRUST

One day a week or fortnight. 10-4. Sulgrave Manor has an extensive garden which was designed in the 1920s, the garden is an eclectic mix of formal Tudor style and the fashionable arts and crafts movement of the time. The estate includes a parterre, herb garden and formal lawns surrounded by herbaceous borders. We are looking for a team of volunteers who will assist in maintaining and developing all areas of the garden. Garden Volunteers will also be on hand to answer questions about the garden from visitors. Become part of a dedicated and friendly team and learn about this unique garden and its stories. Develop your skills in horticulture, plant husbandry and plant identification and gain new skills and experience. What's involved? Increasing your knowledge of Sulgrave Manor Gardens and its history; assisting the Head Gardener with all areas of garden management; acting as a guardian of the garden; answering questions from visitors. Please email Sally Munday-Webb on [sally@sulgravemanor.org.uk](mailto:sally@sulgravemanor.org.uk) to find out more.

REF 437-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB **WILDLIFE CARE ASSISTANT**  
BE4 Ongoing LOC SIDLESHAM, WEST SUSSEX  
PAY Training FOR BRENT LODGE WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

Animal husbandry, incl feeding, cleaning and provide care to wildlife patients. Assisting staff with other tasks inside the hospital as required. At least once a week. Further information: 01243 641672 [enquiries@brentlodge.org](mailto:enquiries@brentlodge.org)

REF 2048-FOCUS-28/12 JOB **TRUSTEE**  
BE4 31/12/18 LOC BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (Meetings held in Monks Risborough)  
PAY Expenses FOR CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

4-6 board meetings per year. Do you love the Buckinghamshire countryside? Are you a champion for affordable, sustainable housing & transportation - but in the right places? Please consider joining CPRE Buckinghamshire as a trustee. This is an ideal opportunity for people who live in & love Buckinghamshire & want to support our campaigns to support sustainable communities & sensible development & protect the Greenbelt & our beautiful countryside for everyone to enjoy. You will be part of the local branch of a highly regarded, national charity & feel part of a friendly & highly-engaged group. Exp in planning, media or fundraising would be especially appreciated but not required. Contact [falahiguera@gmail.com](mailto:falahiguera@gmail.com) for more information.

REF	2049-FOCUSR-OK2	JOB	<b>ROADSIDE NATURE RESERVES VOLUNTEER WARDENS</b>
BE4	N/A	LOC	DOVER, SWALE, MEDWAY & MORE
PAY	Training*	FOR	KENT WILDLIFE TRUST

Roadside Nature Reserves link existing wildlife areas, helping to reconnect and restore landscape so that wildlife is no longer struggling to survive in isolation. Our Roadside Nature Reserve Volunteers help us by participating in task days, carrying out essential work on the verges and roadside alongside our staff team. Volunteers can join us for a full or part day, and you don't need any previous experience in conservation work, so long as you are enthusiastic and willing to learn. You'll get to see the wildlife and their habitats in a totally new way! \* & practical conservation experience, develop knowledge of the ecology, reasonable expenses covered, flexible around your commitments, beneficial for health & wellbeing. To apply visit [www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteering-opportunities](http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteering-opportunities) or call 01622 662012

REF	2050-FOCUSR-19/10	JOB	<b>THATCHAM COMMUNITY ORCHARD VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	18/10/18	LOC	NATURE DISCOVERY CENTRE, NEAR NEWBURY
PAY	Limited expenses*	FOR	BERKSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE & OXFORDSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

Come when you can for monthly work parties and other occasional events such as Apple Day celebrations. The Community Orchard was planted at the Nature Discovery Centre in 2013 and now provides a natural space for picnics, celebrations or just being out in the open air. As one of our community based volunteers you will be helping to keep the trees and their associated wildlife healthy. Whether you have previous experience or not, you will be interested in learning more about fruit trees, including how to do essential tasks such as pruning. As you learn, we hope that you will be keen to share your knowledge with other volunteers and with members of the public. \*Access to free meetings, events and training for volunteers. Get outdoors and learn new skills whilst seeing this lovely orchard grow and develop. BBOWT works to secure a better future for wildlife in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. For more information about the role contact [ndc@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:ndc@bbowt.org.uk)

REF	2051-FOCUSR-19/10	JOB	<b>TEEN RANGERS ASSISTANT</b>
BE4	18/10/18	LOC	NATURE DISCOVERY CENTRE, NEAR NEWBURY
PAY	Limited expenses*	FOR	BERKSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE & OXFORDSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

One evening per month plus occasional meetings with BBOWT staff. Do you remember being a teenager, full of curiosity and determination to find your own way in the world? Our Teen Rangers (aged 12-16) are just like that and we know that taking part in activities that allow them to grow and learn as part of a group can be valuable in their development. If you can spare an evening a month to help this group of young people with practical conservation activities, learning to use tools and having a lot of fun then you could be what we are looking for. You will be gain invaluable practice in engaging and educating young people about the environment with support from our experienced team. \*Access to free meetings, events and training for volunteers. You will need to be over 18 and, whilst you will not be left on your own to lead activities, you will be prepared to follow BBOWT's policies, particularly on health and safety and safeguarding. BBOWT works to secure a better future for wildlife in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. For more information about the role contact [ndc@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:ndc@bbowt.org.uk)

REF	2052-FOCUSR-2/11	JOB	<b>RSPB STOUR WOOD PATROL VOLUNTEERS</b>
BE4	N/A	LOC	RSPB STOUR WOOD RESERVE
PAY	Travel expenses	FOR	RSPB

2-3 hours on a weekend. Patrol volunteers needed. Weekend patrol volunteers needed at RSPB Stour Wood reserve to help us keep the reserve in order and be a friendly face for visitors to the reserve. Tasks will include talking to any visitors on site, walking the trail to check for any hazards and reporting any issues back to staff, and collecting litter. You will be fully supported by our team, and provided with a uniform and name badge, along with travel expenses. To get involved and for further information, please contact Clare Westley at [stourestuary@rspb.org.uk](mailto:stourestuary@rspb.org.uk)

REF	2053-FOCUSR-OK2	JOB	<b>BUZZING BEE ROAD VOLUNTEERS</b>
BE4	N / A	LOC	SWALE, KENT
PAY	Training / reasonable expenses*	FOR	KENT WILDLIFE TRUST

1+ days per week. Making a Buzz for the Coast is an ambitious new project led by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust in partnership with Kent Wildlife Trust. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help us with our Bee Road work, helping to conserve rare bumblebees and other pollinators in the Swale. We have a number of different volunteer roles, including practical tasks on sites and wildlife monitoring. \*Training, practical conservation experience, develop knowledge of the ecology and habitat requirements of bees, reasonable expenses covered, great team environment, beneficial for health & wellbeing. To apply visit <https://c-js.co.uk/2NoGSfS>, or call 01622 662012

REF	2054-FOCUSR-2/11	JOB	<b>GREEN ACADEMIES PROMOTER VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	?	LOC	Morden Hall Park, Morden Hall Rd, Morden, SM4 5JD
PAY	0*	FOR	NATIONAL TRUST

On event days (18+). We love to get out and about in our local community to network and get involved in local events. If you love talking to people and are passionate about engaging young people with nature and wildlife then why not join our team? The role involves talking to local people and running small-scale activities at local events. \*Long-term vols get a volunteer card that gives them 20% off in all National Trust shops and cafes and free entry into all National Trust places for 1 year. To find out more call 0208 5456850 email [mordenhallpark@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:mordenhallpark@nationaltrust.org.uk) or <https://c-js.co.uk/2NnAfdK>

REF	2055-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>ANIMAL CARE ASSISTANT</b>
BE4	Ongoing	LOC	ORSETT ESSEX
PAY	Invaluable experience	FOR	SOUTH ESSEX WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

Anticipated time commitment minimum of 1 day a week. Duties include cleaning, feeding and health checking of wildlife casualties and orphans; general hospital cleaning; other tasks on a need to do basis. Contact Sue Schwar, 01375893893 [info@southessexwildlife.org.uk](mailto:info@southessexwildlife.org.uk)

REF 2056-FOCUSR-15/3 JOB **VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISING OFFICER**  
 BE4 17/3/19 LOC LITTLEMORE, OXFORD  
 PAY Limited expenses FOR BERKSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE & OXFORDSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST  
 Two weekdays per week; can be flexible to fit around your life. Last year, BBOWT secured the future for a magical area of farmland alongside the Thames in Oxfordshire. We could only do this with generous donations from individuals and organisations. Assisting our fundraising team to research potential donors or apply for funding, you can help ensure that we have the money needed to protect wildlife in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. If you enjoy a bit of detective work, feel confident about approaching donors and would love to spend time meeting people at some of our glorious reserves, then this could be the opportunity for you! You will be part of a friendly team, learning about fundraising within a wildlife charity. Access to free meetings, events and training for volunteers. For more information contact fundraising@bbowt.org.uk

REF 2057-FOCUSR-2/11 JOB **PROJECT ADMIN VOLUNTEER**  
 BE4 ? LOC Morden Hall Park, Morden Hall Rd, Morden, SM4 5JD  
 PAY 0\* FOR NATIONAL TRUST

Flexible days and times. Admin volunteers play a vital role in making the Green Academies Project run smoothly, enabling us to provide new opportunities for local young people to engage with nature. It will be a varied job that we can adapt to your skills and interests. Tasks could include; filing, creating new ways of protecting sensitive data, planning of sessions for young people, keeping the online volunteering system up-to-date, creating a brand and designing advertising for the project. \*Long-term vols get a volunteer card that gives them 20% off in all National Trust shops and cafes and free entry into all National Trust places for 1 year. To find out more call 0208 5456850 email mordenhallpark@nationaltrust.org.uk or <https://c-js.co.uk/2NnAfDK>

REF 2058-FOCUSR-15/11 JOB **LONDON LOCAL VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**  
 BE4 ? LOC HOME-BASED (LONDON)  
 PAY 0 FOR BUMBLEBEE CONSERVATION TRUST

If you have good organisational and volunteer management skills, or want to develop your skills further, learn about what we do, share your enthusiasm, and make a difference for bumblebees, then becoming a Local Volunteer Coordinator may be for you! You will encourage and support local volunteers to work together to deliver activities that raise awareness about bumblebees and how the public can help. Approximately 3-4 days per month, however this is likely to be weighted towards the bumblebee season (more in summer, less in winter). Role share will be considered. For full information please visit <https://c-js.co.uk/2QebwXl> or get in touch with us at [volunteering@bumblebeeconservation.org](mailto:volunteering@bumblebeeconservation.org)

REF 2059-FOCUSR-21/9 JOB **Volunteer Field Officer – Countryside Management & Conservation**  
 BE4 25/9/18 IV 28/9/18 LOC BEDGEBURY PINETUM / TUNBRIDGE WELLS SITES  
 PAY First aid training & other training as required, expenses paid. FOR KENT HIGH WEALD PARTNERSHIP  
 6 months from October 2018 until March 2019 (Wed &/or Thursday) Pos some Saturdays. You'll be working alongside members of our permanent staff team to support delivering scheduled tasks. We are looking for someone with an interest in and passion for, conservation, working as a team, enthusiasm for developing practical skills. You'll need to be physically fit, have a flexible approach and willing to use your initiative. In return we can provide a great opportunity for some practical and diverse work experience within a team of dedicated professionals who love what we do! We'll provide an induction, first aid and vocational training and the chance to develop hands-on skills. We'll also provide you with a uniform and PPE. This is an unpaid role but we are able to reimburse reasonable travel expenses. For more information about us please check [www.khwp.org.uk](http://www.khwp.org.uk) or call 01580 212972 Please send an email to [info@khwp.org.uk](mailto:info@khwp.org.uk) telling us why you'd like to join our team.

REF 2060-FOCUSR-15/3 JOB **VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING CHAMPION**  
 BE4 17/3/19 LOC BERKSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE OR OXFORDSHIRE  
 PAY Limited expenses FOR BERKSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE & OXFORDSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST  
 Flexible! Give as much or as little time as you can spare. We know that a personal touch goes a long way in persuading people to get involved in causes that are close to their hearts, either through cash donations or getting more actively involved. Get to know your local neighbourhood and use your approachable personality to find locations for collection tins, set up fundraising events or attend local meetings. If you can travel around your local area and would like to bring people together to raise funds for wildlife then we would love to hear from you. You will be part of a friendly team, inspiring people to look after wildlife in your local area and gaining valuable fundraising experience. Access to free meetings, events and training for volunteers. BBOWT works to secure a better future for wildlife in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. For more information about the role contact fundraising@bbowt.org.uk

REF 2061-FOCUS-2/11 JOB **SCHOOL OUTREACH SESSION LEADER VOLUNTEER**  
 BE4 31/10/18 LOC SUSSEX  
 PAY Training / expenses / uniform FOR RSPB

Once a fortnight. Do you remember the thrill of finding your first ladybird? We are looking for enthusiastic and energetic individuals with a passion for helping children connect to nature to join our dynamic Schools Outreach programme. You'll be encouraging care for wildlife and the environment by providing children with direct experience of the bugs, plants, and habitats in their school grounds. Help us inspire the next generation to save nature! Following a period of shadowing the Schools Outreach Officer we'll ask you to take the lead on delivering our hands-on, pre-designed workshops with classes of primary school children and their teachers. Contact Jodie Palmer [jodie.palmer@rspb.org.uk](mailto:jodie.palmer@rspb.org.uk)

REF 2062-FOCUS-2/11 JOB **VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**  
 BE4 31/10/18 LOC HAMPSTEAD NORREYS - OUTSIDE NEWBURY  
 PAY Travel expenses, free lunches FOR THE LIVING RAINFOREST

One day a week. You will: assist in recruiting new volunteers; carry out reference checks and interviews for volunteers; assist with volunteer inductions; authorise volunteer expenses; assist in the management of group volunteering tasks



REF	2070-FOCUS-2/11	JOB	<b>ASSISTANT TO SCIENCE OFFICER</b>
BE4	?	LOC	UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX, FALMER, BRIGHTON
PAY	To be discussed	FOR	THE MAMMAL SOCIETY

We are looking for a part-time or full-time volunteer who would like to gain experience working with a mammal charity/scientific group. The ideal candidate would be a recent graduate (or current student on part-time basis). The role will be to assist the science, media and training officers with a variety of tasks including but not limited to: sourcing, organising and checking photographic and video material; organising survey equipment; social media and outreach; tweets, contacting potential collaborators, emails, promotion, potential talks and guided walks; preparation of GIS data (if relevant); potential for a small scale scientific project calculating population density using existing data. The candidate should have: a good grasp of computer programs; good written and spoken English; a positive and friendly manner; some experience in using GIS would be beneficial but is not essential Please contact Dr Frazer Coomber science@themammalsociety.org stating CJS Volunteer Advert in subject heading.

REF	700-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>VOLUNTEER EVENTS AND GUIDED WALK ASSISTANTS</b>
BE4	Ongoing	LOC	FARNHAM & HAZELEY HEATH RSPB RESERVES
PAY	Training / expenses	FOR	RSPB

Are you able to inspire people about nature? We are looking for people to chat, help and have fun! We want to make Farnham & Hazeley Heath reserves a wonderful place for everyone. Although we do not have a visitors centre we do attend local activities and are looking for people like you who can bring the personal touch to the world of nature and be able to enthuse people about wildlife and the RSPB locally. Your tasks will be varied but will include: assisting with guided walks; helping to set up, run a small event stand and pack away afterwards; chatting to people about our heathland reserves and the work of the RSPB; assisting with creating promotional work; creating information displays. This is a seasonal role but we tend to be busier during the spring and summer. Time commitment: At least 1 day per month. Contact: Mary Braddock, RSPB, c/o Rural Life Centre, The Reeds, Tilford, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 2DL, 01252 795632, 07714 271024 mary.braddock@rspb.org.uk

REF	2071-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>TREASURER</b>
BE4	N/A	LOC	SOUTH LONDON
PAY	Travel & lunch expenses / some training	FOR	THE SOUTH LONDON BOTANICAL INSTITUTE

2-3 hpw plus 6 Trustee meetings p.a. The present Treasurer is retiring, so we are looking for a successor to direct the financial management of SLBI & lead the Finance Team (FT). An interesting & central (unpaid) trustee role. You will join a group of trustees with various skills, experiences & lead responsibilities. Duties incl: oversight of grant budgets & funds; preparation & presentation of quarterly management accounts & finance reports to the trustees; liaison with the Independent Examiner regarding Annual Accounts; contribution to Chairman's Annual Report; liaising with the SLBI Administrator to ensure accurate book-keeping & payments; reviewing & developing internal financial procedures so they are robust & user-friendly; 2-yearly review of investment policy every 2 years; contributing to drafting & reviewing fund-raising programme; drawing up & monitoring budgets for the organisation & grant applications; reviewing monthly payroll (processed externally), ensuring correct distribution against funds/budgets & authorising payments; leading the Finance Team; For further details please contact us via email: info@slbi.org.uk or tel. 02086745787.

REF	431-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>OUR PAST, OUR FUTURE VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	N / A	LOC	NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK
PAY	Travel expenses	FOR	NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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 generation to champion & care for the New Forest. Volunteers can give as much time as they would like. No previous experience or qualifications required, just a desire & passion to learn about, improve & enjoy the New Forest National Park. Contact Richard Austin, richard.austin@newforestnpa.gov.uk for more details.

REF	433-FOCUS-OK3	JOB	<b>VOLUNTEER OFFICERS &amp; LEADERS</b>
BE4	N / A	LOC	ESSEX
PAY	Work experience	FOR	THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

Role is flexible & negotiable but usually involves 2 days per week for a min of 6 months. We have 4 weekly vol groups & work with community groups across the county. Whether part of one of our action teams or helping to organise & deliver projects to improve green spaces; vols are essential to everything we do. Volunteer officers & leaders can train to lead vol 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 exp in conservation, community building, leadership exp or someone looking to use their skills to help others. All level of exp welcome. Enjoy working outdoors; passion for nature. Community orientated & enjoy assisting people. Further information from Nicola Downs, Senior Project Officer, 01206 764470, essex@tcv.org.uk

REF	2072-FOCUSR-2/11	JOB	<b>SCHOOLS LEARNING ASSISTANT VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	31/10/18	LOC	MORDEN HALL PARK, LONDON
PAY	0	FOR	NATIONAL TRUST

Inspire the next generation to learn about and enjoy wildlife by becoming a Schools Learning Assistant. We are looking for people passionate about being outdoors and discovering nature, especially insects and other invertebrates. As part of our enthusiastic team you will deliver formal learning sessions of practical and interesting activities for local primary schools and some secondary schools, following the existing programme of National Curriculum linked sessions, adapting them to specific group needs as required. Our popular programme welcomes more than 3000 pupils each year to explore the beautiful parkland with us, including its meadow and rivers, outdoor classroom and our base in the historic Snuff Mill. This role involves working with children and requires a DBS check. Current vacancies are for Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and you can apply here: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/find-an-opportunity](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/find-an-opportunity)

REF	444-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>PARK EXPLORERS VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	N / A	LOC	NATIONAL TRUST MORDEN HALL PARK
PAY	0	FOR	NATIONAL TRUST

Monday mornings during school term times. Help to lead an innovative programme of weekly activities for children aged from 18 months to 4 years and their parents/carers. Set up for sessions, using and maintaining resources and equipment appropriately, and ensuring that it is returned to its proper storage place after use. Monitor the quality of the work through evaluation and informal feedback. Manage the daily finance of the activities including taking money, recording and following financial procedures. Work with the Learning Assistant and the rest of the team to ensure that all sessions are adequately resourced and staffed in advance. Act as a good ambassador for the National Trust, providing a warm, friendly welcome to all visitors. Learn about Morden Hall Park as a whole so you can tell our visitors about it. To apply for this role, please complete the online application form on the National Trust Volunteering web page, or alternatively contact the Learning Assistant for more details at [mordenhallparklearning@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:mordenhallparklearning@nationaltrust.org.uk)

REF	449-FOCUS-OK3	JOB	<b>SURREY COUNTRYSIDE PARTNERSHIPS VOLUNTARY INTERNSHIPS</b>
BE4	Ongoing	LOC	BASED AT CATERHAM (DOWNLANDS) & / OR EPSOM (LOWER MOLE)*
PAY	Experience	FOR	SURREY COUNTRYSIDE PARTNERSHIPS (hosted by Surrey County Council)

Gain a wide range of practical conservation experience working to maintain/restore a diverse range of habitats, in particular rare chalk grassland & woodlands. Principally weekdays; we are flexible on duration/days of week. You would be principally joining in on scheduled task days, gaining essential on-the-job experience learning about targeted countryside/rare habitat management practices; helping to prepare for tasks, carpentry & opportunities to work with our Downlands Partnership grazing service; some formal training (brushcutters etc) could also be made available. We work closely with volunteers of all ages, plus school & corporate groups so excellent communication skills are required & you need to be able to work confidently as part of a small busy team. Physically demanding at times and involves working outdoors in all weathers. Full clean driving licence and access to a vehicle essential. An ideal first internship during / post countryside management studies. \*but required to work across partnerships' area (principally North / NE Surrey and in to Croydon, Sutton, Kingston). Please email your interest and CV to: [countrysidepartnershipsteam@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:countrysidepartnershipsteam@surreycc.gov.uk). Find out more: <https://c-js.co.uk/2wttDTU>.

REF	2073-FOCUSR-30/11	JOB	<b>CREATIVE ADMINISTRATOR AND ARCHIVIST</b>
BE4	?	LOC	THE LODGE, POTTON, BEDFORDSHIRE
PAY	Training and some expenses	FOR	RSPB

1-2 days per month. We have a busy in-house creative team producing a wide variety of communications for teams across the organisation. We are looking for administrative support to ensure that all our artwork, hard copy and digital, is stored and archived efficiently for future reference. Contact Hannah Ranson, HQ RSPB Headquarters, 01767 680551, [hannah.ranson@rspb.org.uk](mailto:hannah.ranson@rspb.org.uk) or visit <https://c-js.co.uk/2NWULI9>

REF	439-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>GREEN AIDERS</b>
BE4	N / A	LOC	HERTS, WEST ESSEX, CAMBS & BEDS
PAY	Training & travel	FOR	GROUNDWORK EAST

Want to volunteer outside & help vulnerable residents? Then join Groundwork's Green Aiders team! Put your skills into action with weekly gardening sessions in gardens across Hertfordshire. Get buckets of exp – two new gardens every time. Free training in gardening & power tool use. All PPE, tools, equipment, lunches & travel costs covered. To book a place, arrange a taster day or for more info Sarah Holloway, 01707 255177 [sarah.holloway@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:sarah.holloway@groundwork.org.uk) [www.groundwork.org.uk/east](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/east)

REF	2074-FOCUSR-2/11	JOB	<b>ANIMAL CARE, RECEPTION &amp; MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS</b>
BE4	N / A	LOC	LEATHERHEAD, SURREY
PAY	0	FOR	WILDLIFE AID FOUNDATION

Wildlife Aid in Leatherhead is run entirely by volunteers, we rely on a regular commitment to ensure we have enough people in to look after our patients. We are open 7 days a week & volunteers opt for a regular shift, every week at the same time. Weekend shifts can be weekly or fortnightly. Animal care: cleaning / feeding patients; setting up cages; helping vet team as needed. Reception: booking in patients; taking phone calls & giving advice; organising rescues database entry; encouraging donations & memberships; admin support for main office. Maintenance: this focuses on keeping the centre running. From re-filling & ordering food supplies to cleaning out cages or fixing a broken perch, this role is for a practical, physically fit person. We often need animal released back into the wild, so if you have a clean driving licence you can assist with one of the best bits – releases!

Please apply online: [www.wildlifeaid.org.uk/volunteer-form/](http://www.wildlifeaid.org.uk/volunteer-form/)

REF	1097-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>HEDGEROW SURVEYORS</b>
BE4	Ongoing	LOC	MAIDSTONE AREA, KENT
PAY	Training and travel expenses	FOR	OLD CHALK NEW DOWNS PROJECT, Kent County Council

We are looking to recruit a small team of dedicated volunteer surveyors to work on a hedgerow survey project. The survey is part of a bigger Heritage Lottery funded project called Old Chalk New Downs. The aim of the hedgerow survey is to ground truth a previously completed desktop study of historic hedgerows. The project will be using the "Hedgerow Survey Handbook" which is a nationally agreed methodology for recording the wildlife and cultural significance of hedgerows. For further information please contact [matthew.pitts@kent.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.pitts@kent.gov.uk)

REF	2075-FOCUSR-28/9	JOB	<b>SATURDAY VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT GARDENER</b>
BE4	29/9/18	LOC	POLESDEN LACEY, NEAR DORKING, SURREY, RH5 6BD
PAY	Travel costs up to a total of 30 miles per day	FOR	NATIONAL TRUST

Every Saturday 9.00 until 16.00. Helping in the day to day gardening to maintain and enhance the 30 acre Edwardian gardens. Apply: [plvolunteering@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:plvolunteering@nationaltrust.org.uk)

## Citizen Science: A Speedy Way to Support Wildlife and your Career?

Dr Poppy Lakeman Fraser, OPAL Senior Programme Coordinator

Are you looking for volunteering opportunities which are quick, meaningful and enjoyable? Perhaps you're looking for ideas about activities you could run with groups that you work with; activities that are fun and engaging, but also build skills and support conservation efforts? Or perhaps you are a land manager who wants to have a record of the biodiversity on your land and see whether your conservation interventions are making a difference? If so, 'citizen science' may be for you.



### What is citizen science?



**OPAL Project Officer and Citizen Scientist monitor pollinators and their habitats for the OPAL Polli:Nation Survey (OPAL)**

Citizen science is a contemporary branch of research that does what it says on the tin: citizens (no matter your level of expertise) get involved in science (partnering with professional researchers to answer questions about the world). There are a whole variety of options for taking part: from spending 10 minutes counting winged insects in your back garden with the Big Butterfly Count<sup>1</sup> to longer-term studies monitoring Tree Health with Government initiatives such as Observatree<sup>2</sup>. Many projects enable citizens to collect data to help professional scientific research, but some groups (for example, the ExCiteS<sup>3</sup> project) empower citizens to also take part in the design and analysis of collected data. The richest array of citizen science projects are in the field of ecology and conservation, however, on sites like scistarter.com you will find a whole host of projects, from monitoring litter<sup>4</sup>, searching for galaxies<sup>5</sup> to the quest for a cure for Alzheimer's Disease<sup>6</sup>.

One such programme that works across the science-learning spectrum to connect people, science and nature is the Open Air Laboratories (OPAL)<sup>7</sup>. With OPAL you can

take part in national surveys to monitor soil, water and air quality, track invasive species distribution, or record the impact that your habitat changes are having on populations under threat.

Last year OPAL celebrated its 10th birthday. Now over one million people from a variety of ages, backgrounds and professions across the UK have taken part. Citizen science has touched people in different ways as we hear from OPAL participants below.

### A student's experience

Sam first came across OPAL at the Cheltenham Science Festival with his mum. He was inspired to use OPAL Surveys for his Duke of Edinburgh award and citizen science has influenced his learning journey since:

"After doing the range of OPAL surveys I appreciated how my handful of results contributed to the big picture, and that however small my contribution, it provided another part of a large and complex jigsaw. For me, it has taken my interest into physics and is leading me towards a degree looking at the physics of biology. This would not have happened if I had not spent many hours doing OPAL surveys in a local woodland, where I started to question how a tree converts the sun's electromagnetic radiation into carbohydrates. The direction I have taken in my further studies is a direct influence of the time completing OPAL surveys and the opportunities I have had through the OPAL team. "

### A teacher's perspective

Julie first discovered the potential of citizen science when she used OPAL resources to teach science outdoors with her primary school class. Since then, her class have created pollinator havens in their school grounds and campaigned their local MPs and businesses to plant wildlife friendly habitats under their student-led Polli:Promise campaign:

"With clear instructions and wonderfully resourced packs, OPAL enables the non-specialist to monitor the natural environment in their school grounds or local green space. We began by improving bumblebee nectar sources and then through the Polli:Nation Survey, we realised the lack of butterfly and solitary bee sightings in the school grounds. Repeating the survey (after making the changes) and observing the increased biodiversity gave pupils a sense of empowerment. Armed with the evidence that, although small, they had

brought about positive change, ignited the Polli:Promise campaign. Working together on citizen science projects and campaigns, has made science relevant and developed our critical thinking. By directly learning about the state of the environment, it has, through the power of collaboration, brought about real-life change for pollinators and people.”

### A young professional's thoughts

Kiani started volunteering with one of OPALs Community Scientists (who are local citizen science experts). Working with Iwan, set her on her career path as an Ecological Consultant:

“Working with and for OPAL has moulded me as a young professional. From the very beginning Iwan gave me a lot of respect and trust. This gave me the confidence to carry out surveys and motivated me to want to teach people about the nature directly around them. After a few years I became an OPAL Champion. In turn, I started to do better on my BSc Wildlife and Plant Biology course. Within a few months of finishing my masters I was lucky enough to become an OPAL Officer for the National History Museum Wales. I worked closely with the wider OPAL organisation

to create a CPD course for teachers and a course for University students. The lessons I have learnt through OPAL are priceless and I will use them forever in my professional life. I have now started my dream job as an ecologist and I don't think I would have got here without my years of OPAL experience.”



**There's still time to take part in the OPAL Polli:Nation Survey before data are analysed this Winter (OPAL)**



**OPAL Community Champion Kiani volunteered as an OPAL citizen scientist while at University and is now working in her 'dream job' as an Environmental Consultant (OPAL)**

### Get involved

- Why not spend an hour monitoring wildlife and planting pollinator food sources in your local green space by taking part in the OPAL Polli:Nation Survey<sup>8</sup>. Butterfly Conservation and Imperial College London will be analysing results this Winter and need you to help out!
- Why not also checkout online tools such as the OPAL Data Explorer<sup>9</sup>, where interactive maps and graphs allow you to explore your local patch and compare your survey findings with those of other sites around the UK.
- Why not share your ideas about ways in which science could be made more accessible for you. The NERC funded OPENER project<sup>10</sup> run by the University of Reading is building a community of practice around citizen science and welcomes your thoughts.

### Links:

- 1 <https://www.bigbutterflycount.org/>
- 2 <https://www.observatree.org.uk/>
- 3 <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/excites>
- 4 <https://openlittermap.com/en>
- 5 <https://www.zooniverse.org/>
- 6 <https://stallcatchers.com/>
- 7 <https://www.opalexplornature.org/>
- 8 <https://www.opalexplornature.org/polli-nation>
- 9 <https://www.opalexplornature.org/dataexplorer/>
- 10 <https://research.reading.ac.uk/openupsci/upcoming-events/>

### South West:

REF	2076-FOCUS-5/10	JOB	<b>EXMOOR VOLUNTEER RANGER</b>
BE4	5/10/18	LOC	HOLNICOTE ESTATE, EXMOOR
PAY	Accommodation / training	FOR	NATIONAL TRUST

6 to 12 months. As a member of the ranger team on the stunning 12,500 acre Holnicote Estate you will gain experience in a huge variety of practical conservation skills working on high moorland, in ancient oak woodlands and on coastal habitats. You will also assist with the co-ordination and management of local volunteers, help deliver events and various wildlife surveys including dormice, bats and butterflies. We pride ourselves on providing a first class volunteer ranger experience, offering comprehensive structured learning throughout the year. To apply please email [robert.manicom@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:robert.manicom@nationaltrust.org.uk) with your CV and covering letter.

REF	458-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	Ongoing	LOC	PLYMOUTH & SURROUNDING AREA
PAY	Training	FOR	PLYMOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION (PEA)

We carry out a variety of projects including: tree planting; beach cleans; species & habitat surveys; wildlife pond creation; hedgelaying; invasive plant species management (e.g. rhododendron, parrotfeather, Himalayan balsam etc.); coppicing (a traditional woodland management technique); dry stone walling, to name but a few! Events each weekend, but no requirement to commit to a certain number of days. You will gain valuable nature conservation skills in countryside management, such as how to create & restore important habitats for wildlife & people. You will also gain other key skills such as communication, team working & leadership. If you are really keen you may want to progress to become a Volunteer Project Officer (VPO) & get more involved 'behind the scenes' planning & leading practical projects & social events. You don't need to have any skills, experience or abilities to join as a volunteer; all you need is a love of the outdoors & be a good team player. Find out more from Chris Bond, plymouthenvironmentalaction@hotmail.co.uk [www.pea-volunteering.co.uk](http://www.pea-volunteering.co.uk)

REF	2077-FOCUSR-15/11	JOB	<b>DEVON LOCAL VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR</b>
BE4	?	LOC	HOME-BASED (DEVON)
PAY	0	FOR	BUMBLEBEE CONSERVATION TRUST

If you have good organisational and volunteer management skills, or want to develop your skills further, learn about what we do, share your enthusiasm, and make a difference for bumblebees, then becoming a Local Volunteer Coordinator may be for you! You will encourage and support local volunteers to work together to deliver activities that raise awareness about bumblebees and how the public can help. Approximately 3-4 days per month, however this is likely to be weighted towards the bumblebee season (more in summer, less in winter). Role share will be considered. For full information please visit <https://c-js.co.uk/2QebwXl> or get in touch with us at [volunteering@bumblebeeconservation.org](mailto:volunteering@bumblebeeconservation.org)

REF	459-FOCUS-OK3	JOB	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	N/A	LOC	CORNWALL
PAY	Training	FOR	WILD FUTURES THE MONKEY SANCTUARY

Minimum stay is two weeks & maximum three months. Help clean the monkey enclosures, prepare their food & enrichment. Help with children's workshops & in the café, gardening & help in the day to day running of the sanctuary. No quals or experience required, just a willingness to be involved. More details from Antony Williams [will@wildfutures.org](mailto:will@wildfutures.org)

REF	2078-FOCUSR-2/11	JOB	<b>VOLUNTEER GARDENER</b>
BE4	N / A	LOC	PURBECK, DORSET
PAY	Travel expenses	FOR	NATIONAL TRUST

We have a range of gardens where clearing & planting are carried out, but the main activity is a newly developed well-resourced kitchen garden which provides vegetable produce for the National Trust café & tearoom through the seasons. This is a great chance to get to know the area better & make a real difference to our gardens. Usually Fridays, once a week or fortnightly if preferred. This role will suit people who have some experience of gardening & enjoy working as part of a team. It will suit most levels of physical strength & gardening knowledge as there are a wide variety of tasks. Please contact Rachel Rodman, Volunteer Officer, 01929 452306.

REF	2079-FOCUSR-2/11	JOB	<b>CASTLE RANGER</b>
BE4	N / A	LOC	CORFE CASTLE, PURBECK, DORSET
PAY	Travel expenses	FOR	NATIONAL TRUST

Volunteer Rangers assist in helping to achieve the Trust's twin objectives of conserving our special places & helping people to enjoy & understand them. You will develop a good knowledge of the property, its history, landscape, archaeological & biological importance. Support the Castle Ranger to maintain the fabric & grounds. Welcome visitors by providing information & helping make their visit enjoyable. This role will suit people who enjoy practical outdoor tasks working as part of a team in a varied & stretching role, & liaising with visitors. Once a week on Mondays, 9.30 am to 4.00 pm. Induction training & risk awareness to be provided. Please contact Ranger, Rebecca Eddy, 07768 766702 [rebecca.eddy@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.eddy@nationaltrust.org.uk)

REF	461-FOCUS-OK3	JOB	<b>RESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	N / A	LOC	MAGDALEN FARM, WINSHAM, CHARD, SOMERSET
PAY	Accom. incl meals & training	FOR	MAGDALEN ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

A 132 acre organic educational & therapeutic centre that welcomes c. 4,500 visitors of all ages & abilities in a residential & day visit capacity. For the last 25 years we have engaged with & educated visitors using nature & the farming environment as our resource; it is fun, inspirational & innovative. Most of the help required is horticultural. There is also animal care which involves feeding up & putting our lovely poultry to bed! We always have the need for help with conservation & construction such as building wooden bridges. Time: 3 weeks to 2 months. We teach volunteers basic animal care, seasonal horticultural skills & organic vegetable growing. Experience not essential as we can teach you. As we are in a rural setting & not a community you will need to be fairly self-sufficient & being sociable is really important too. Self-motivated, enthusiastic, committed & willing to get involved. Contact [rebecca@magdalenfarm.org.uk](mailto:rebecca@magdalenfarm.org.uk) to request a volunteer application pack.

**We run weekly volunteer days** that give you the chance to meet new people, learn a new skill, connect with nature and get active in beautiful and inspiring surroundings alongside the River Dart in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Contact Lucy Bell, Volunteer coordinator, The Sharpham Trust on 01803 731802 [volunteer@sharphamtrust.org](mailto:volunteer@sharphamtrust.org)

**We offer a range of year round volunteering** opportunities on Exmoor. From helping with our Dark Skies Festival to recording historic buildings and peatland restoration, discover a wealth of volunteer opportunities with both us and our partner organisations on the Get Involved section of our website [www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk)

**Help us stop an alien invasion** on Exmoor! The River Barle is an important site for spawning salmon, trout, kingfishers, otters and many fungi, lichens and algae. We need volunteers to help control invasive species such as Signal crayfish and Himalayan Balsam, along the river. For more information contact [getinvolved@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](mailto:getinvolved@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk)

**Wildlife Gardening and Land Management Placement** - help us to manage and develop the demonstration borders and wildlife habitats at Avon Wildlife Trust's community & learning hub to provide inspiration for others. Gain valuable experience in horticulture and practical habitat creation. Tuesdays &/or Wednesdays, 10 - 4pm, min 4 month commitment desired. <http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteer>

**We have an active weekly programme** of practical volunteering at Carymoor with groups meeting on Tuesdays. A wide range of tasks are undertaken from hay-raking to potting up wild flowers and tree planting. All necessary training provided. No previous experience is necessary. For more info email [neil.gemmell@carymoor.org.uk](mailto:neil.gemmell@carymoor.org.uk), phone 01963 350143 or visit [www.carymoor.org.uk](http://www.carymoor.org.uk)

**Practical Conservation volunteer opportunities** - joining our Practical Conservation groups is a great way to gain more experience with hands-on conservation in action. Our Pollinator Corridors Team works with local farmers and landowners to restore grassland for wildlife, people and livestock, across the county. Thursdays and alternate Tuesdays. <http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteer>

**Practical Conservation volunteer opportunities** - Our Wild City Action Team is working to help manage the diverse range of local wildlife sites across Bristol. Fortnightly Tuesdays and one Saturday a month, departing at 9.30am. For further please visit our website <http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteer>

**Would you like to meet people**, develop your practical skills, gain local knowledge, keep fit - mentally and physically, and improve the local environment? Volunteer at Burrator Reservoir with SWLT. Lots of opportunities to join in other charity activities, including school visits, family sessions, public events and helping in the Visitor Centre. Emily [heritage@swlakestrust.org.uk](mailto:heritage@swlakestrust.org.uk) 01822 855700.

**EuCAN Dorset Mid-week Volunteers** go out every Wednesday and work includes hedgelaying, drystone walling, fencing, heathland restoration, habitat management and invasive species on NNRs and SSSI's within Dorset's AONB, and occasionally just beyond. We fund brushcutter, chainsaw, and other courses where possible. Find out more on 07763 923545 [eucan.dmv@gmail.com](mailto:eucan.dmv@gmail.com) <http://c-js.co.uk/2r1tFPD>

**Practical conservation volunteer group**, working on Local Nature Reserves in Bristol, and private land around the county linked to the B-lines project. Tasks vary depending on the season, all tools provided and no experience required! Tuesdays, Thursdays and one Saturday per month. Please contact [louise.treneman@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:louise.treneman@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk) for more information.

**National Trust Devon Lop and chop!** Family hedgelaying day on Saturday 13 October 2018 (10am - 3pm) at Lower Halsdon Farm in Exmouth. Help with sawing, lopping and chopping to keep our hedges strong and healthy! Hedgelaying has been carried out for hundreds of years, and now the whole family can have a go. Call 01752 346585

**Wildflower Nursery Placement** - join the team at Avon Wildlife Trust's wildflower nursery in Stapleton to gain experience in horticulture and learn about the growing needs of some of our native wildflowers. Wednesdays 10 - 4pm, minimum 4 month commitment desired. <http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteer>

**National Trust Devon Countryside Ranger day:** Hedgelaying on Tue 13 Nov 2018 (10am - 3pm) at Lower Halsdon Farm in Exmouth. Try your hand at a new countryside skill, rejuvenating hedgerows for the local wildlife. Using traditional tools learn the art of hedge-laying with a hands on practical day. Call 01752 346585

## National:

REF	2080-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>Resilience for Natives - Volunteer Mid Wales, Ceredigion &amp; Gwynedd</b>
BE4	N/A	LOC	HOME BASED
PAY	Training and equipment loaned	FOR	BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

Time: Weekly to daily. The project, continues BASC conservation work with trusted partnerships and collaborations including the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales and Bangor University. The project is looking to recruit local people, including BASC members, to establish networks of volunteers to monitor and remove mink in four key areas for water vole in Ceredigion and one in Gwynedd adjacent to the Menai Straights, and improve habitat for water vole in key locations. The project will also continue to support the Mid-Wales Red Squirrel Project by further developing the grey squirrel control network around the Tywi Forest area, and assessing the effectiveness of using volunteer surveys to assess the level of tree bark damage from grey squirrels. See <https://basc.org.uk/conservation/green-shoots/green-shoots-in-wales/> for further details and registration form.

REF	2081-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>DRAGONFLY RECORDER</b>
BE4	N/A	LOC	HOME BASED
PAY	?	FOR	BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

The British Dragonfly Society (BDS) needs your help in protecting Britain's Dragonflies. Join the DragonflyWatch and record Dragonflies at your local wetland sites. Your records will help the BDS monitor the health of Dragonfly populations across the county, identifying important sites, and influencing conservation action. Beginners are always welcome and advice, and support, is available to those who need it. BDS recorders are also encouraged to pursue other volunteering activities for Dragonflies, depending on their personal interests, including fundraising, engagement, research, and practical habitat management. Visit [www.british-dragonflies.org.uk/content/get-involved](http://www.british-dragonflies.org.uk/content/get-involved)

REF	2082-FOCUSR-OK3	JOB	<b>MASS ENGAGEMENT EVENT VOLUNTEER</b>
BE4	Ongoing	LOC	MIDLANDS, SOUTH EAST ENGLAND, WALES
PAY	Expenses	FOR	WOODLAND TRUST

The Events Programming Team work nationally across the Woodland Trust to deliver mass audience events which raise brand awareness of the Woodland Trust. The aim is to engage and inspire those audiences about the aims and work of the Woodland Trust and to encourage them to get involved and support our cause. Based at any location across the UK, you will have the opportunity to utilise your communication and people skills to volunteer alongside the staff at the event to engage with large audiences and support our delivery of events around the UK. As part of our events team you will: be part of the staff rota for an event; attend pre-event briefing calls over the telephone / video conferencing; engage with the public and deal with questions and enquiries at the event; give post-event feedback so each event can be evaluated going forward; collect names and addresses of members of the public; help with tidying up after the event. This is a challenging and rewarding role which offers you the chance to learn more about woods and play an important role in this People Engagement team. Ongoing support will be available from your volunteer manager. Visit <https://c-js.co.uk/2w7hT78> for further information.

REF	2083-FOCUS-OK3	JOB	<b>Nature's Calendar Champion - Lead Student Recorder</b>
BE4	Ongoing	LOC	UK WIDE
PAY	Expenses	FOR	WOODLAND TRUST

Lead and coordinate student recording for our Nature's Calendar project. In this role volunteers will be working with the conservation team to create support for Nature's Calendar within their university. The lead student will be expected to coordinate and oversee the recording of their fellow students. We see this as an opportunity for lead students to develop their skills and knowledge. This role is ideal for volunteers who want to use initiative, plan and identify how their university can contribute to Nature's Calendar. Nature's Calendar is a Woodland Trust citizen science project which tracks species responses to climate change. We have biological records that date back to 1736. By becoming a lead recorder you'll be contributing to this long dataset, while also helping scientists to answer important questions regarding the effects of climate change in UK wildlife. Visit <https://c-js.co.uk/2MSO17M> for further information.

**Marine Invaders are here!** Did you know that our seas in the UK are being invaded by an intriguing array of animals and seaweeds? You can help us find out where they are by taking part in our Capturing Our Coast Marine Invader surveys Visit <http://www.mba.ac.uk/marineinvaders/> for more info.

**Lots of marine animals are changing** the time of year that they breed in response to warmer or cooler waters. Capturing Our Coast are interested in how this varies around the UK and you can help! Interested? Visit <https://c-js.co.uk/2x34ttg> to download your activity pack and spot signs of beach babies.

**Do you have a smartphone?** Yes – then download the CoastXplore app for FREE from iTunes or Google Play and help us to collect valuable data on how we use our coastline. CoastXplore is a monitoring tool designed to recording coastal activities for the conservation and future management of our coastline. Find out more from Dr Nicky Dobson on 07496 477417, [cocoast@hull.ac.uk](mailto:cocoast@hull.ac.uk)

**Create Open Data** on Plastic Pollution Anywhere @ [OpenLitterMap.com](http://OpenLitterMap.com)

**Sustrans is the National charity** that works with families, communities, policy-makers and partner organisations across the UK making it easier for people to walk and cycle. Our Volunteers support our work in all sorts of ways. Take a look at our website for more information on the roles we have available – <https://c-js.co.uk/2MTax1g>

**Are you passionate about woods** and trees and the nature and wildlife that they support? If so, we would love to hear from you! We have lots of exciting volunteering opportunities – woodland wardens, guided walk leaders, event volunteers and more - available in various locations throughout the UK. Please visit our website for further details and to apply! <https://c-js.co.uk/2NhisBQ>

**Interested in moths?** The Garden Moth Scheme is a citizen science project devoted to recording moths in our gardens. Moths are vital indicators of biodiversity, the health of our cities and countryside. Join a group of 400+ recorders who have contributed to several peer-reviewed research articles. web: [www.gardenmoths.org.uk](http://www.gardenmoths.org.uk) email: [gardenmothscheme@gmail.com](mailto:gardenmothscheme@gmail.com)

**Back from the Brink** is an ambitious project spanning England, from Cornwall to Northumberland. For the first time, 8 conservation organisations have come together to save 20 of England's most threatened species from extinction. With 19 projects spread across the country, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved: [naturebftb.co.uk](http://naturebftb.co.uk)

**Volunteer Management Training:** Training online and offline that builds our skills for involving people in the projects and causes we believe in. Courses from one hour to two days covering recruitment, support, difficult situations, retention... I have 20 years' experience, see [www.rebeccatully.co.uk](http://www.rebeccatully.co.uk) for more.

**Beewatch** - Get involved and help researchers find out which plants bumblebees like. This new interactive tool helps you explore the plants favoured by all our different bumblebee species. You can use this for planting advice or just to learn more about plants, bumblebees and environmental concerns surrounding pollinator decline. <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/research/beewatch>

**The Dung beetle UK Mapping Project (DUMP)** and the Oxford University Museum of Natural History need you! Help conserve British dung beetles by submitting sightings with a good quality close-up photo of top/bottom surfaces to <https://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord>. For downloadable identification resources and more, visit <https://dungbeetlemap.wordpress.com> or follow us on Twitter @Team\_DUMP

**International:**

**MovingWorlds.org** helps skilled professionals find places around the world to volunteer their skills in exchange for a free place to live. From 1 week to 1 year, you can find a project that makes a real impact, and gives you the experience of a lifetime! Learn more at <https://movingworlds.org>

**Join our Philippines coral reef** marine expedition, learn how to scuba dive, and identify a plethora of marine species; and contribute to the creation of marine protected areas. No prerequisites required, just a love of the ocean and an enquiring mind! Contact us at [info@coralcay.org](mailto:info@coralcay.org) for more details.

**Openmind Projects** is a Thai NGO, focused on education, environment, and poverty and gender equality with a Training Center in Thailand, organizing learning camps for underprivileged Southeast Asia children and welcoming volunteers and interns. Contact [info@openmindprojects.net](mailto:info@openmindprojects.net), Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OpenmindProjects/>

**SEED Madagascar** offers unique and challenging volunteer placements in Madagascar. Whether your passion is sustainable community development or vital conservation work, we can offer you an unforgettable experience led by an award-winning team of project coordinators. Find out more at <https://madagascar.co.uk/volunteer>

REF F2084-FOCUS-19/10                      JOB **VOLUNTEERS**  
BE4 18/10/2018                                LOC POLISH BALTIC COAST  
PAY 0    FOR OPERATION BALTIC

Volunteers welcome on a bird ringing camp on Polish Baltic Coast. You have an opportunity to support one of the oldest bird ringing schemes of the World - Operation Baltic. You will help to handle caught birds, identify and ring them as well as with measuring and data entry tasks. You will get to know and distinguish every caught species by direct contact! To apply: send an email to Joanna at [wildareas@gmail.com](mailto:wildareas@gmail.com) and introduce yourself - you will receive a detailed Infosheet and the Application Form. More info: [www.wildareas.net](http://www.wildareas.net)

REF HOL-FOCUS-2/11                            TITLE **VOLUNTEER WITH AFRICAN BAT CONSERVATION**  
DATE All year round                            BASE MALAWI  
COST £960 for 2 weeks\*                      WITH AFRICAN BAT CONSERVATION

Join us in Malawi to conduct ground breaking bat research & conservation. We are a small charity with a big task ahead & need as much help as we can get. Whatever your background, there is plenty you can contribute with a range of activities to match your interests & abilities. Volunteer or join as a student or intern. You can join for periods of 2 weeks to one year. We offer a variety of MSc / PhD project options across our sites & provide lab facilities, research equipment & expert onsite supervision. Gain new skills including bat mist netting, bat handling, wing punch sampling, acoustic surveys, emergence counts, mitigation work, endoscope work. You gain lots of skills towards your NE/NRW bat license in a short time. Our camps are based in wildlife reserves, Lake Malawi & the hub of city life in Lilongwe. \*Students £816 for 2 weeks, Bat Group discount £864 for 2 weeks. Price increases per additional week. For more information & an application pack visit [www.africanbatconservation.org](http://www.africanbatconservation.org) or email us at [volunteer@africanbatconservation.org](mailto:volunteer@africanbatconservation.org)

REF HOL-FOCUS-2/11                            TITLE **VOLUNTEER WITH CARNIVORE RESEARCH MALAWI**  
DATE All year round                            BASE MALAWI  
COST £960 for 2 weeks, students £816 for 2 weeks                      WITH CARNIVORE RESEARCH MALAWI

Carnivores in Malawi are threatened both inside & outside protected areas from poaching, snaring & persecution. We are a small charity & the only carnivore research organisation working in Malawi to conserve carnivores across the country. Volunteer with us & be part of a unique opportunity to work alongside internationally renowned research scientists & assist in applied conservation research & community conservation. Our volunteers undertake a range of carnivore surveying & monitoring activities, as well as community education & awareness activities. Whatever your background, there is plenty you can contribute with a range of activities to match your interests & abilities. Volunteer or join as a student or intern. You can join for periods of 2 weeks to one year. We offer a variety of MSc / PhD project options across our sites & provide lab facilities, research equipment & expert onsite supervision. Gain new skills including field research techniques such as camera trapping, individual ID recognition, large mammal transects, spotlighting, den searches, hair cross section analysis. For more information & an application pack visit [www.carnivoresearchmalawi.org](http://www.carnivoresearchmalawi.org) or email [volunteer@carnivoresearchmalawi.org](mailto:volunteer@carnivoresearchmalawi.org)

REF HOL-FOCUS-2/11                            TITLE **SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION TRAINING CAMP**  
DATE VARIOUS                                    BASE COSTA RICA  
COST US\$16 per day which incl accommodation & food                      WITH VOLUNTEER LATIN AMERICA

This project provides early-career biologists & conservationists with the opportunity to gain valuable hands-on experience collecting data on nesting sea turtles & hatchlings (green, olive ridleys, leatherbacks & hawksbills). Aside from studying sea turtles, researchers catalogue other wildlife, including monkeys, jaguars, crocodiles & birds, & monitor threats to local biodiversity. Benefits: gain valuable hands-on conservation experience; volunteer with an experienced research team; close encounters with sea turtles & other wildlife; wonderful natural working environment; low-cost volunteer abroad programme. You can view further information on the VLA website: [www.volunteerlatinamerica.com/](http://www.volunteerlatinamerica.com/)

**The next Focus will look at Employability: how to make you the most employable you can be. Articles will give advice and information on how to get that job in this sector; as you know it's not the easiest sector to break in to. Remember to look out for the Focus in association with Lantra in November and if you have a subject you'd like to cover, if you can offer us an article or if you'd love to find out the answer to.... Please get in touch with Amy on [focus@countryside-jobs.com](mailto:focus@countryside-jobs.com) or 01947 896007.**

<b>Key:</b>	REF	CJS reference no. (advert 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

Main text usually includes: Description of Job, Person Spec / Requirements and How to apply or obtain more information

**CJS Suggestions:** Please check the main text to ensure that you have all of the required qualifications / experience before you apply. Contact ONLY the person, email, number or address given use links to a job description / more information, if an SAE is required double check you use the correct stamps. If you're sending a CV by email name the file with YOUR name not just CV.doc

**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 on 17/9/18.**

The CJS Team would like to thank everyone who has contributed adverts, articles and information for this CJS Focus publication.  
Next edition will feature Employability, published 19 November 2018

A4 sides this CJS Focus: 37    Adverts: 123    -    Details believed correct but given without prejudice, Ends.