



Countryside Jobs Service

Focus on Volunteering

In association with the National Trust

24 August 2015

Volunteering in the Outdoors with the National Trust



The National Trust owns over 250,000 hectares of land and 775 miles of coastline. Our recently launched strategy outlines our ambition to restore a healthy beautiful natural environment over the next ten years, through improving the condition of our own land; working with partners on landscape scale projects; developing a new economic model for land use in the UK; and engaging people in the issues facing our environment.



Family Volunteers re-chalking a white horse ©National Trust Images / James Dobson

Delivering this vision will require a motivated, skilled and passionate group of staff and volunteers. There are multiple ways of getting involved in volunteering with the Trust, whether you have a spare half-day or can commit to regular days. We are increasingly finding that people want more flexible volunteering opportunities to fit in with their busy lifestyles, as well as ways to develop their skills. These case studies illustrate a few examples of how volunteering has led to employment in outdoor roles with the Trust.

Will Hawkins – Assistant Ranger

Will Hawkins has a background in music and performing arts, regularly playing in bands and as a solo artist. He used his spare time in the day to pursue his interest in conservation. An initial meeting with the local team coincided with their planning for a local 'Gig in the Garden' festival, so Will was instantly able to provide help, advice and contacts from his experience at other festivals. This led to him volunteering regularly and realising he wanted to work in the outdoors.

Will successfully applied for a place on the Trust's Ranger Academy¹. The Academy combines practical work experience with academic study at Reaseheath College and certified training to give students all the experience they need for a job as a Ranger. Will now works at Strangford Lough where he puts his previous performance skills to great use. He was commissioned by the Head Ranger to produce a promotional video for the

launch of their new barge designed to ferry livestock and machinery to the 25 islands and extensive shoreline on the property. Will filmed and edited the footage and then played the accompanying music. You can see the video here: <http://c-js.co.uk/1IWZrx6>

Jane Lancaster – Coast and Community Ranger

Jane Lancaster used her experiences as a volunteer Working Holiday Leader to help her become a Ranger, after a 20 year career in banking. The Working Holiday² programme is the longest running volunteering opportunity in the Trust, having started in 1967. These holidays offer a great way for people to develop their practical skills with a busy lifestyle, or



Jane Lancaster ©National Trust Images / Phil Hanmer

indeed move on to become a leader, as Jane did. Leaders are responsible for looking after participants, ensuring everyone has a great time and working with the local Rangers on conservation tasks.

Running holidays on the Northumberland coast enabled Jane to return regularly to an area she visited as a child and gave her a head start when apply for a job with the team. The leadership, engagement and practical skills Jane learned as a Leader were instantly transferable to the Ranger's role. You can follow Jane on Twitter (@LancasterJane13) to hear more about her life as a Ranger.

Sarah Crawcour – Visitor Services Manager



River Wey Navigations ©National Trust Images / Chris Lacey

Sarah Crawcour now works for the Trust as Visitor Services Manager at The River Wey Navigations in Surrey. Previously Sarah worked for the British Council, encouraging overseas students to study in the UK, but wanted a career that offered more variety. She came to the National Trust through volunteering at Marsden Moor, as part of her master's degree in Countryside Management. She used her passion for horticulture and event management experience to help them organise their annual plant fair, which in turn led to being offered a short-term paid contract. Sarah says the people engagement and administration skills honed in her previous career are key to her success in her current role. The experience of working in a large organisation like the British Council is also useful in understanding how the various departments of the National Trust work together.

In addition to these case studies, we have a voluntary intern programme and a number of full-time volunteering opportunities. Our intern programme is designed for those people seeking a development opportunity to boost their skills and experience. Intern roles are between 3-6 months, with a maximum commitment of 22.5 hours a week. All of our intern roles have a project focus, so you finish experience having clear deliverables you can put on your C.V.

Our full-time volunteering roles are designed to give people experience of the day to day running of a site, though they may have a project element to them as well. They tend to be 6-12 months long, to enable volunteers to experience different seasonal tasks.

To find out more about the range of volunteering opportunities with the National Trust, visit our web site here³. If you can't see what you are looking for, or you have skills to offer us that we may not have considered, please contact your local National Trust place. All of our jobs are listed on our jobs website⁴ – you can set up email alerts to let you know when new roles are advertised.

Editor – and of course with CJS



Volunteers working on a footpath ©National Trust Images / Rob Clarke

Links:

- 1 http://www.nationaltrustjobs.org.uk/join-us/training-schemes/tell_me_more
- 2 <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/holidays/working-holidays/>
- 3 <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/>
- 4 <http://www.nationaltrustjobs.org.uk> (NT Jobs website)

National:

Buglife are looking for volunteers: Accountancy support, Administration support, Community fundraiser, Data processor, Photo librarian, Planning adviser, Policy researcher, Event helper, Public speaker. We are also in need of volunteers to assist with planting and other groundwork a suitable family activity. Register your interest for these roles info@buglife.org.uk more <http://c-js.co.uk/1LfYQu9>

People's Trust for Endangered Species runs several surveys which can be done in your own time and local area. These include Living with Mammals, Mammals on Roads, Dormouse Monitoring, Water Vole Monitoring, Great Stag Hunt, Traditional Orchard Survey and the National Hedgehog Survey. Please visit www.ptes.org/surveys or call 0207 4984533.

Lost: millions of nurdles. Have you seen them on a beach near you?

Nurdles are small plastic pellets used by industry to make nearly all our plastic products. Accidental spills result in large numbers being washed out to sea. Mistaken for food, animals eat them and the toxins coating them. The Great Nurdle Hunt is working to help prevent this. By carrying out a simple survey on your local beach you can help us identify where nurdles are being washed up. Tips on how to hunt and where to send your data can be found at www.nurdlehunt.org.uk.



We are an environmental conservation group, who perform practical conservation work on National Trust properties at weekends, throughout England and Wales. Free accommodation provided. Typical cost £10/weekend. For info see <http://www.lwmntv.org.uk/> or email info@lwmntv.org.uk.

Grow your own through volunteering – the RSPB approach

I write this on a calm and sunny day at Dungeness, a real rarity for the unique open waters and shingle plains of this part of south Kent.

Dungeness is slightly unbelievable in itself, but I still find it hard to believe that I'm the Site Manager of this beautifully uncompromising landscape.



The work party at RSPB Dungeness taking a break from meadow management (RSPB Dungeness Staff)

Becoming a Site Manager had always been my ambition, so in order to develop the skills and experience I needed I have taken on a variety of paid roles at some of the best nature reserves the UK has to offer.

But, as anyone in the conservation sector can attest to, competition for paid employment in this sector is fierce, so in order to make that first step on the 'conservation career ladder', I knew I needed as much experience as I could get. There are many ways to go about this, but the route I took was through the RSPB's Volunteer Internship Programme.

I was part of the scheme's third year in 2006. Then it involved three reserves in the north of England and three Intern placements, which rotated throughout the year term. Now, of the

42 RSPB reserves with residential volunteer facilities, 12 are involved in internship schemes, offering 23 placements each year.

In contrast to standard long term residential volunteering placements, volunteer internships look for a greater level of engagement on the part of the intern. They also involve a more rigorous selection programme. But in return the participants receive a tailored training and development programme, including land based skills, careers coaching, habitat management instruction and project management.

For me the element that sets volunteer internships apart is the responsibility that is offered to participants. The aim of the scheme is to develop future members of staff, so the best way to do this is to treat interns as members of staff as soon as possible, with the associated trust and expectation.

REF 313-FOCUSR-OK2 JOB **TEACHER NATURALIST**
 BE4 Ongoing LOC FALLS OF CLYDE, NEW LANARK
 PAY 0 FOR SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST
 DES Up to 2 days per week, will vary. SWT deliver Outdoor Learning Experiences to hundreds of school children every year & we need help in doing this. The Ranger team gets up to all sorts of activities at the Falls of Clyde & at schools in the local area. The main themes incl birds in winter, peregrines, minibeasts, trees & plants. BUT Ideally suited to someone interested in teaching with familiarity of the curriculum, however enthusiasm is the most important element required. Experience working / being with primary school children, patience required. ASK <http://bit.ly/1gv1d9>

REF 536-FOCUSR-OK2 JOB **TREE NURSERY VOLUNTEER**
 BE4 Ongoing LOC COIGACH-ASSYNT
 PAY All on the job training provided FOR SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST
 DES Help us prepare the next generation of forest cover in Coigach Assynt area of Scotland. A great chance to do something for the future by helping at our tree nursery & carrying out all aspects of tree propagation from collection of seed to sowing, weeding, lifting & grading & maybe even planting out! BUT Available for between 1-3 days per week & be happy working in an outdoor environment. ASK See volunteer page on SWT website www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk

REF 341-FOCUSR-OK2 JOB **VOLUNTEER VISITOR CENTRE ASSISTANTS**
 BE4 Ongoing LOC LOCH OF THE LOWES, DUNKELD, PERTSHIRE
 PAY None FOR SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST
 DES Help us provide live interpretation & excellent customer care to visitors to the visitor centre at Loch of the Lowes during the osprey & visitor season. Help promote the Trust, provide information, work in the shop & encourage visitors to become members. Full on the job training provided. BUT Should be available 2-3 hours per week & weekend availability particularly welcome. Must be confident talking to the public, have a polite & friendly manner & have reasonable ID skills. Previous retail experience useful. ASK See volunteer page <http://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/>

REF 2366-FOCUSR-30/11 JOB **HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS**
 BE4 Ongoing LOC SCOTLAND WIDE
 PAY Travel expenses negotiable FOR SCOTTISH WATERWAYS TRUST
 DES / BUT Scottish Waterways Trust is Scotland's national waterways charity. Work with our Canal Officer for Cultural Heritage undertaking a variety of work on Scotland's five canals (based in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, Kintyre & Inverness). For those who love practical work outdoors, we can offer a variety of hands-on conservation projects that will help protect & enhance the canals' historic buildings & structures. We can also offer opportunities in historical research, producing interpretation material & more! No previous experience necessary. We provide all tools & equipment & H&S instruction. ASK Gemma Wild, Canal Officer for Cultural Heritage, gemma@scottishwaterwaystrust.org.uk 07795 315434.

REF 2367-FOCUSR-OK2
 JOB **GROWING VOLUNTEERS**
 BE4 Ongoing to Feb 2016
 LOC Whitmuir Community Farm, Lamancha, Scottish Borders
 PAY Training
 FOR Whitmuir Community Farm / Whitmuir Community Farm Benefit Society



DES Ideally day or half day weekly. Longer placement opportunities depending on the applicant & time of year. Join the 2000m² – Food for One Year community project based on an organic farm. Working with community volunteers you will be growing on a 2000m² plot & polytunnels. Receiving informal training with a trained horticulturalist & growing mentor you will grow a range of produce. Tasks include sowing, preparing ground, potting on, harvesting produce, weeding / generally maintaining the growing areas. Education & outreach is a key part of our work. If interested volunteers may also be invited to support school visits & outreach sessions with the Grower & Project Manager. We have a target to save 30 tonnes of carbon in one year through: piloting a rural food waste recycling scheme with 60 households; testing a farm compost system & working with Scottish Bio Fuels; working with local schools; cookery, food sharing & composting workshops. BUT Enthusiasm; interest in growing / horticulture; ability for tasks (adapted where appropriate to volunteer capacity); good communication / ability to work outside in polytunnels; access to transport (we may be able to offer lifts). ASK www.facebook.com/whitmuircommunityfarm www.whitmuircommunityfarm.org To apply please send a short email to contact@whitmuircommunityfarm.org explaining why you would like to volunteer with the project & what you hope to gain from it. Please include a contact phone number.

REF 2368-FOCUSR-11/9 JOB **VOLUNTEER LEARNING ASSISTANT**
 BE4 10/9/15 LOC GLASGOW
 PAY Travel expenses & training FOR RSPB SCOTLAND
 DES 1 day or half a day per week during term time. We'll give you training & experience to build your confidence in helping children have wonderful hands-on experiences with nature & inspire them to be involved in creating a world richer in nature. You'll be part of a small friendly team of staff & volunteers. The learning team deliver outdoor learning programmes to schools which support Curriculum for Excellence (primary & secondary). This outdoor learning will be delivered mainly in Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow or Glasgow schools & occasionally South West Scotland schools We can potentially give you an opportunity to develop skills & gain experience which may assist you to explore further a career in education & / or outdoor learning. BUT Experience of working with children & young people & a willingness to assist & possibly lead on delivery of some elements programmes. Confidence & experience of leading groups of children & young people beneficial but this is an opportunity to gain valuable experience. ASK sandra.aird@rspb.org.uk or hannah.grist@rspb.org.uk Please email to arrange a time to come in for an informal chat & meet us.

Tuesday & Wednesday Mid-Week volunteer groups

Stirling, The Conservation Volunteers Contact: Rosie Walker 01786 479697, rosie.walker@tcv.org.uk,
<http://blogs.tcv.org.uk/tcv-scotland/tag/stirling/>

Help us with our valuable and exciting conservation work across the Stirling area! We can offer a great opportunity to gain practical conservation experience. We provide all travel to and from worksites, H&S instruction and supervisions as well as all tools, no previous experience necessary.

North Ayrshire Council Countryside Ranger Training – The Next Generation

The young people on North Ayrshire Council's Pilot Ranger Programme might just be half way through their course- but already it's had a life-changing impact on the four people involved in the year-long process.

So far one trainee has gone on to join Police Scotland intending to focus on wildlife crime, whilst another is being 'fast tracked' as he has gained a place



Ashley takes part in some interpretation training (North Ayrshire Council)

on an HND course in Countryside Management. The two remaining trainees are expected to complete their CPD training by the end of November.

The Council is one of the first local authorities in Scotland to offer group training to this number of young people through the Scottish Countryside Rangers Association Continuing Professional Development Programme.

Each of the apprentices were allocated a mentor for the year, who they have been 'mirroring' and assist in the provision of a full service for Eglinton Country Park and other areas within North Ayrshire.

As trainee Countryside Rangers, the young people carry out a number of duties, including:

- Promoting an understanding of the countryside through organising guided walks, illustrated talks, events and themed activities for schools, youth groups, community groups and the general public
- Planning and creating habitats to conserve plants and animals
- Tree planting, pond management and other practical tasks
- Carrying out field surveys to monitor changes in the environment
- Patrolling sites to help visitors and to discourage poaching or damage to the environment
- Managing exhibitions and resource centres
- Taking part in community projects
- Working with local landowners and businesses whose activities may affect the environment
- Keeping records and writing reports

It's been a great start to the programme - but plans are in place to try and make it even more successful.



The four apprentices Stuart English, James Hek, Charlotte Alston, Ashley Wathan (North Ayrshire Council)

The programme – a joint project between North Ayrshire Council Countryside Ranger Service and SCRA - started in December 2014 and saw the local young people embark on an intensive Countryside Ranger skills development programme.

It was to provide them with basic skills in preparation for various HNC or equivalent courses in countryside management and to carry out the role of Countryside Ranger.



James is on his knees carrying out some drainage training (North Ayrshire Council)

But the training programme comes on top of existing staff workloads and is currently a significant additional financial burden on their service.

So it has been decided that the current CPD programme is not sustainable without being developed into an SVQ.

The service has the support of the SCRA, the North Ayrshire Council Economic Development team and the Scottish Rural University College to investigate this option.

North Ayrshire Council leader Willie Gibson said: "Within North Ayrshire Countryside Ranger Service we are equipping our trainees with knowledge and skills to suit their commitment to conservation, interpretation and education. The programme is proving to be highly effective with both staff and trainees finding the work challenging but rewarding. There has been a lot of positive feedback from both the apprentices and the staff themselves who say the apprentices have re-energised them and given a renewed passion for their work.

Whether the apprentices end up working with the Council or not they will be taking on valuable skills which will only benefit them for the rest of their life. We can enhance the programme which

leads to long-term employment, greater confidence and improved job prospects for young people. We also believe that this programme has the potential to be utilised UK wide with some tweaks re: countryside law and historic legislation training."

Feedback from Staff

Staff were consulted about the apprenticeship programme back in January 2014, in order to ensure their agreement and commitment to the concept. Samples of feedback so far include:

- 'The enthusiasm and motivation of the trainees can have a positive impact on members of staff, re-igniting similar qualities.'
- 'In order to train the trainees we are encouraged to refresh our own knowledge and study areas that may not be our specialties, thus benefitting our own CPD's.'
- 'I first felt that four trainees were going to be a bit much but this number has proven to be beneficial. They have created their own dynamics and look to each other for support both during written tasks and conservational work.'
- 'Additional skills, abilities from the apprentices eg, Social Media and IT, energy, enthusiasm and youthfulness is imparted to the existing Ranger staff.'
- 'On the whole, feel having trainees is a positive experience so far, and all have settled in well.'
- It is a wonderful opportunity for us all, but it's not for the faint hearted. There is a constant fear that we will fail them or that they will falter. But the 'what ifs' and the 'maybes' will only be encountered as we progress, and until then, like a journey into the unknown, we're as prepared as we can be, and game for anything.....bring it on!'



Stuart and Charlotte take pride in their newly-constructed fence (North Ayrshire Council)

Please follow the young people's experiences on our Eglinton Park Facebook Page.
Cameron Sharp, Countryside Manager, North Ayrshire Council.

Wales:

REF 2370-FOCUS-2/10 JOB **OBSERVATORY ASSISTANT x 2**
 BE4 N / A LOC BARDSEY ISLAND, GWYNEDD, WALES
 PAY Boat cost of £38. Need to bring own food for a month FOR BARDSEY ISLAND OBSERVATORY
 DES Two birders needed for autumn, each for four weeks in either September or October. BUT Must be good with people, tidy & have very good bird ID skills. ASK www.bbfo.blogspot.com

REF 2371-FOCUS-4/12 JOB **VOLUNTEERS**
 BE4 N / A LOC WELSH MOUNTAIN ZOO, COLWYN BAY
 PAY In house training FOR NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WALES
 DES Minimum 6 months. Do you love animals or have you got green fingers? Do you enjoy working with children, or have you got a flair for raising funds? Or would you like to put your ID skills to the test with our Native Species? The Welsh Mountain Zoo is looking for volunteers in all departments (Animal, Gardens, Education & Fundraising) to join our team. You can volunteer for as little as 2 hours a week, & this can be flexible to suit you. Animal volunteers must work a minimum of 1 full day (8am – 5pm) a week. Some of the work involved is strenuous & volunteers need to be physically fit. In return we can offer you the opportunity to learn new skills, gain valuable work experience, make new friends & give something back to a local charity, all in a fantastic location. Membership of ZSW after 12 months. BUT Must be over 16 years of age (no maximum age). Excellent communication & team working skills. Empathy with zoo animals, & an interest in the zoo & its work. Good customer service for dealing with visitors. ASK education@welshmountainzoo.org

REF 2372-FOCUS-2/10 JOB **PLANNING MONITORING ASSISTANT**
 BE4 1/10/15 LOC DINGESTOW, MONMOUTHSHIRE or working from home
 PAY Some training provided FOR GWENT WILDLIFE TRUST
 DES Excellent voluntary opportunity to provide support for our planning casework; responsible for investigating & recording the outcomes of our planning work, so that we can monitor & improve our effectiveness. Flexible times, we estimate half day or evening per week. Some availability within 9-5 working hours an advantage. BUT We are looking for someone who is polite – a good phone manner & email writing skills; IT literacy including Outlook, Word & Excel; methodical & with strong attention to detail; ability to analyse & think critically – all essential. Knowledge of the planning system desirable. ASK Dipti Patel, Volunteer Co-ordinator, dpatel@gwentwildlife.org 01600 740600.

REF 2373-FOCUSR-OK2 JOB **WELSH SEA WATCHERS**
 BE4 Ongoing LOC All across Wales
 PAY 0 FOR SEA WATCH FOUNDATION
 DES The Sea Watch Foundation needs your help to record cetaceans across Wales & raise awareness of whales, dolphins & porpoise within Welsh waters. Volunteer can choose to hold land watches & collect data, attend or organise events, going into schools to talk & helping raise awareness of Sea Watch's work. There is also the possibility to join Sea Watch on boat based surveys! Time: any free time volunteers can spare. BUT No experience needed. Anyone living in Wales can volunteer & it is an opportunity to see a wealth of marine life on our coasts. ASK Matt, Sea Watch Wales Development Office, mathew.clough@seawatchfoundation.org.uk http://c-js.co.uk/1TRrRks

This September, you can Be Involved, Be Proud and Be Tidy with Keep Wales Tidy!
 Be Tidy is about everyone playing their part in keeping their community clean and tidy. You can register your own event at keepwalestidy.org, or join an existing one. By registering, you'll receive a free goodie pack! #dontfeedsimon

Help needed to maintain our magnificent wildflower meadows and our wonderful woodlands for both wildlife and people. Please come along and join our nature reserves volunteer work party on regular conservation tasks. For dates see: www.brecknockwildlifetrust.org.uk/events.html for more information see our website, call 01874 625708 or email: enquiries@brecknockwildlifetrust.org.uk

Do you note the first cuckoo in spring? Notice how invasive species are spreading? Can you tell a hare from a rabbit?

And even if you can't but want to then you can become a Citizen Scientist.

What's that?

Citizen science can broadly be defined as the involvement of volunteers in science.

Sounds complicated?

It's not. Sign up to iRecord by the Biological Records Centre (<http://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/>) and follow the instructions, there's even a training mode so you can make sure you're doing it right before you start sending your sightings. You can send details of one-off sightings or do a complete survey of an area. Even if you're not sure what it is you've seen you can still include your sighting, one of the fields is the level of certainty. Obviously the more detail you can include the better and photographs are an added bonus, as specialists can check your sighting and confirm the identification if necessary.

If you're an absolute beginner then iSpot, run by the Open University, is the one for you, it's even simpler than iRecord and is focused more on identification of what you've found; there is even a range of identification keys (<http://www.ispotnature.org/keys>) and a lovely friendly forum.



Enter a casual record

Date: Select the date of the record.

Recorder Name: Enter the recorder's name, if different

Species: Enter the species name using * as a wildcard

Certainty: How certain of this identification are you?

Quantity: Provide an indication of the abundance

Sex: Please indicate the sex of the organism, if recorded

Stage: Please indicate the life stage of the organism, if recorded

Identified By: If anyone helped with the identification please enter their name here

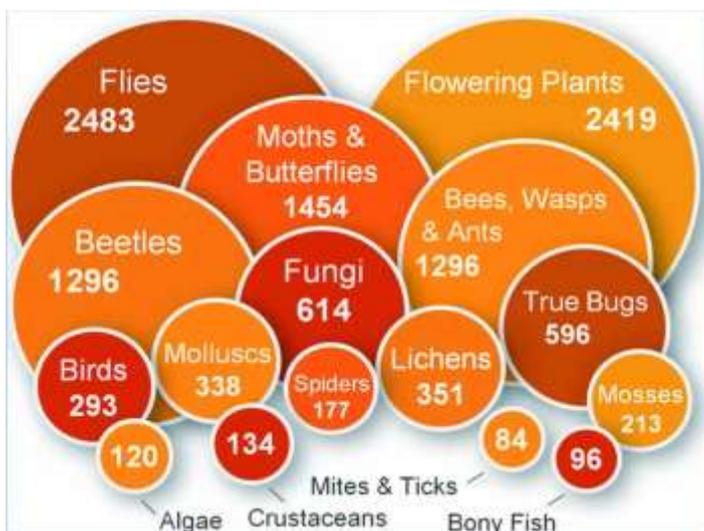
Photos:

CJS screen grab

If you have a smartphone it's even easier. There are a range of apps available for both apple and android to help you. Many of them come complete with a built-in identification guide. CEH has a range of apps, from butterflies to mammals (which are surprisingly under-recorded) and even one with the British Geological Survey for soils. They're incredibly easy to use and the built-in guides are a handy reminder for everyone.

So why bother?

The records submitted to iRecord are used for many different research purposes. The full dataset is available through the NBN Gateway, the central repository of biological occurrence data (that's the technical term for your submitted sightings) and is a platform for sharing that data with policy makers, researchers, students and other recorders.



Numbers of species in iRecord (Tom August, CEH)

BRC and the volunteer schemes have worked together to gather and analyse wildlife observations for 50 years providing evidence to underpin science, policy and practical conservation. During 2007, volunteer observers for biodiversity surveillance in the UK were estimated to contribute time in-kind worth more than £20 million.¹

The number of people submitting wildlife sightings online is increasing dramatically. The taxonomic breadth of data collected through iRecord on behalf of recording schemes is unrivalled. The quantity and quality of data offers great opportunities for research and conservation but also presents many technological challenges.

It's because of the value of these records that organisations such as BRC and partners have put time and effort into building easy to use websites and apps.

The development of a smartphone app for recording ladybirds has enabled the UK Ladybird Survey to attract new recorders. More than 9,000 records have been submitted in its first year. The recently released iRecord Butterflies app received more than 4,000 records within a month of being available. Verification and validation methods within iRecord provide quality assurance and onwards flow of data.²

The Conker Tree Science project engaged over 8,000 people. People were invited to report the occurrence of the horse chestnut leafminer (*Cameraria ohridella*). The project enhanced understanding of the invasion dynamics of this moth, the associated parasitoids and the value of citizen science.²

New apps are being developed all the time and sometimes it's not just to look at the distribution and frequency of species. In May 2015 the Lichen App was released; it aims to monitor air quality by identifying the presence or absence of nitrogen sensitive and non-sensitive lichens on tree trunks and branches. Lichens can be difficult to identify but this app places emphasis on use of indicator species at the easier end of identification and are least likely to be confused with other species.

And what do you get out of it?

Other than a lovely warm fuzzy feeling of having done something good to help the conservation sector you mean? Well it's an excellent way to practice your survey skills, to learn to identify new species, meet people if you join one of the organised bioblitz events and of course it's a fantastic thing to be able to include on your CV.

Footnotes, sources:

1. Tweddle, JC, Robinson, LD, Pocock, MJO, Roy, HE, (2012) Guide to citizen science: developing, implementing and evaluating citizen science to study biodiversity and the environment in the UK. NERC/Centre for Ecology & Hydrology ISBN: 978-1-906698-37-9
2. <http://www.brc.ac.uk/theme/citizen-science>



Photo: CEH

Northern Ireland:

Volunteer Now is the lead organisation for the promotion, development and support of volunteering across Northern Ireland. To find a wide range of volunteering activities available in the area of Environmental and Conservation go to www.volunteernow.co.uk and in the volunteer search panel choose an area of interest.

North East:

REF 2374-FOCUS-22/1 JOB **PROJECT SUPPORT VOLUNTARY OFFICER**
 BE4 24/1/16 LOC YORK
 PAY Training FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS
 DES 3 days per week minimum for at least 6 months. To join our busy York Midweek Volunteers Project. You will assist with volunteer recruitment, producing publicity material, updating social media, task planning & updating of records & safety systems for a range of sites over the wider York & North Yorkshire area. This post is an ideal opportunity for someone interested in project organisation involving volunteers to gain experience & training in the range of skills required. We provide a range of formal training including first aid & team leadership as well as work based training. BUT Enthusiasm, flexibility & reliability! Adaptable, friendly & approachable, & keen to assist with the office based aspects of running the York Midweek Volunteer project. Some knowledge & interest in conservation would be advantageous, but not essential, as long as you are willing to learn. A driving licence would also be useful but not essential. ASK TCV York Office, 01904 644300 g.dixon@tcv.org.uk

REF 2375-FOCUS-22/1 JOB **PRACTICAL CONSERVATION PROJECTS – VOLUNTEER OFFICER**
 BE4 24/1/16 LOC YORK
 PAY Training FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS
 DES 3 days per week minimum for at least 6 months. Volunteer Officers are involved with co-ordinating & supervising practical projects. This includes working with schools, colleges & community groups as well as regular volunteers & work experience individuals. The scope of practical work is very broad & includes such tasks as tree & hedgerow planting as well as small construction projects such as ponds, raised beds & footpaths. You will develop practical skills & a knowledge base that can be transferred to other professions as well as formal training courses. You will experience all aspects of planning & co-ordinating practical tasks & groups of volunteers in many different locations throughout the York & North Yorkshire region. BUT Friendly & approachable personality, willing to help & assist volunteers with practical tasks as well as be willing to get stuck in with the practical work. Any skills or experience with practical work or volunteers groups of this nature would be a benefit, but not essential, as well as general IT & admin. skills. A full clean driving licence is also a benefit as driving to / from site will be required. ASK TCV York Office, 01904 644300 g.dixon@tcv.org.uk

REF 2376-FOCUS-18/9 JOB **RANGER TEAM LEADER**
 BE4 N / A LOC HARDCASTLE CRAGS, HEBDEN BRIDGE, WEST YORKSHIRE
 PAY Internal training package. Travel expenses. FOR NATIONAL TRUST
 DES 8 – 12 months. Join our fantastic volunteer team at Hardcastle Crags. The role is for 2 days a week, assisting our ranger with all aspects of practical conservation work & helping lead our conservation volunteers on different tasks. These will include: firewood processing, footpath maintenance, charcoal-making, fencing, ecological surveying & scything. A brilliant opportunity to gain experience in all types of seasonal conservation work with the National Trust. An internal & partnership training package will be available to you. BUT Happy being outdoors in any weather; strong leadership skills & a commitment to a career in countryside. ASK Contact Jess on jess.wharf@nationaltrust.org.uk or call 01422 841022.

REF 2377-FOCUSR-OK2 JOB **MARINE & COASTAL VOLUNTEERING**
 BE4 Ongoing LOC LIVING SEAS CENTRE, FLAMBOROUGH or SPURN NNR
 PAY 0 FOR YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST
 DES Our Living Seas Centre has now doubled in size to promote the fantastic marine life off our own coast of Yorkshire, & has some amazing opportunities for volunteers to become involved. Do you have a passion for the coast or marine wildlife? Could you be the 'face' for our Centre as a welcome volunteer, ensuring visitors have an incredible experience; or perhaps assist with our active education & events programme? Or would you feel more at home on the beach & organise a beach clean or complete a survey of our amazing marine life? Our reserve at Spurn is evolving & has some remarkable volunteer opportunities. How about becoming a 'Safari Driver' along the reserve! Maybe a roving ranger talking to visitors about the reserve & the diverse species present, or indeed welcome visitors to the site & become the 'face' for Spurn. Time commitment flexible. BUT Enthusiasm, an interest in marine / coastal life, some previous experience, category C1 or B for safari driver role. ASK www.ywt.org.uk/volunteer-east
volunteering@ywt.org.uk

REF 2378-FOCUS-11/9 JOB **TRUSTEES**
 BE4 15/9/15 LOC SHEFFIELD & ROTHERHAM
 PAY 0 FOR SHEFFIELD & ROTHERHAM WILDIFE TRUST
 DES We are looking for at least 2 new Trustees to join our Board, bringing with them the skills & dedication needed so we can continue to protect local wildlife & help people care for & connect with nature. You will need to be able to attend the annual general meeting & at least 4 Board meetings per year, which will require some preparatory work. BUT Enthusiasm & passion for wildlife are important be we especially need people with the right skills to help govern the Trust &, in particular, with professional expertise in one or more of the following areas: accountancy; company & charity law; environmental law; fundraising; health & wellbeing; HR law; premises & facilities development; retail or commercial expertise & business development; safeguarding children & vulnerable adults. Some experience of working as a decision-making group is vital & a good local knowledge of Sheffield & Rotherham would be of great benefit. ASK www.wildsheffield.com/become-a-trustee Chat / to register your interest: Liz Ballard, Chief Executive, 0114 2792658 l.ballard@wildsheffield.com To find out about our current trustees: www.wildsheffield.com/who-we-are

REF 2379-FOCUS-11/9 JOB **VOLUNTEER PROJECT ASSISTANT**
 BE4 10/9/15 LOC HOLLYBUSH CONSERVATION CENTRE, LEEDS
 PAY Training & up to £4 a day travel expenses FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS (TCV)
 DES 6-12 month placement. Our Volunteer Project Assistants play a vital role helping our Project Officers improve green spaces around Leeds & West Yorkshire, & helping deliver sessions in practical conservation. We understand what employers in the sector look for. Our in-house training package is geared towards those requirements. Individual development plan & regular progress reviews with your mentor. Formal training includes safeguarding, first aid, leadership & risk assessment. Gain experience in administration, including event management, publicity & budgets. Learn to deliver practical sessions to groups of volunteers with diverse needs. PPE bought up to the value of £40. BUT Enthusiastic about conservation, improving the environment, gaining new practical skills & working with people. Wanting to gain the skills for employment in the environmental sector. Excellent communication skills; willingness to work with a wide variety of people. Full UK / EU driving licence held for at least 2 years desirable. Enhanced Disclosure check. ASK Jess Kandola, 0113 274 2335 j.kandola@tcv.org.uk

REF 353-FOCUSR-OK2 JOB **PIN BADGE SCHEME AREA CO-ORDINATORS**
 BE4 N / A LOC NORTHERN ENGLAND
 PAY Travel & out of pocket expenses FOR RSPB
 DES 4-8 hours per month. We are looking for Pin Badge Scheme Area Co-ordinators in the following areas: Mid Cheshire, Manchester, Kirklees, Harrogate & Wakefield. We want you to help us maintain a healthy & steady stream of income through the Pin Badge & small change donations. This role requires you to engage with a team of 5-10 pin badge collecting volunteers within these areas, ensuring they bank their money accordingly & are happy in their role. Using our new online system you will be able to look at straightforward reports for your scheme & discuss with your regional community fundraiser. You will meet new people, create new friendships & work as a team. You will also be part of the biggest fundraising volunteer group; Northern England has over 300 volunteers bringing in £180,000 a year! BUT Friendly & assertive character, happy to meet new people & travel to different locations. Time is completely flexible. You need a computer with access to the internet as data is now entered online. No knowledge of birds required! ASK Vicki on victoria.lamb@rspb.org.uk or 01524 581017.

Friends of Bradford's Becks (An affiliate of Aire Rivers Trust) are looking for volunteer monitors in the Bradford area (W. Yorks) for the 'Reducing Urban Pollution in Bradford Beck' project, please contact: fobbpollution@gmail.com

Volunteer opportunities are available in the Gardens and Parkland of Nostell Priory & Parkland. Contact Michael Warrington, Volunteer Coordinator (michael.warrington@nationaltrust.org.uk) for further information.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's National Nature Reserve at Spurn is evolving so why not take part and join us on our task days, from building boardwalks to scrub management. Dates coming up are:- 9th September; 14th October; 7th & 15th November; 2nd December. Further information available from volunteering@ywt.org.uk

North West:

Wednesday 26 August Birkrigg Stone Circle Bracken Clearance Work Party
 Ulveston, Morecambe Bay Partnership Contact: Louise Martin 07760 881581, louise@morecambebay.org.uk
 Help clear bracken from this important ancient monument site near Ulverston and remove it to Ford Park. For more information about this or future work days at this site.

Join Chester National Trust Volunteers for a day: detailed on our website: <https://chesterntv.wordpress.com/> CNTV do voluntary work at NT sites across Cheshire, Marches, Wirral - three days per fortnight. Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday groups. Previous experience unnecessary, job for everyone, Tools provided, friendly welcome – Brian Payne, briansue.payne@btinternet.com

Cheshire Wildlife Trust is looking for volunteers across the organisation and throughout, Cheshire, Stockport and the Wirral. We have a variety of opportunities from conservation practical work tasks, to surveying, to reception and administration duties, and events management and membership sales. Contact Beth Alvey on 07793 249564 or volunteering@cheshirewt.org.uk

North Lancs Volunteer Days. Weekday and weekend volunteering days across the Trust's North Lancs nature reserves, throughout the year. Range of practical conservation work in a wide variety of habitats, including brownfield, woodland and mossland. For more information contact sryder@lancswt.org.uk, tel. 01524 855030

The National Trust has a variety of roles in wardening, footpath work, conservation and learning projects across various places in the North West. Help us to care for some of Britain's most stunning and vulnerable landscapes. To find out more, please contact nw.volunteering@nationaltrust.org.uk or tel 0161 9280075

REF	2380-FOCUSR-4/9	JOB	HERITAGE OPEN DAY VOLUNTEERS
BE4	1/9/15	LOC	NORTHWICH, CHESHIRE
PAY	Full induction provided	FOR	GROUNDWORK
DES	Are you passionate about Cheshire's industrial & natural heritage & want to promote its wildlife, wild spaces & working history? We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help the team deliver the first Heritage Open Day in Northwich on Saturday 12/9/15. The day will tie in with national event Heritage Open Day with a wide variety of activities, talks, tours & street performances provided free of charge for the public to enjoy & engage in their local landscape & heritage. There are a number of activities, you could be assisting with bush craft, hosting show stands & helping people get from A to B, running interpretation stop points to engage people about the area's industrial or natural heritage or even taking photographs & film making. Volunteers will be helping across 5 exciting sites: Northwich Community Woodlands, Anderton Boat Lift, Northwich Town Centre, the historic Weaver Hall & newly renovated Lion Salt Works Museums. We would like to talk to anyone interested in helping at the event & will try to accommodate any particular interests & any access issues. BUT No qualifications / experience needed, just lots of enthusiasm & a willingness to talk to people.		
ASK	Sarah or Alison, 01606 723160 sarah.perry@groundwork.org.uk www.saltscape.co.uk/heritage		

REF	2381-FOCUSR-12/1	JOB	Volunteer Information Assistant & Volunteer Countryside Ranger
BE4	N / A	LOC	ACROSS LANCASHIRE
PAY	Travel expenses & training	FOR	LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
DES	Active & enthusiastic people with an interest in wildlife & history are needed to join our Volunteer Ranger Service, to assist staff & engage with the public across our 93 countryside recreation sites. Volunteer Information Assistants will help visitors, get involved with events & education sessions, with opportunities to develop knowledge about the heritage & wildlife of Beacon Fell Country Park. Volunteer Rangers will patrol varied sites including cycleways, nature reserves, coastal footpaths & former quarries, carry out practical tasks & help maintain routes across Lancashire. The role would suit people who enjoy working outside throughout the year in small teams. Hours 10am to 4pm with commitment ranging from once a month to more regularly for those with availability & skills. Full training programme includes first aid & navigation skills. BUT Some experience of practical conservation management is desirable but not essential as full training is provided. ASK http://c-js.co.uk/1EzBGXN		

REF	2382-FOCUSR-18/9	JOB	LEARNING SUPPORT VOLUNTEER
BE4	N / A	LOC	RIBBLE DISCOVERY CENTRE, LYTHAM ST ANNES, LANCASHIRE
PAY	Health & safety training	FOR	RSPB
DES	Our learning programme aims to give school children the chance to experience nature first-hand. We are looking for people to assist with making sure the children get most out of their visit. The Ribble Discovery Centre, which we run in partnership with Fylde Borough Council, offers a unique hands-on & fun learning experience. With opportunities to uncover the secrets of the Ribble estuary mud & the creatures that call it home, practical field work on the sand-dunes, there are opportunities at all key stages. All year round, but mainly March to October. Minimum commitment approx. 1 day a week during summer term. BUT Confidence & ability to lead or facilitate a fun & active day's education programme; keen interest in wildlife, conservation & the environment, but no expertise required. Enthusiasm for outdoor education & a willingness to learn new skills; resourceful & flexible approach to be able to cope with a wide variety of ages & abilities; abundant enthusiasm & excellent communication skills; able to work in a busy team & independently; good organisational skills; ability to use email, internet & word processing. Out of classroom teaching experience & some ecological knowledge of habitat types & of the local history of the area an advantage. ASK Claire Critchley, 01253 796292 claire.critchley@rspb.org.uk		

REF	2383-FOCUS-18/9	JOB	VOLUNTEER GARDENER x 2
BE4	N / A	LOC	DUNHAM MASSEY, CHESHIRE
PAY	Accommodation available	FOR	NATIONAL TRUST
DES / BUT	6-12 months, 4 days per week. Working with our garden staff & volunteers you will help with all aspects of caring for our beautiful garden as well as helping with propagation work in our new glasshouse nursery. We offer a wide range of opportunities to increase your practical skills base at one of the National Trust's flagship properties. This is a great opportunity for someone starting a career or looking for a career change to add valuable practical experience to their CV. ASK Emily Chandler, 0161 4923966 emily.chandler@nationaltrust.org.uk		

with children & adults to help them gain an appreciation for wildlife. You must be reliable & willing to be outside in all weathers. ASK Hannah Thomas, 01905 75491 or hannah@worcestershirewildlifetrust.org

REF 969-FOCUS-OK2 JOB **FENN'S MOSS NNR VOLUNTARY WARDEN**
 BE4 Ongoing LOC Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR, & NNR Base (N Shropshire)
 PAY Travel expenses FOR NATURAL ENGLAND & NATURAL RESOURCES WALES
 DES Great opportunity to assist with the restoration of part of Britain's 3rd largest lowland raised peat bog. The NNR is 690ha & straddles the English / Welsh border, 4 miles from Whitchurch, Shropshire & 10 miles from Wrexham. Role is varied & can incl practical estate & habitat management tasks, surveying / monitoring, assisting with events / guided walks & office projects. Protective clothing provided & in-house training. BUT Suitable for a student looking for a work placement or someone wanting to gain further experience in the conservation sector. Reliable & enthusiastic, keen interest in wildlife & conservation, physically fit & prepared to work outdoors. ASK Peter Bowyer, Reserve Manager, peter.bowyer@naturalengland.org.uk 01948 880362 www.naturalengland.org.uk

REF 2385-FOCUSR-18/9 JOB **GROUP CO-ORDINATOR WOLVERHAMPTON**
 BE4 18/9/15 LOC WOLVERHAMPTON
 PAY Training, public transport expenses FOR SUSTRANS
 DES The Wolverhampton volunteer group require a group co-ordinator to bring the local volunteers together, to motivate & co-ordinate the group's activities. There are currently 10 volunteers in the group. As the group co-ordinator you will be expected to: put together & regularly re-visit a group plan with your group & carry it out such as signing & basic maintenance of the National Cycle Network in your area & public rides, walks & stalls to promote Sustrans & active travel; run a programme of events to be delegated & organised by the whole group to keep everyone informed of local activities they can join in with, including regular meetings, communications & socials; co-ordinate the local volunteers including welcoming & inducting new volunteers, keeping track of the roles they are carrying out & informing us of inactive volunteers; keep a simple record of group activities; recruit new volunteers as needed, with the help of your Volunteer Co-ordinator. Time required: a few hours per month. BUT Excellent communicator; good motivator, able to act as a source of support & encouragement for others; able to identify skills & interests in the group & co-ordinate activities & responsibilities. ASK lisa.hartley@sustrans.org.uk 0121 6335517.

REF 2386-FOCUSR-18/9 JOB **VOLUNTEER RANGER, NUNEATON**
 BE4 N / A LOC NUNEATON & BEDWORTH
 PAY Training, public transport expenses FOR SUSTRANS
 DES / BUT Sustrans is looking for a number of new & enthusiastic rangers to cover the Nuneaton & Bedworth area. As a ranger you will be expected to carry out agreed tasks from your local volunteer plan. Some tasks can be organised by the whole group. Your tasks include: check for missing or broken signs & replace; follow the signing guidance; carry out general tidy ups & clear back encroaching vegetation; report any major issues to your Volunteer Co-ordinator; attend group workdays & signing rides; look after any artwork or mileposts on your route. Time commitment: check the route once a month, ad hoc workdays. Staff support is provided by the West Midlands Volunteer Co-ordinator & Area Manager. ASK lisa.hartley@sustrans.org.uk 0121 633 5517.

REF 2387-FOCUSR-18/9 JOB **ACTIVE TRAVEL CHAMPIONS, SOLIHULL**
 BE4 N / A LOC SOLIHULL
 PAY Training, public transport expenses FOR SUSTRANS
 DES Volunteer champions inspire people to be more active through walking or cycling more for their everyday journeys. You will be joining a new Active Families project in Solihull. This includes school & community based activities, with the overall aim of getting more people walking & cycling more of the time. You can select which activities you organise or take part in. These include: supporting group rides or walks; promoting active travel at community events; supporting bike maintenance sessions; supporting learn to ride sessions; or if you have your own ideas for activities to promote active travel we can support you. Time commitment: ideally one activity or more per month. BUT Passionate about travelling by foot or bike for everyday journeys; excellent communicator; good motivator, acting as a source of support & encouragement for others. ASK lisa.hartley@sustrans.org.uk 0121 633 5517.

REF 2388-FOCUSR-30/10 JOB **PLANNING & BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION VOLUNTEER**
 BE4 30/10/15 LOC NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, OFFICE & HOME BASED
 PAY Limited travel expenses, training FOR NBRC / WTBCN
 DES Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre & the Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants Planning & Biodiversity Officer are keen to encourage an evaluation of the nature & extent of biodiversity information use with regard to (a) strategic local plans & (b) planning applications of different categories (housing, industrial, transport etc.) across Northants & the influence this has on decision making, the sustainability of development & the overall outcomes for the county's natural capital. We see this as a first step towards gauging the use of biodiversity data of different types, understanding the barriers to its use & highlighting the outcomes. 30-90 days spread over 4-12 months to suit the volunteer(s). Free attendance of (up to 3) WTBCN wildlife training workshops. BUT Basic understanding of protected / priority species legislation & an interest in the uses of biodiversity information. Familiarity with the planning process in relation to local strategic planning & the handling of individual development proposals. ASK Steve Whitbread, NBRC Manager, steve.whitbread@northantsbrc.org.uk

Anglia:

Friends of Thetford Forest is a membership organisation working in partnership with the Forestry Commission. Volunteering opportunities include conserving wildlife habitats; looking after Lynford Arboretum; researching archaeology; checking walking trails and 'meeting and greeting' at High Lodge Forest Centre. Help care for Thetford Forest by volunteering with us at www.fotf.org.uk

woodland management and drystone dyking in the NTS properties and estates.



Boardwalk replacement at Culzean Castle & Country Park, Ayrshire (J. Kemp)

The opportunity to explore Scotland with like minded people sounded like it was just what I was looking for, so, when I attended my first meeting with the local CV group in January 2008, it was with a sense of “nothing ventured, nothing gained” and with no idea of how it would be a life changing experience for me.

With transportation, accommodation and meals all provided free of charge, the organisation and support structure from the NTS Volunteering Department made it easy to volunteer with the CV group.

From the outset, my volunteering workday projects with the CV group did exactly what it said on the NTS Volunteering tin. Working closely with NTS Rangers and Gardening staff at the various properties I learned about the safe use of the correct tools for a number of different tasks, such as bowsaws and loppers for clearance of Invasive Non Native Species like Rhododendron Ponticum. Working on jobs such as footpath maintenance required learning about drainage management and the use of pinch bars and mattocks. The construction and maintenance of post and wire fences required me to learn the careful handling of wire materials as well as the safe use of specialist tools such as post drivers, mells, fencing pliers and strainers.

All of these tasks, tools and training were new to me, but was delivered to me in a friendly and patient learning environment by NTS staff that cared about what they were doing and why they were doing it. This was reinforced by the approach and attitude of the other volunteers in the CV group, resulting in a volunteering environment which I found to be extremely positive, friendly and engaging, the complete opposite from my day job.

Embracing this new volunteering experience, I quickly became more active in the CV group and was supported by the NTS Volunteering department to develop as a group leader. The Volunteering department arranged and financed my certified training in Emergency 1st Aid and the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS) which further cemented my position as a volunteer leader. I was also encouraged to participate in the NTS Volunteer Leadership training which enabled me to lead Thistle Camps, which are weeklong residential volunteering holidays.

In the Autumn of 2010, only two and half years after starting my new volunteering hobby, it had become the impetus and launch pad for my decision to change my career path. I embarked on a fulltime BSc in Countryside Management with the aim of becoming a Countryside Ranger. This resulted in some challenges financially, however, my volunteering experience and training led me to summer seasonal employment with NTS as a Thistle Camp leader, being paid to do what I previously volunteered to do as a hobby.



Footpath maintenance at Balmacara, Kyle of Lochalsh (J. Kemp)

Whilst engaged in full time studying I continued to volunteer with the NTS CV group and Thistle Camps, gaining further experience and networking in the conservation and heritage sector. Other opportunities for training courses were supported and financed by the NTS. I completed a Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) accredited course in Volunteer Management and City & Guilds NPTC PA1 & PA6 Safe Use of Pesticides.

In 2013 I graduated with a BSc in Countryside Management and since then I have been fortunate enough to be employed by NTS as Seasonal Ranger and Thistle Camp leader.



Hedge laying at Brodick Castle & Country Park, Isle of Arran (J. Kemp)

I am now in my fifth year of employment with NTS. None of it would have been possible without the skills, knowledge, training and support I gained as a volunteer from the staff and other volunteers at NTS. I also have made personal friends and met many others who have travelled a similar journey that started with volunteering.

Learning life skills, work skills, networking, personal development, meeting like minded people, exploring new places?

Volunteer for everything, for therein lies adventure. Do it, and make of it what you desire.

For volunteering opportunities with NTS visit <http://www.nts.org.uk/Volunteering/> or telephone 0844 4932402 or write to Volunteering Office, Hermiston Quay, 5 Cultins Road, Edinburgh, EH11 4DF

South:

Contact for details Source to Sea Volunteer
Wiltshire, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Contact: 01380 736078, derekg@wiltshirewildlife.org
10 - 3. We work along the bank to pull up Himalayan balsam until lunch (bring a drink and a packed lunch. We provide tea, coffee and biscuits). Wear clothing and footwear appropriate for the weather and terrain (nettles mean that long trousers and sleeves are a good idea!) and if possible bring gloves.

Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday Biodiversity Action Team (South)
South London, The Conservation Volunteers Contact: Richard Jedrzejczak 07764 655694, r.jedrzejczak@tcv.org.uk
www.tcv.org.uk Our BAT South has maintained and created new habitats and gardens around South London for many years; providing accessible nature gardens and outdoor educational areas for communities and schools to enjoy. Join In, Feel Good. Dress for outdoor activities and bring a packed lunch.

Every Wednesday & Thursday Biodiversity Action Team (West)
ETNA Centre, 13 Rosslyn Road, Twickenham TW1 2AR, The Conservation Volunteers Contact: Andy Flegg 07764 655667, a.flegg@tcv.org.uk, www.tcv.org.uk
Our BAT West helps manage some of west London's most vibrant sites for nature conservation, encompassing wetland, woodland and heathland whilst providing plenty of opportunities to meet new people, learn new skills and discover new places. Join In, Feel Good. Dress for outdoor activities and bring a packed lunch.

Every Monday & Wednesday Biodiversity Action Team (North)
Railway Fields, 381 Green Lanes, N4 1ES, The Conservation Volunteers Contact: Jack Newman on 07740 899680 or j.newman@tcv.org.uk www.tcv.org.uk
BAT North manages some of North London's at-risk sites for English Heritage. As well as working with local authorities and schools to improve biodiversity, providing opportunities to meet new people, learn new skills and discover new places. Join In, Feel Good. Dress for outdoor activities; bring a packed lunch.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays Midweek Group
Gloucester, The Conservation Volunteers Contact: k.osborne@tcv.org.uk
We tackle woodland and scrub management, waterways & grassland work and more. We meet on to develop conservation skills and meet people. Refreshments are provided but volunteers should bring their own packed lunch, stout footwear, weather gear and enthusiasm!

Every Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday Haringey Conservation Team
Haringey, TCV Contact: Mat 02083486005, m.pendergast@tcv.org.uk
Come and join our Haringey Conservation Team! Working on various woodlands, parks and nature reserves. To join the mailing list, please contact Mat.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays plus most Mondays & occasional Sundays Practical conservation volunteering opportunities
NE Surrey and neighbouring areas of Croydon and Sutton, Downlands Partnership
Contact: 01883 341140, downlands@surreycc.gov.uk, www.downlandsproject.org.uk
10am to 4pm. Our work is seasonal and includes scrub clearance, pond maintenance and access improvements. Please visit our website to view our latest task programme, which includes full details on how to get involved. No experience required, you just need to be of reasonable fitness please and have the desire to volunteer in the great outdoors.

Contact for details Non-native Invasive Plants Project Volunteer
Wiltshire, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Contact: 01380 736078, derekg@wiltshirewildlife.org
We are creating a taskforce of volunteers who are willing to go to the Salisbury Avon; the River By Brook in the north Wiltshire Cotswolds; the River Ray that runs through Swindon, or the head of the River Thames to pull up Himalayan balsam before it has the chance to set seed and spread further, damaging wildlife habitats as it grows.

Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday Biodiversity Action Team (East)
 1a Connaught Close, off Lea Bridge Road, Leyton, E10 7QS, The Conservation Volunteers Contact: Tom Nandi
 07917 267573, t.nandi@tcv.org.uk, www.tcv.org.uk
 Our BAT East helps manage some of East London's most vibrant sites for nature conservation, as well as creating new community gardens, providing plenty of opportunities to meet new people, learn new skills and discover new places. Join In, Feel Good. Dress for outdoor activities and bring a packed lunch.

Contact for details Nature Reserve Volunteer
 Wiltshire, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Contact: 01380 736078, derekg@wiltshirewildlife.org
 Volunteers are involved in every aspect of nature reserve management. Tasks vary from coppicing, tree felling, meadow management and pond clearance to important footpath work - keeping many miles of paths through our reserves open for visitors. Work parties meet once a month on the different reserves to do practical work.

Volunteer to join our education team doing conservation tasks with school groups around Devil's Dyke Estate-scrub bashing, identifying bugs, butterflies and flora. Average time commitment, one or two days a month, usually weekdays. This volunteer role may require a DBS check. For more details please contact dee.morris@nationaltrust.org.uk

Join our volunteer group in Wiltshire to carry out conservation projects on the Kennet & Avon Canal. Projects include scrub clearing, tow path resurfacing, lock painting, hedge maintenance. Local mini bus pick-ups from Trowbridge and Devizes. For more details contact Ben Rawlings 07764 626884. b.rawlings@tcv.org.uk

The aim of Essex Wildlife Trust is to Protect Wildlife for the Future and for the people of Essex. We manage over 8,200 acres of land, on 87 reserves, 2 nature parks and 9 visitor centres, all across Essex. To find out more about volunteering with us please visit www.essexwt.org.uk/volunteer-opportunities

Volunteer to join our conservation team managing different habitats around the Devil's Dyke / Saddlescombe Farm estate varying from pond clearance to scrub bashing to charcoal burning and beyond. Meetings are every other Sunday and Wed. Commitment, at least one day a month. Public transport limited, lifts possibly available. Please contact dee.morris@nationaltrust.org.uk for more details.

We are seeking volunteers to help occasionally throughout the year to support our conservation grazing work across NE Surrey/Croydon/Sutton/Bromley. Informal training provided with opportunities to learn a variety of skills. This role requires a calm and practical manner. Contact Sean Grufferty, Grazing Officer on 01883 341140/ sean.grufferty@surreycc.gov.uk. Organisation info: www.downlandsproject.org.uk

WCCP manages chalk grassland, wetland and shingle habitats and the award winning Samphire Hoe. We have over 300 volunteer tasks throughout the year, but also have volunteer positions doing livestock looking, site wardens, office volunteers and guided walk & family activity leaders. Contact Sue Bradford: 01304 241806. website: www.whitecliffscountryside.org.uk

Volunteers to help in a small not-for-profit nursery Join us to collect and propagate local trees from seed, transplant and prune them; alongside managing wildlife habitats and general tree nursery practice. Contact: Email specialbranchtrees@googlemail.com

The Arun and Rother Connections (ARC) project offers an array of exciting volunteering and free training opportunities. From helping toads cross our roads, river surveying and clean ups to practical conservation tasks or less physical activities like conducting oral history interviews or assisting with our social media. <http://arunwesternstreams.org.uk/volunteering> Contact kate.whitton@rspb.org.uk or 01273 763377

Cranham Marsh is a 32-acre wetland near Upminster. Work parties meet at the reserve on the last Sunday of every month all year, and additionally on the second Thursday from September to March. For details email warden Tony Gunton at tonygunton@btconnect.com

The Thanet Coast offers free training and support for volunteer 'Coastal Wardens' to help look after sections of coastline and monitor activities, wildlife or join practical tasks - from non-native species control, beach cleans, school fieldtrips to helping run educational 'Seashore Safaris'. Further information: www.thanetcoast.org.uk or contact us at: thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk

REF 753-FOCUSR-OK2 JOB **GARDENING & WILDLIFE MONITORING VOLUNTEERS**
 BE4 N/A LOC WALPOLE PARK, EALING, LONDON
 PAY Travel expenses & lunch if over 4 hours volunteering FOR EALING COUNCIL
 DES/BUT Working throughout Walpole Park in a variety of environments from the kitchen garden, flower garden, ponds, shrubberies & learning / performing a wide range of horticultural tasks. There are opportunities for those with no experience & those who are working towards a career in horticulture. Wildlife monitoring opportunities are also available including moth trapping, bat walks & pond surveillance. ASK Emma Allen, Walpole Park Manager, Ealing Council, 020 88257444 / 07711 391185 allene@ealing.gov.uk

REF 2393-FOCUSR-18/9 JOB **GARDEN RESEARCHER**
 BE4 N/A LOC VYNE ROAD, SHERBORNE ST JOHN, BASINGSTOKE
 PAY Expenses & travel up to 30 mile round trip FOR NATIONAL TRUST
 DES 1 day per week. Carry out research on the whereabouts & availability of archives which relate to The Vyne's garden pre-1914. With particular interest in the Kitchen Garden, West Garden, Lake edges & the farmland immediately surrounding the formal gardens. Research sources for The Vyne's garden not held by the Trust & carry out visits where appropriate (i.e. Hampshire records office, Historic England); uncover the stories of The Vyne's garden which can inform

our interpretation & knowledge; attend training & workshop days; document your findings online & in paper form; provide regular updates to staff & volunteers. BUT Keen interest in history & enjoy finding out more & building up knowledge; understanding of how archives work & how to access them; enjoy organising & structuring information; enjoy reading documents, writing up information, listing data & putting together information; can handle & present large amounts of information & make it engaging & understandable; ability to provide clear & concise information; good internet research skills; good IT skills, in particular MS Word & Excel; enthusiastic about the work & a good ambassador for the National Trust & The Vyne. ASK Thelma Pugh, 01256 883858 volunteering.thevyne@nationaltrust.org.uk

REF 2394-FOCUS-OK2 JOB **VOLUNTEER LEADER & OFFICER OPPORTUNITIES**

BE4 N / A LOC ESSEX FIELD OFFICE*

PAY Training & reasonable travel expenses FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

DES In Essex, TCV have 5 weekly volunteer groups & work with many community groups across the county.

Whether part of one of our action teams or helping to organise & deliver projects to improve green spaces, volunteers are essential to everything we do. Volunteer officers & leaders can train to lead volunteer groups on a range of practical conservation activities & can get involved in all aspects of running projects depending on their interests & skills they want to develop. Approx. 2 days per week for a minimum of 6 months (flexible & negotiable). *Projects around Colchester, Chelmsford & Brentwood. Opportunities for all levels of experience are available & this is a great opportunity for someone looking to gain work experience in conservation, community building or someone looking to use their skills to help others. BUT Interested in expanding your skills; looking for work or leadership experience; enjoy working outdoors; passion for nature. Community orientated & enjoy assisting people. ASK Please get in touch for more information. Nicola Downs, Senior Project Officer, 01206 764 470 essex@tcv.org.uk

REF 2395-FOCUS-OK2 JOB **COMMUNITY IT SUPPORT ASSISTANT**

BE4 N / A LOC SWANSCOMBE, KENT

PAY Training available FOR GROUNDWORK

DES SparkIT, a project of Groundwork, is seeking volunteers to assist in our delivery of computer training & job search assistance. Volunteers are needed to assist learners with self-directed online courses, help with CV & interview prep, & act as classroom assistants during the scheduled lessons. 5-10 hours per week. We have a variety of working hours available, & are seeking reliable & motivated individuals interested in helping build a community resource.

BUT Excellent ICT skills; good knowledge of the internet & MS Office is essential, & additional ICT skills desirable. The ability to confidently troubleshoot problems is crucial. Must be patient & tolerant, with excellent customer service skills.

ASK Jessica Peters, 01322 427080 jessica.peters@groundwork.org.uk

REF 2396-FOCUSR-OK2

JOB **WILDLIFE HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER**

BE4 Ongoing

LOC BECKFORD, TEWKESBURY, GLOS.

PAY 0

FOR VALE WILDLIFE HOSPITAL & REHABILITATION CENTRE

DES Helping in a busy wildlife hospital with the day-to-day feeding & cleaning of casualties in care. Help also needed with site / aviary maintenance, mowing, weeding etc. or in our charity shop in nearby Evesham. BUT No qualifications or experience necessary.

ASK info@valewildlife.org.uk



REF 2397-FOCUS-OK2

JOB **VOLUNTEER EDUCATION LEADER**

BE4 Ongoing LOC LEATHERHEAD & / OR GODSTONE, SURREY

PAY Training FOR SURREY WILDLIFE TRUST

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

REF 2398-FOCUSR-1/4

JOB **VOLUNTEER**

BE4 31/3/16 LOC GREATER LONDON

PAY Free tickets to Open Garden Squares Weekend FOR LONDON PARKS & GARDENS TRUST

DES Your main duties will be to welcome visitors, check & sell tickets & ensure that the garden where you are allocated is treated with respect. Half day during the weekend 18/19 Sept 2016. BUT An interest in gardens. No specific quals or experience. ASK vol@opensquares.org

REF 2399-FOCUS-18/9

JOB **VOLUNTEER PROJECT LEADER**

BE4 N / A LOC CROYDON

PAY Training & reasonable travel expenses FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS (TCV)

DES 3-4 days per week for around 6 months. To plan, lead & deliver environmental conservation projects. Our main project days are on Wednesday & Thursday every week but we also do occasional projects on other days, including weekends. We work with groups of volunteers on a wide range of sites in & around Croydon. You will receive training in project leadership, risk assessment, safeguarding & first aid. Our facebook page www.facebook.com/tcvcrocydon

provides details of upcoming projects & a photo diary of our recent projects. BUT At TCV a love of the environment & the enthusiasm to engage & support volunteers is all that you need. If you have held a diving licence for over 2 years & are over 21 that would be great as we can train you to become one of our minibus drivers for project days.

ASK p.underwood@tcv.org.uk 020 8686 4993.

REF 2400-FOCUS-OK1 JOB **GENERAL VOLUNTEER**
 BE4 N / A LOC SOUTHAMPTON & surrounding areas
 PAY Lunch, training & PPE* FOR SOUTHAMPTON WOOD RECYCLING PROJECT
 DES Southampton Wood Recycling Project saves wood waste from going to landfill, provides affordable timber & resources to the local community, & develops people to be ready to enter sustainable employment. It provides a commercially viable wood waste collection & retail service, moving wood up the waste hierarchy & saving it from going to landfill – whilst offering training, volunteering & work opportunities to those facing barriers to gaining paid employment. Southampton Wood Recycling Project strives to be an exemplary social enterprise with regard to policy & practice, & believes that working with wood offers a range of benefits, both in practical skills & in a wider therapeutic sense. Time commitment is as is useful to you; could be one day every few months, or up to 2 days per week. *Opportunities for further training & qualifications. BUT No experience necessary, but a willingness to get stuck in to physical jobs, often outdoors & in all weathers is a must! ASK volunteering@southamptonwoodrecycling.org.uk 02381 781720 or call in to the yard.

REF 2401-FOCUSR-OK2 JOB **WILDLIFE HUSBANDRY VOLUNTEER**
 BE4 Ongoing LOC HADDENHAM, BUCKS
 PAY Full training in husbandry & handling wildlife FOR TIGGYWINKLES WILDLIFE HOSPITAL
 DES The main tasks are hands-on husbandry of the thousand-plus wild animals currently undergoing treatment & rehabilitation at our hospital – which means you will spend your day cleaning cages & enclosures, preparing & providing food, with some handling of a variety of wildlife species. One day a week for 6 months minimum – weekends preferred. BUT Enthusiastic individuals, who are not afraid to work hard & get their hands dirty (well gloves anyway)! Over 18 & able to work independently. Up to date tetanus vaccination & no known allergies to animals or animal foodstuffs. Tasks are very physical, so be prepared for working inside or outside, whatever the weather. Able to offer a whole day a week, on a regular commitment for a minimum of 6 months. Dress code is jeans or thick trousers & a plain, dark (black or navy) top, with trainers or boots. No jewellery & long hair must be tied back at all times. All volunteers required to undergo a criminal records check. ASK <http://c-js.co.uk/1HE4JJl>

REF 2402-FOCUS-18/9 JOB **WESSEX STONE-CURLEW PROJECT ASSISTANT**
 BE4 18/9/15 IV wb 28/9/15 LOC SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE
 PAY Training, expenses & travel FOR RSPB
 DES October 2015 to March 2016, 6 months, minimum 3 days per week. Some evening or weekend work may be required. To support the RSPB Wessex Stone-curlew Project team to help conserve this nationally rare & threatened species. The work will involve leading on our community engagement work, planning & developing a range of community activities to be delivered in 2015-16, contributing to an ongoing programme of habitat management research, & other work such as advice provision to landowners & farmers, practical work on reserves, data analysis & production of maps. BUT Passion & enthusiasm for nature conservation, excellent communication & people skills & an approachable personality, good computing & word processing skills, self-motivated, over 18 years old; driving licence; have achieved A-levels or equivalent. Desirable criteria include: organised with good attention to detail; able to work on own initiative & within a team; ability to use initiative; willingness to travel to remote locations sometimes over long distances; confident in meeting new people; degree or masters in a relevant subject. ASK Charlotte Bruce-White, charlotte.bruce-white@rspb.org.uk or go to www.rspb.org.uk & search 'internships'.

REF 2403-FOCUSR-OK4 JOB **LEARNING ASSISTANT**
 BE4 Ongoing LOC PULBOROUGH BROOKS & / or PAGHAM HARBOUR
 PAY Training & travelling expenses (up to 25 miles) FOR RSPB
 DES 2-4 days per month. Our Schools on Reserves programme aims to give school children the chance to experience nature first-hand & you can be part of that exciting journey of discovery. We are looking for volunteers to support school visits or to lead sessions. Typical activities range from hands on exploration of meadows, woods & ponds to playing environmental games. BUT Essential: keen interest in wildlife, conservation & the environment; enthusiasm for outdoor education & a willingness to learn new skills; resourceful & flexible approach to be able to cope with a wide variety of ages & abilities of children; the confidence & ability to lead or facilitate a fun & active day's education programme, both in the field & the classroom with a group of students & their teacher; abundant enthusiasm & excellent communication skills; ability to communicate effectively with children of differing needs & levels of understanding; self-motivated with ability to work as part of a team & alone; good organisational skills; ability to use email, internet & word processing. Desirable: field teaching experience & some ecological knowledge of habitat types & of the local history of the area. ASK Send an email to lucytozer@rspb.org.uk explaining why you are interested in the role.

REF 2404-FOCUSR-OK2 JOB **ROVING RESERVE GUIDE**
 BE4 N / A LOC SOUTH ESSEX
 PAY Travel expenses, relevant training, meetings & casual gatherings FOR RSPB
 DES 4 hours every week / fortnightly. Do you love talking to people & sharing your enthusiasm for wildlife & your local nature reserve? We need Roving Reserve Guides so that visitors can meet a friendly face representing the RSPB & ensure a great visitor experience. Out & about on the reserve you would be helping visitors to identify wildlife & point them in the right direction. You will be telling people about our amazing work & the benefits of RSPB membership. You would be expected to attend training sessions relevant to the role. You would have the opportunity to attend regular volunteer meetings. BUT Approachable & friendly with good communication skills. Some basic knowledge of the wildlife in South Essex. ASK rachael.brown@rspb.org.uk 01268 498616.

REF 2405-FOCUSR-OK2 JOB **VOLUNTEER CONSERVATION RANGERS**
 BE4 Ongoing LOC BOX HILL, DORKING, SURREY
 PAY Travel expenses, training FOR NATIONAL TRUST
 DES 1 or 2 days a week, Wednesday & / or Thursday. We are looking for active volunteers to join & work alongside an innovative & energetic ranger team to help manage this busy, high profile & internationally recognised site. This is also a great opportunity to start building up experience to embark on a career in the countryside with opportunities to take on further responsibilities depending on the individual. Some of the rewards you can expect – a companionable time with other like minded people in amazing outdoor locations, well earned tea / coffee & cake breaks &, after 50 hours, a volunteer card giving free entry to National Trust properties. BUT Suit those who enjoy working outside on practical tasks to achieve a high standard of conservation & presentation, including tools & equipment maintenance. Good interpersonal skills, a 'can do' attitude & an interest in wildlife & conservation desirable qualities.
 ASK david.benjamins@nationaltrust.org.uk

REF 2406-FOCUSR-OK2 JOB **SWINGBRIDGE2 VOLUNTEER CREW**
 BE4 N / A LOC GUILDFORD / WEYBRIDGE / WOKING
 PAY Boat handling training provided. Expenses. FOR SURREY CARE TRUST
 DES Swingbridge2 is the base for training & volunteering in environmental conservation throughout the year. This 'enviroboat' works along the Thames, River Wey & Basingstoke Canal. Volunteers make a valuable contribution to looking after the local environment whilst also learning new skills. Some of the tasks include: cutting back overgrown vegetation to improve views, access & safety, creating wildlife havens, hedge maintenance & planting, painting lock gates, litter clearance & controlling invasive species such as Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed & ragwort. Volunteer crew also help our supported volunteers, who may have mild learning difficulties or who may be dealing with addiction, family breakdown or unemployment & often offenders serving community sentences. Time: flexible but ideally a couple of days a month. BUT All training provided but volunteers need to be patient & supportive when working alongside our supported volunteers & be prepared to get mucky & work in all weathers. Mechanical experience would be a plus but not a necessity! ASK Chris Padmore, cj.padmore@surreycaretrust.org.uk 07973 282239.

REF 2407-FOCUSR-OK2 JOB **ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD CENTRE VOLUNTEER**
 BE4 N / A LOC GLOUCESTER
 PAY Training & support FOR Gloucestershire Centre For Environmental Records (GCER)
 DES We are the county's Local Environmental Records Centre which collates information about species, sites & habitats. We are looking for volunteers to assist with data entry using a number of software packages. Minimum 3 months commitment. BUT Experience of, or willing to learn GIS, is desirable & also a biological recording package. We use MapInfo, QGIS & Recorder 6. ASK rob.curtis@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

REF 2408-FOCUSR-OK2 JOB **VOLUNTEER ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSISTANT**
 BE4 N / A LOC RICHMOND UPON THAMES
 PAY Travel expenses, training FOR GLENDALE MANAGED SERVICES
 DES To assist the conservation officer with outdoor environmental education sessions from September 18th to July 2016 every Friday. One day a week, 8 hours. BUT Candidate must have some experience of working with school groups & a good knowledge & interest in practical nature conservation. ASK naturesgym@glendale-services.co.uk or the Conservation Officer, 07825 860459.

REF 2409-FOCUS-11/9 JOB **VOLUNTEER OFFICER**
 BE4 11/9/15 LOC GLOUCESTERSHIRE
 PAY Expenses & training FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS (TCV)
 DES 2 days a week for a minimum of 6 months. To help organise & run a variety of projects with our local groups & community project officer in a friendly team. Help organise & lead conservation projects on wildlife sites; publicity & volunteer recruitment; develop media links, carry out site visits & risk assessments, help lead an active midweek volunteer group. Combination of specific office based duties, resource maintenance & practical projects. Full support & training given. Opportunity to complete chainsaw, brushcutter, MIDAS. Previous volunteers have gone on to ranger jobs, education officers, project officers etc. BUT Good communication, organisation & social skills, ability to work on initiative & in a team. 21 with driving licence for 2+ years. Please call for a chat if you are unsure whether you meet these criteria. ASK Chat: Kelly, 01452 413512. CV & covering letter to k.osborne@tcv.org.uk

South West:

Securing the Large Blue in the Polden Hills

If you want to hear about practical winter work parties in the Polden Hills (South Somerset) to help restore habitat for Large Blue butterfly, please contact Rachel Jones (rjones@butterfly-conservation.org) to be added to the Large Blue Action Group mailing list, details of work parties will be sent in the Autumn.

Every Thursday & Friday Workday

Tree Life Centre, Bristol Contact Jason Leck 07764 655656, j.leck@tcv.org.uk
 Every week help look after our community tree nursery by getting involved in a wide range of growing tasks. You can also take part in local conservation projects such as, woodland management, tree planting and much more!

REF 2410-FOCUSR-OK2 JOB **'50 THINGS' PARTY VOLUNTEER**
 BE4 N / A LOC NATIONAL TRUST LEIGH WOODS, BRISTOL
 PAY Travel expenses up to 30 mile round trip FOR NATIONAL TRUST
 DES At Leigh Wood we have been running family activities for a number of years but in 2014 the amount directly relating to the '50 things' list has increased to include events every school holiday. These have been really well received. In spring 2014 50 Things themed birthday parties were successfully piloted & we have rolled these out on a permanent

basis. We are recruiting a team of volunteers to support staff members deliver these fun & exciting parties on weekends & during school holidays. One Saturday a month. BUT This role will suit people who are great with people, enjoy working with children, & enjoy being outdoors. ASK Nicole Daw, nicole.daw@nationaltrust.org.uk

REF 2411-FOCUS-18/9 JOB **VOLUNTEER TREE LIFE OFFICER**
 BE4 N / A LOC TREE LIFE CENTRE, KINGSWOOD, BRISTOL
 PAY Travel expenses & in house training FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS
 DES 2-3 days per week. We need individuals who are interested in working with people who may have a diverse range of needs. To help plan, organise & deliver both horticulture & practical conservation tasks, providing instruction & guidance to other volunteers. To support & lead groups of volunteers to carry out small projects, ensuring the smooth running of the project, & the health & safety of participants. Activities include food growing, wildlife gardening, native tree & wildflower growing, wood working, tree planting, practical conservation tasks & much much more! In house training includes first aid, leadership, risk assessment. BUT Excellent people & communication skills essential. Passion for the environment & a commitment to improving the health & wellbeing of volunteers. Horticulture / gardening skills desirable but not essential as you will receive training. ASK Jason Leck, j.leck@tvc.org.uk 07764 655656.

REF 2412-FOCUS-4/9 JOB **FULLTIME VOLUNTEER RANGER**
 BE4 6/9/15
 LOC KNIGHTSHAYES, BOLHAM, DEVON
 PAY Accommodation & training
 FOR NATIONAL TRUST
 DES Monday – Thursday for 6-12 months. The parkland is managed by the ranger team & is home to acres of diverse wild flowers, insects, mosses, lichens & fungi. The woodland also has an impressive collection of ancient trees & new plantings. Key areas of work are woodland management & establishment, tree felling, aerial tree work, grassland management, volunteer co-ordinating, public engagement & habitat management. Generous budget provided for training in a wide range of machinery from chainsaws & brushcutters to logging winches, tractors & timber trailers. Rent free accommodation provided in shared flat, with up to 3 other FTVs. All bills & broadband included. You will play a key role in the care & development of this exceptional woodland & parkland. We are offering a 12 month placement so you can get a thorough grounding in support of your new career in countryside management. We can tailor training to most specialisms in conjunction with other ranger teams however at Knightshayes we are a particularly practical team tackling most tasks involved in caring for a mixed estate including a high focus on all aspects of tree & woodland work. BUT This role would especially suit someone looking to gain the practical skills required to compliment a relevant academic qualification. ASK raef.johnson@nationaltrust.org.uk or 07769 281952.



REF 2413-FOCUSR-OK2 JOB **LEIGH WOODS EVENTS VOLUNTEER**
 BE4 N / A LOC LEIGH WOODS & BRISTOL
 PAY Travel expenses up to 30 mile round trip FOR NATIONAL TRUST
 DES To help with the smooth running of various activities including children's activities, family sessions & apple days. Ensure our visitors have a warm welcome & help them to have a very enjoyable experience at Leigh Woods or other sites by engaging them throughout the event. You will operate closely with the Leigh Woods Ranger team & enjoy the dynamic nature of getting involved with a range of audiences & events. One day a month. BUT This role will suit people who are great with people, well organised, hold a keen interest in events & promotions & enjoy being outdoors. ASK nicole.daw@nationaltrust.org.uk

REF 2414-FOCUS-11/9 JOB **VOLUNTEER RANGER (Conservation Task Co-ordinator)**
 BE4 11/9/15 IV 22/9/15 LOC FYNE COURT, QUANTOCK & BLACKDOWN HILLS
 PAY Training including chainsaw, brushcutter & first aid FOR NATIONAL TRUST
 DES 6-12 months, 5 days a week – our core hours are 8.30 – 16.30 Mon to Fri. This placement offers a fantastic opportunity to be involved with countryside management work across National Trust properties on the beautiful Quantock & Blackdown Hills. It is a placement that includes mainly hands on practical work, assisting with the co-ordination & management of our main volunteer group, assisting with events & involvement with other projects as necessary. BUT The ideal candidate will be able to work on their own initiative, show enthusiasm & interest in the countryside & have a practical aptitude. Some experience desirable but not essential. Must hold a clean driving licence. We are not able to offer accommodation. ASK Steve Sudworth, steve.sudworth@nationaltrust.org.uk Chat or any questions to Steve, 01823 451814 07768 277050.

REF 2415-FOCUSR-OK12 JOB **CONSERVATION MONITORING VOLUNTEER**
 BE4 Ongoing LOC FSC SLAPTON, DEVON
 PAY Relevant training* FOR FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL
 DES 1 to 8 hours per week. This is a great opportunity to help an environmental education charity & to support the local & tourist communities. A chance to develop your own knowledge of Slapton Ley by interacting with members of the public & colleagues alike. The nature trails, reserve & bird hides are very popular year round but the team at the Field Centre struggle to find sufficient time to keep the quality standards high. So we need your help! Duties might include: managing information display at fishing hut – keeping clean, sightings board neat & up-to-date & publicity boards up-to-date; checking nature trail for safety & quality – reporting back to Centre on actions needed; light clearing of trail side vegetation using hand tools; long term monitoring of climate, birds, insects, plants & / or people; supporting conservation team to maintain the reserve. Training will be given on the management aims & objectives of the FSC. *another great benefit of volunteering is all the tea, cake & lunches you can eat, provided by the fantastic kitchen team. BUT Able to inspect conditions against agreed standards & note actions needed. ASK Lizzy Mooney, volunteer.sl@field-studies-council.org 01548 580466.

REF 2416-FOCUS-11/9 JOB **VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT WARDEN**
 BE4 11/9/15 IV September tbc LOC BROWNSEA ISLAND, POOLE HARBOUR
 PAY Training & accommodation provided FOR DORSET WILDLIFE TRUST
 DES Starting asap from 1/10/15 for 6 months, with possible extension up to 1 year. Assist the wardens on Brownsea in daily maintenance of the nature reserve 4 days per week. Public liaison, guided tours (with training). Practical habitat management. BUT Pref. physically fit, ability to work outdoors in all weathers, able to work with people of all ages & abilities, good communication skills. Countryside skills an advantage. Must have a driving licence; age 21+. ASK Abby Gibbs or Chris Thain 01202 709445. CV & covering letter to brownsea@dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk or The Villa, Brownsea Island, Poole Harbour, Dorset BH13 7EE

REF 2417-FOCUSR-18/9 JOB **VOLUNTEER AQUARIUM HOST**
 BE4 N / A LOC PLYMOUTH
 PAY All training provided FOR THE NATIONAL MARINE AQUARIUM
 DES As part of our Discovery & Learning team, it will be your job to engage with the customers throughout their journey around the National Marine Aquarium. From welcoming people into the building, to in depth conversation & small scale shows, as the face of the Aquarium you will be providing the high quality experience customers have come to expect & enjoy. Minimum of two days a month. Can do many more. BUT You do not need to have any experience, although customer service skills are essential. Must be comfortable engaging with customers of all age ranges & backgrounds. ASK Please contact joe.farrow@national-aquarium.co.uk with a CV & cover letter.

REF 2418-FOCUS-11/9 JOB **VOLUNTEER RANGER**
 BE4 13/9/15 IV 28 & 29/9/15 LOC HOLNICOTE ESTATE, SELWORTHY, MINEHEAD, SOMERSET
 PAY Accommodation & training* FOR NATIONAL TRUST
 DES 6 – 12 months. This is a fantastic opportunity to be part of a large ranger team managing one of the National Trust's finest countryside properties. The Holnicote Estate is situated in West Somerset on the Bristol Channel coast & within Exmoor National Park. As a member of the ranger team you will be involved with a huge variety of practical work, also assisting with the co-ordination & management of local volunteers, & involvement with events & other project work as necessary. *Certified training may include chainsaw, brushcutter, first aid & off road driving. Local training is also available in subjects from wildlife ID, survey techniques to leading guided walks. BUT Able to work on own initiative, show enthusiasm & interest in the countryside & a practical aptitude. Some experience desirable but not essential. Must be over 21 & hold a full driving licence for at least 1 year. ASK Rob Manicom, robert.manicom@nationaltrust.org.uk or write to Rob Manicom, Holnicote Estate Office, Selworthy, Minehead, Somerset TA24 8TJ Chat: Rob, 01643 862452.

Green Angels create magic in Liverpool Park

What the scheme is and why was it set up?

In 2012, national land management charity, the Land Trust was looking at opportunities to improve Liverpool Festival Gardens and boost the park's group of volunteers. It created *Green Angels*; an innovative programme which would focus on improving the quality of life for local communities who live around the Gardens, whilst also enhancing the park environment.



Liverpool Festival Gardens was the site of the 1984 International Garden Festival. After its closure, was left derelict and fell into disrepair, but in 2012 was partly restored and the Land Trust took on the management.



Green Angels trainees building compost bays using waste materials from the gardens, creating a sustainable future at Liverpool Festival Garden. Mike Hendricks, Rowan Joyce, Chris Taylor and David Cundliffe. (The Land Trust)

The *Green Angels* scheme would provide environmental training opportunities, creating new ways for local people to learn new skills, meet new people and improve their future prospects.

In 2013, the Land Trust secured a grant from the BIG Lottery Fund's Reaching Communities programme to develop its *Green Angels* training programme over two years. It has been offering learning opportunities in countryside management, parks maintenance, business skills, environmental education and horticulture and many of its graduates have successfully moved onto employment or further training.

How the programme has progressed

The *Green Angels* programme has progressed steadily, building in momentum over the course of the last two years. The programme has received an overwhelming response, with more than 200 enquiries/applications, resulting in 66 people progressing through the *Green Angels* training courses.

It is fantastic to see what can be achieved.

The Gardens have benefitted significantly, with a new wildflower meadow and a show bed near to the main entrance, which creates a welcoming splash of colour for visitors. Our *Green Angels* have been instrumental in restoring areas of the Gardens to their original state, with the trainees putting into practice their learning, including clearing self-seeded trees, gorse and invasive species, such as brambles and nettles and allowing the recovery of planned species, such as corkscrew hazel, hawthorn, strawberry trees and blackthorn.

Further benefits to the Gardens include a row of ten eco compost bays that the trainees have built. These provide habitats for insects and small animals and allow for a more controlled management of the compostable materials on site.

This programme has also created opportunities for people to learn new skills. These have included effective delivery of environmental education activities, such as insect and plant identification and mini-beast hunting; lesson planning techniques; composting techniques; propagation; identifying, treating and preventing common plant diseases; wildlife habitat creation; wildflower meadow creation and tree felling.



A Green Angels trainee shows a pupil of Our Lady's Bishop Eton Primary School how to catch as many mini beasts as possible. Green Angels environmental education courses at Liverpool Festival Gardens equips trainees with the skills and knowledge to effectively run outdoor lessons in mini beast hunting, pond dipping, nature treasure hunts and seed planting in bio degradable plant pots. Suzanne Taylor and Jude Clarke. (The Land Trust)



Green Angels trainees from the 2014 horticulture course spreading seed for a perennial wildflower meadow. The trainees prepared the ground by double digging the whole area, spreading 3 tons of Mersey grit over the bed then spreading a mix of wildflower seeds evenly across the bed. Graham Shiels, Emily Traynor, Scott Glenister, Robyn Taylor, Michael McGrath and Jonny Maguire. (The Land Trust)

Finally, the programme has inspired a group of trainees to explore the option of setting up a social enterprise to continue the *Green Angels* legacy in the Liverpool area. This group is currently trialling environmental education activities at Our Lady's Bishop Eton Primary School, running an after school gardening club on a voluntary basis, with an understanding that they will charge for services in future if the venture is a success.

The social enterprise is ambitious in its ideas with potential services including community/school art projects, aquaponics systems/demonstrations and a holistic grounds maintenance/environmental education service, targeted at educational establishments.

Challenges and successes

A major challenge of the *Green Angels* programme has been to combat a potentially negative approach from some trainees who have applied reluctantly and have low expectations of what is involved in a "free" course. The project leaders have ensured that everyone feels valued, that they have provided quality training from approachable, professional instructors, and that attendance is a choice and not an obligation.

The presentation of *Green Angels* certificates meant a lot to the participants, and the Certificate Event proved a great success in re-uniting groups of friends and celebrating achievement. Another major success has been the impact on Festival Gardens, which now has many more beautiful planting and new or enhanced wildlife habitat areas. Furthermore, a number of *Green Angels* trainees have gone on to find jobs in the environmental field.

Case Studies

Rowan Joyce

Current Green Angels Community Engagement Officer.

Rowan completed the Parks and Countryside Management and Horticulture courses in Spring 2014. Although he had been unemployed for over six months, Rowan had a background in Gardening (a self-employed gardener) and was actively involved in a community garden project.

After completing the course, the opportunity of Community Engagement Officer on the *Green Angels* programme came up. Rowan applied for this role and was successful. Rowan has been working with the Project Manager to deliver the programme since October 2014 and will see it through to its completion in November 2015.

Rowan said “The *Green Angels* project really gave me the confidence to believe in myself and my skills and knowledge. Sometimes, being long term unemployed can really sap your drive and ambition. As I had previously suffered a back (disk) injury, returning to my gardening business really was the final resort. The *Green Angels* project taught me so much but more importantly, it showed me that there were other options out there to work in the environmental sector. When the position came up for Community Engagement Officer for the project I jumped at the chance.”

Arthur Deane

Arthur Deane completed the *Green Angels* Horticulture course in Spring 2015. He was unemployed at the time and subsequently, after completing the course, he gained a position as the Ground Maintenance Assistant with Plus Dane Housing Group in Liverpool.

Arthur said “I feel that attending the *Green Angels* course helped tremendously with my application. I would like to express my thanks to the *Green Angels* team for all the help and advice they gave me. I would recommend the *Green Angels* project to all.

Hopefully in the future, I can do another course if my new job allows.”

Why volunteer?

This programme has demonstrated that tailored schemes, such as *Green Angels* can really make a difference to individual people, local communities and public spaces. Liverpool Festival Gardens has truly benefitted from the additional activities undertaken by the *Green Angels*, volunteering their time. The programme has brought people from the local community together, enabling them to learn new skills and meet new people. It has also helped a number of participants to see the social and health benefits of volunteering, with a number continuing to volunteer at the Gardens whilst others have secured employment and progressed other opportunities, that may not have been available before.



Meadow in flower with Kenneth Seddon, Eric Addy, Chris Taylor, Luca Sanvittore and Giacomo Fazi. (The Land Trust)

Volunteering works; training works and put together, the Green Angels programme has really worked.

The Land Trust

The Land Trust is the national land management charity, managing green public open spaces for the benefit of local communities. We provide cost effective solutions to delivering high quality and sustainably maintained open spaces. Further information at www.thelandtrust.org.uk

Further details about Liverpool Festival Gardens and the Green Angels training programme can be found at www.liverpoolfestivalgardens.com

