Junior Rangers and Youth Development
Tony Wilson SCRA

The Scottish Countryside Rangers’ Association (SCRA) is interested in establishing a national Junior Countryside Ranger Programme in order to support the delivery of Junior Ranger schemes in Scotland. The term “Junior Ranger” is a trademark, owned by the EUROPARC Federation, which has developed a set of guiding principles and is used to define a specific programme of activities. Only one Junior Ranger scheme – in the Cairngorms National Park – operates under the EUROPARC banner and hosted the annual Europarc Junior Ranger camp in 2008.

A 2010 survey of Rangers revealed several services that deliver activities, which may, or may not, be called Junior Ranger schemes. These vary from school visits tied in to the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) and/or Forest Schools, award schemes such as the John Muir Award, Duke of Edinburgh Award, to informal visits by Youth Clubs and Scout/Guide groups.

In October 2010 a course on Young/Junior Rangers was held at Losehill Hall in the Peak District National Park, followed by a one-day workshop in February 2011. Fife Ranger Service and Scottish Natural Heritage contributed to this workshop, which covered examples of current practice in the UK; external funding opportunities; and issues such as relationships to other initiatives such as the John Muir Award, Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

SCRA believes that the key criteria for a SCRA-led Junior Ranger programme are:

- targeted primarily at those in the 11 – 18 age group
- involves the group in a minimum of 4 meetings/events
- includes voluntary elements in the evenings, school holidays or at weekends
- involves a substantial amount of time spent outdoors
- led by professional Rangers.

A national Junior Ranger programme for Scotland is important because it meets Scottish Government priorities. Being a Junior Ranger can help young people become:

Successful learners: with enthusiasm and motivation for learning, able to learn independently and as part of a group.

Responsible citizens: able to evaluate environmental issues.

Confident individuals: with self-respect and a sense of physical, mental and emotional well being, able to pursue a healthy and active lifestyle.

Effective contributors: with resilience and self-reliance, able to work in partnership and in teams and take the initiative and lead.

The education department’s document “Building the Curriculum 4: Skills for Learning Life and Work” uses these four terms and highlights the benefits and suggests how these skills need to be embedded, developed and applied across learning and in different contexts in all levels of the Curriculum for Excellence. Identifying and working with partner organisations in the wider community is emphasised.
There are also benefits to the Ranger Service organising the individual Junior Ranger schemes.

- Schemes deliver to a wide age range that can be “hard to reach” and fills an age gap between other existing groups
- A structured programme of activities gives a breadth of opportunities for Ranger Services to work with different groups with a wide variety of skills and abilities
- Regular contact provides opportunities to engage, and create good lasting relationships with young people, both within and outside formal education, improved mental and physical well-being
- Working with 11-18 year olds can help meet social inclusion targets
- There is a recognised demand for places on schemes such as these.

**Fife Junior Rangers**

One of the existing Junior Ranger schemes, which has been invited to participate in the SCRA pilot project, are the North East Fife Junior Rangers. This scheme has been running for five years and closely fits the model outlined above. The young people involved worked with local Rangers from a number of services on a variety of environmental and countryside access projects over a year long ‘term’. They come out once a month, on a Saturday, to do this on their own terms. Examples of work they carry out include tree planting, footpath construction, bird surveys and helping at nature reserve open days, to name a few.

Several of the young people from previous years have gone on to study conservation management at the local college, the SRUC in Cupar, Fife, with a view to starting a career as a Ranger.

Each year they are given the chance to participate in a summer trip, and to work with Rangers in another areas such as Vatnajökull National Park in Iceland, Knoydart and Egg. These are week long residential visits during which the young people work on conservation projects and participate in adventurous outdoor activities.

Several of the young people from previous years have gone on to study conservation management at the local college, the SRUC in Cupar, Fife, with a view to starting a career as a Ranger.

Funding for the scheme comes from a variety of grants, both local and national as well as fund raising by the young people themselves.

This project, along with three others will feed into the current SNH funded pilot project which will in turn lead to the launch of SCRA’s national Junior ranger Programme sometime in 2014.

To find out more about the project contact Tony Wilson at nefrs@hushmail.com or go to the SCRA web site www.scra-online.co.uk

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**Scotland:**

**RESIDENTIAL CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER LEADER**

**MUNLOCHY, INVERNESS**

**PAY**

Some training, all reasonable expenses

**FOR**

The Conservation Volunteers Scotland

**DES**

TCV run a variety of day conservation projects, residential projects & Green Gyms in Inverness & the Highlands, incl tasks such as access improvement work, creation of wildlife areas & the management of LNR’s, carried out in partnership with various community groups, landowners & local authorities. We need someone to assist with the management & organisation of practical conservation projects. Opportunities incl admin work, liaising with clients & vols, conducting risk assessments, leading conservation teams as well as the practical conservation tasks. **BUT** You will need a friendly, approachable manner, a good grasp of English & be able to deal with a diverse range of people. Enthusiastic with the willingness to have a go & be involved is the most important qual. No experience is necessary as training will be provided. Over 21 years with a full driving licence held for 2 years is essential. **ASK** Obtain application pack & info Ullie Wenzel 01463 811560 u.wenzel@tcv.org.uk
**Countryside Jobs Service Focus on Volunteering**

**Voluntary Marine Ranger**

**REF** 410-FOCUS-4/3  
**JOB** VOLUNTARY MARINE RANGER  
**BE4** 1/3/13 (9am) IV 14/3/13  
**LOC** ST ABBS & EYMOUTH VOLUNTARY MARINE RESERVE  
**PAY** Training & accommodation  
**FOR** ST ABBS & EYMOUTH VOLUNTARY MARINE RESERVE  
**DES** From mid-April to end September 2013. Accommodation including bills provided & protective clothing allowance. The volunteer will be involved in all aspects of raising awareness of the marine environment through education & interpretation, carrying out practical management & conducting marine life surveys. This is a great opportunity for someone wanting to gain experience working in environmental education & marine conservation. Weekend & occasional evening work will be essential & the volunteer is required for up to 5 days per week. Duties include: assisting in organising & leading educational events with school groups & the general public; practical management such as beach cleans; producing a monthly ‘creature feature’ article & other interpretative resources. **BUT** Essential: good communication skills; organised; passionate about the marine environment; enthusiasm for the placement & commitment to the full placement period. Desirable: experience of working with young people; driving licence; knowledge of the SCUBA diving industry. Subject to PVG check as the post involves working with young people.  
**ASK** Georgia Conolly, Marine Ranger, gconolly@nts.org.uk 01897 714433 www.marine-reserve.co.uk Apply with CV & covering letter outlining why you are applying & how your skills & experience match the essential & desirable characteristics of the role.

**Conservation Volunteer Leaders (Residential)**

**REF** 411-FOCUS-18/3  
**JOB** CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER LEADERS (RESIDENTIAL)  
**BE4** N/A  
**LOC** MUNLOCHY, INVERNESS  
**PAY** Training, development, PPE. Accom available  
**FOR** TCV SCOTLAND  
**DES** Offer regular amounts of time & play an integral part in the smooth running of our Volunteer Groups. There are three distinct roles: Pre-project planning; site surveys & communicating with community groups / clients; Leading & assisting groups of volunteers with a variety of support needs to complete environmental projects; Supporting the day to day running of the office including database management & updating volunteer blog. But there’s normally scope for you to pick & choose what you would like to do. Maybe even develop some new areas of interest for TOV. **BUT** Enthusiasm for the environment; interest in gaining practical skills, learning about leading groups & organising work days. Driving licence essential.  
**ASK** Ullie Wenzel, 01463 811560 or u.wenzel@tcv.org.uk

**Conservation Volunteer – Conservation Days**

**REF** 412-FOCUS-OK8  
**JOB** CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER – CONSERVATION DAYS  
**BE4** N/A  
**LOC** HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND  
**PAY** All tools, training & transport  
**FOR** TREES FOR LIFE  
**DES** Live in the Highlands or Moray & have an interest in conservation? Join Trees for Life’s Conservation Day programme & help us restore the Caledonian Forest one day at a time. Days out run every other Wednesday. Transport is provided with pick ups available from Forres, Nairn & Inverness. A wide variety of work tasks, including planting trees, removing non native plants, nursery work, survey work & more. **BUT** Must be 18+ & have a reasonable level of fitness. No experience necessary.  
**ASK** Mick, 01309 691444 or mick@treesforlife.org.uk

**Monitoring Seabirds & Vegetation on Mingulay**

**REF** 413-FOCUS-25/3  
**JOB** MONITORING SEABIRDS & VEGETATION ON MINGULAY  
**BE4** 22/3/13  
**LOC** MINGULAY, OUTER HEBRIDES  
**PAY** Food, accommodation & UK travel  
**FOR** PHD PROJECT  
**DES** Field assistant to help with a PhD project, which is run through the University of Glasgow & the National Trust for Scotland. Approximately two weeks from mid-May to early June (dates to be confirmed). These dates may alter further if adverse weather delays crossings. Seabird work will comprise monitoring of the puffin & great skua populations. Time permitting, cameras will be installed for remote monitoring of the puffin colony. Plant work will include collection of vegetarian samples from within an experiment established last year. Time permitting, some vegetation surveys will be undertaken within the puffin & skua colonies to study the effect of seabirds on vegetation. Other work will include some ringing of birds. Accommodation based in an old schoolhouse with no running water (water collected from nearby stream), no electricity or toilet facilities. Fresh food is brought to the island regularly when weather permits. **BUT** Ideally strong knowledge on plant identification, interest in ornithology & happy to work at all times in all weather conditions. Good physical fitness important. Must feel OK living on a remote island with near to no external contact. Ringing permit desirable but not essential.  
**ASK** Adam Cross, a.cross.1@research.gla.ac.uk

**Young Rangers Volunteer**

**REF** 414-FOCUS-25/2  
**JOB** YOUNG RANGERS VOLUNTEER  
**BE4** 21/2/13  
**LOC** SELKIRK  
**PAY** 4 x 3 hours free training  
**FOR** BORDERS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SERVICES  
**DES** Interested in helping run a new Young Countryside Ranger project in Haining, Selkirk? Borders Environmental Education Services (BEES) is seeking new volunteers to help run a new Young Ranger service for teenagers at the Haining in Selkirk. Sessions will take place on Thursdays from 4 – 7pm during Spring, Summer & Autumn. Activities will include bushcraft skills, conservation work, environmental art & much more. Full training & an induction process will be given to prospective volunteers. **BUT** Can be aged between 21 & 70 years. No experience necessary, but a love of the outdoors, a keen interest in natural history & an aptitude for working with teenagers desirable.  
**ASK** Jan Barr, jbarr@bee-active.org

**Woodland Activities Volunteer**

**REF** 415-FOCUS-1/4  
**JOB** WOODLAND ACTIVITIES VOLUNTEER  
**BE4** 31/3/13  
**LOC** SCOTTISH BORDERS (various locations)  
**PAY** Travelling expenses on some projects  
**FOR** BORDERS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SERVICES  
**DES** Help children connect with nature through woodland games, bushcraft, environmental art & more in their local woods (Selkirk, Melrose, Jedburgh, Berwick, Peebles). Learn new skills as you assist qualified leaders in delivering these projects. Can volunteer at any time to suit you as we run a range of projects at weekends, on week days & during school holidays. Full training & an induction process will be given to prospective volunteers. **BUT** Can be aged between 21 & 70 years. No experience necessary, but a love of the outdoors, a keen interest in natural history & an aptitude for working with teenagers desirable.  
**ASK** Aylife Rose, arose@bee-active.org 01835 869869.
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Countryside Jobs Service Focus on Volunteering

www.countryside-jobs.com

REF 416-FOCUS-OK8 JOB GARDEN / ESTATE ASSISTANT
BE4 ONGOING LOC Drum Castle, Garden & Estate, Drumoak
PAY Training FOR NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND
DES One of the oldest properties belonging to the Trust. The gardens in the property are beautiful & varied including a pond garden and Arboretum. Vols can be involved in a variety of roles from horticulture to general estate work depending on experience. Activities incl post-winter jobs around the estate, maintaining young trees, woodland footpaths & ensuring deer protection. Also poster production and vol team building for the coming year. BUT Essential: interest & enthusiasm for gardening; ability to relate to people of different backgrounds & cultures. Desirable: interest in the work of NTS; ability to work independently. ASK http://bit.ly/11QWAT2 (under Type search for Gardening)

REF 417-FOCUS-OK8 JOB 2 PROJECT SCOTLAND GARDEN ASSISTANTS
BE4 ONGOING LOC THREAVE ESTATE, CASTLE DOUGLAS
PAY NTS: training. Project Scotland: £12wk travel FOR National Trust for Scotland / Project Scotland
DES National volunteering programme for 18 – 30 year olds. Threave has an impressive walled garden, stunning herbaceous borders, glasshouses, fruit & vegetable collections, rock garden, heathers. confiers & herbaceous perennials. Threave also hosts the Trust’s School of Practical Gardening & the student’s work means that the garden is constantly evolving. Role involves a range of practical gardening tasks which could incl working in the glasshouse, assisting with maintenance of landscape features, hedges, borders, soil management, compost making & weed control. Use & maintain garden machinery after training. Opportunities for acquiring plant ID skills. Also opportunities to working with the public providing info on the property & plant collection. BUT No accom available. No experience required but would be excellent opportunity for someone with a qual in gardening looking to gain experience. Involves physical, outdoor work so good level of fitness required. ASK http://bit.ly/11QWAT2 (under Type search for Gardening)

REF 418-FOCUS-OK8 JOB GARDEN ASSISTANT
BE4 ONGOING LOC CULROSS PALACE, CULROSS
PAY training FOR NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND
DES Culross Palace dates from 1597 to 1611, the garden recreates the horticultural style of the late medieval & Renaissance periods using plants of the period. Be involved in the wide variety of tasks required for the maintenance of this garden. Duties for volunteers will incl a broad variety of interesting garden work incl cultivation of fruit, vegetables & herbs; care & maintenance of ornamental plants; cultivation of medicinal plants; garden joinery. Help with the daily maintenance of the garden, varied work with lots of opportunity to learn & practise new skills; Provide info regarding the site and NTS when required. BUT Interest in gardens & plants essential, although previous experience not required; reasonable level of fitness; good attention to detail, able to communicate with the public; ability to work with limited supervision once trained. ASK http://bit.ly/11QWAT2 (under Type search for Gardening)

REF 419-FOCUS-OK8 JOB GARDEN ASSISTANT
BE4 ONGOING FOR NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND
PAY training DES Garden Assistant
JOB Falkland Palace & Garden, Falkland A stunning 16th century Renaissance property. The garden is the most complete Percy Cane’s designs in the country. Join the property gardening team & assist in the maintenance of this magnificent garden which features colourful herbaceous borders, lush green lawns & many unusual shrubs & trees as well as an herb garden. Work with the team carrying out a range of tasks involved in the maintenance of the garden, incl digging, weeding & planting, propagating. Opportunities to work with garden machinery after training. Welcome visitors & pass on information about the plant collection & history of the garden. Garden Assistant
Leith Hall Garden, Huntly The highest altitude garden in the Trust providing spectacular views of Aberdeenshire & surrounding hills. South facing slopes shelter plants from around the world, alongside borders, rock garden & vegetable garden. Assist with the maintenance of the garden. Work with the team carrying out a range of tasks involved in the maintenance of the garden, incl digging, weeding & planting. Opportunities to work with garden machinery after training. Welcome visitors & pass on information about the plant collection & history of the garden. Both: BUT No accom available. Interest & enthusiasm for gardening are essential. Ability to relate well with people from a range of backgrounds. Ability to work with minimum supervision. Knowledge of the work of NTS would be an advantage. ASK http://bit.ly/11QWAT2 (under Type search for Gardening)

REF 420-FOCUS-18/3 JOB VOLUNTEER BUTTERFLY SURVEYOR x 4
BE4 15/3/13 LOC SPEY BAY, MORAY
PAY Training FOR SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST
DES Opportunities to help SWT gather species data available on the wonderful Moray coast. We are looking for volunteers to carry out regular butterfly surveys by walking a regular route within our Spey Bay reserve & recording species found. BUT 6 months commitment preferred. Previous experience of conducting butterfly surveys would be ideal, but all necessary training provided. Reasonable fitness required as ground can be uneven. ASK See volunteer page on SWT website or contact Laura Smith, Spey Bay Ranger, lsmith@swt.org.uk

Trees for Life is a Scottish conservation charity working to restore native Caledonian Forest to the Highlands of Scotland. We recently planted our Millionth Tree and now aim to plant a Million More in the next 5 years. Volunteers are invited to join us on Conservation Weeks in 8 beautiful locations - spend a week amongst forests, rivers & mountains, carrying out vital practical work, including tree planting, felling non-native trees, fence removal, seed collection and more! We also run dedicated Tree Nursery weeks, where the work is gentler but equally important. Weeks run from March to June & August to November, every year. Minimum contribution of £80 per week is required, including all food, accommodation, tools and transport from Inverness. becky@treesforlife.org.uk www.treesforlife.org.uk

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Ranger Assistant

**JOB** RANGER ASSISTANT

**LOC** CRATHES CASTLE, ABERDEENSHIRE

**FOR** NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND

**RES** NTS North East Ranger service offers stewardship for the wildlife & flora of the estates as well as a varied education programme. You would join the team between March & October 2013. The role is ideal for people with a keen interest in the environment who wish to gain valuable experience & work with experts in the field. 5 days a week, flexible hours, some weekends & evenings. Volunteers will be given the necessary in-house training including tool use, species identification, survey techniques & to lead guided walks. Excellent experience for someone interested in a future role as a countryside ranger or countryside professional. BUT Essential: good natural history skills; excellent communication skills; enthusiasm; ability to engage with children & work alongside a diverse range of volunteers. Desirable: interest in the work of the NTS; ability to work independently when required. Full driving licence & Disclosure Scotland / PVG Scheme membership check. ASK Further details / CV & covering letter to: fmilne@nts.org.uk or Fiona Mlne, Rangers Office, Crathes Castle, Banchory AB31 5GJ

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**Saturday 16 March Mountain Path Volunteer Day**

Loch Langaig – Quiraing, Highland Council Contact: Tom Hall/Jenny Grant 01471 820526/01471 820527

Walks the stretch of path from Loch Langaig. Meet at the layby close to the start of the path. Booking essential. Bring good footwear, waterproof jacket and trousers, packed lunch and warm clothes. Free.

**The Tayside, Grampian and Highland Conservation Volunteers (CVs) carry out practical conservation work for the National Trust for Scotland. CVs can: Learn new skills e.g. footpath construction & woodland management; Work in beautiful gardens & countryside; Meet new people & become actively involved in conservation. www.nts.org.uk/Volunteer/Outdoor**

**Do you want to help look after Scotland’s largest Regional Park?** Volunteering with the Park is a great way to learn new skills, get fit and have fun. We have lots of opportunities available, to find out more take a look at www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk/volunteering/ or email us at volunteer@clydemuirshiel.co.uk

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**Countrieside Volunteers, East Lothian Council.**

Join our merry volunteer band of ‘Friends’ groups, path wardens and conservation surveyors. Options for group and individual working, both weekday and weekend. For full information contact the Countryside Officer at dpdriddle@eastlothian.gov.uk

**6-15 April, Knockengorroch, Galloway Hills, SW Scotland. Site work in preparation for May’s greenfield music festival. Pathways, willow wattling, celtic longhouse extensions and other building work, woodworking, tree-planting, turf laying, gardening, cooking, art installations, music. Learn new skills or hone up existing ones. All meals, camping, great company. info@knockengorroch.org.uk Tel. 01644 460662 www.knockengorroch.org.uk**

**Froglife welcome volunteers to help with habitat creation on various sites around Glasgow and North Lanarkshire. Most tasks are related to our pond creation programme and are free for to attend. As long as you don’t mind getting muddy you are very welcome! For more info please contact iain.maclean@froglife.org**

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**Opportunities to undertake valuable conservation work on our network of nature reserves available throughout the year. Contact Peter Gilbert pgilbert@swt.org.uk for more information or see volunteering page on our website www.swt.org.uk**

**Northern Ireland:**

**REF** 422-FOCUS-18/3

**JOB** WILDLIFE SURVEY VOLUNTEER – PORTMORE LOUGH RESERVE

**BE4** N/A

**LOC** PORTMORE LOUGH RESERVE, AGHALEE

**PAY** Identification training is provided

**FOR** RSPB

**DET** We need volunteers to help survey & record the range of species on our reserve. Surveys will include: Breeding bird survey, Dragonfly & Butterfly transect, Moth trapping, Skylark & Meadow pipit survey, Tree sparrow nest box count, Wildflower surveys & Bat identification, plus more! **BUT** Any level of skill is welcome as the Assistant Warden will be on site to offer training & identification advice. You will be required to work on own initiative but must also be able to take supervision. Confidence to work alone will be essential. ASK Suzanne Irvine, 02890 491547

suzanne.irvine@rspb.org.uk

**REF** 423-FOCUS-18/3

**JOB** FARMLAND WILDLIFE SURVEYOR

**BE4** 15/3/13

**LOC** EAST COUNTY DOWN NATURE FRIENDLY AREA

**PAY** A half day’s training on identification provided

**FOR** RSPB

**DET** Could you deliver a farmland wildlife survey? RSPB want to encourage more farmers to be wildlife friendly. These surveys will highlight farms with priority wildlife species & will help us to give targeted habitat management advice to farmers. **BUT** Although we provide a half day training session for insect transect & plant identification, volunteers will need good bird identification skills. ASK Suzanne Irvine, 02890 491547 suzanne.irvine@rspb.org.uk

**RSPB Rathlin Island Seabird Centre, Antrim, NI**

Overlooking the largest seabird breeding colony in Northern Ireland, volunteers will assist presenting this spectacle to visitors who come to see puffins and cliffs packed with guillemots. Minimum age 18, shared self-catering accommodation in cottage hostel is provided. More details on www.rspb.org.uk/residentialvolunteering or call Residential Volunteering on 01767 680551
Recording Nature’s Calendar

Volunteers for the Nature’s Calendar project at the Woodland Trust provide valuable evidence of the effect of climate change on our wildlife. Kate Lewthwaite, project manager, explains why and how to get involved.

Weather has always been a hot topic for the great British public. Keeping track of seasonal changes and how conditions differ from one year to the next is all part of our national fascination.

As conservationists, the thoughts we might mull over as we enjoy the outdoors could be ‘I wonder how the winter just gone will affect bird populations’ ‘wow, that’s an early bluebell!’ or ‘strange, I haven’t seen any butterflies yet this year…’ If this describes your interests then the Nature’s Calendar survey run by the Woodland Trust (www.naturescalendar.org.uk) is worth exploring.

The survey tells how seasonal variations affect common wildlife species. The detail behind these stories is only possible through the enthusiasm of volunteers from across the UK who record the signs of the seasons where they live: in spring perhaps noting wildflowers in their garden, insect or bird activity in their nearest park or the leafing of trees in a local wood. In autumn they might look for departing migratory birds, the abundance of autumn fruits or when leaves begin to tint and fall.

A phenological record from Jean Combes who has been recording the same oak tree for over 60 years, clearly showing the advancement in leafing date during this period.

Known as the science of ‘phenology’ the project is user-friendly for complete beginners who can note a few easily-recognisable species. Equally there is a valuable place for the data sent in by our ‘expert recorders’ who can confidently identify our full species list of around 70 examples of common flora and fauna and track their activity throughout the year.

The immediate benefit to all participants is that you can see your records on the ‘live tracking maps’ on the website, along with those from others illustrating how the seasons sweep across the country.

Michael Knaggs, scientist and committed Nature’s Calendar recorder, explains what he gains from taking part: ‘I enjoy recording because it helps me to make sense of what is happening in the natural world throughout the year. There are many different things to look for, but recording timings for nature’s calendar puts everything into a convenient natural order. It shows me what to look for and when the right time is to do so.’
Recording ‘nature’s calendar’ has moved from being a leisure pastime for Victorian naturalists, to a crucial source of scientific evidence as to how wildlife is responding to climate change. The Woodland Trust is custodian to a dataset stretching back 300 years, making it the longest written biological record of its kind. Comparing today’s records with historic ones highlights dramatic changes over the years.

Overall, in spring, compared to 30 years ago, insects are being seen on average three weeks earlier, plant growth is up to two weeks earlier and bird activity is a week earlier.

As the climate warms, the growing season is also extending later into autumn. These changes will have many implications for our wildlife, being advantageous for some and detrimental for others, impacting food chains and vulnerable life cycles. It is, as yet, far from clear who will be the eventual winner and losers. As well as changed phenology, typical responses might include a change in species’ overall abundance and/or geographic range.

Project data has featured in reports for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and is a key indicator used by the UK government to monitor the health of the natural environment. More than 30 academic articles have been written with the Trust’s scientific partner, the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. Findings from the project are also regularly featured on national TV, radio and in newspapers.

For the Woodland Trust, it backs our call to double native UK woodland cover to help make our wildlife more able to cope.

The project has 60,000 followers who value its findings; a few thousand people go one step further and record, but currently a mere two hundred send in the majority of the data which provides the mainstay of scientific credibility to the project. All recorders are most welcome, even a single sighting is of value and at this time of rapid climate change has never been more important. Please take part and add your skills and knowledge to this worthy cause. Job-hunters might find this evidence of volunteering a useful addition to their CV.

Highlights to look out for and record during February include: first flowering in blackthorn and hazel, blackbirds starting to build nests, departing redwings, first frogspawn and first ladybirds.

Find out more at.... www.naturescalendar.org.uk

If you are interested in other volunteering opportunities at the Woodland Trust, we have a wide range to select from across the UK, including desk-based research, practical tasks in our woods plus our new internship scheme which offers excellent training and experience in the conservation sector. www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/volunteering
North West:

- **REF 424-FOCUS-27/5 JOB CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS**
  - **BE4 24/5/13 LOC BLACKPOOL**
  - **PAY 0 FOR BLACKPOOL ZOO**
- **DES** Blackpool Zoo has several volunteer positions to assist the education department with conservation activities over the summer holidays. We are passionate about raising awareness & funds for animal conservation, global biodiversity & environmental issues. Our main fundraising efforts throughout the summer holidays will be focused on conservation organisations such as the EAZA Southeast Asia Campaign, CBD-Habitat Foundation Mediterranean monk seal project, & the Biodiversity & Elephant Conservation Trust (BECT). Volunteers are expected to commit to at least 1 day a week for 6 weeks (20th July to 1st September) or for a set period within these dates (either 1 week or more). Usual hours are 10.30am – 5pm & include weekends. BUT An animal related qualification is desirable but not essential. Minimum age 18. Good communicator & dedicated to raising awareness of the plight of endangered species. ASK Joanna Fullman at Groundwork, 0161 624 1444 or joanna.fullman@groundwork.org.uk
- **REF 425-FOCUS-OK8 JOB TREE NURSERY VOLUNTEER OFFICER**
  - **BE4 Ongoing opportunity LOC KENDAL, CUMBRIA**
  - **PAY Training & experience FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS**
- **DES** Native trees, grown from locally collected seed, must be part of our future if we are to conserve biodiversity & protect wildlife. We collect seed from some of the most scenic areas in the British Isles, & propagate it at our tree nursery in Kendal. You can do this! Gain experience in plant propagation in polytunnels & outdoor beds, & learn a range of techniques to get seeds to grow. See the trees become bigger, & go out to be planted in local conservation projects. Work with & lead a range of interesting people & community groups. Training (informal & formal) is provided. Spectacular scenery, rewarding conservation work, vibrant learning experience. BUT Willingness to get muddy & wet, an inquisitiveness to learn more about species ID & characteristics, inventiveness to create solutions to problems & a friendly manner to join our team. ASK Rachel Miller, 01539 742 612 / 07740 899596 r.miller@tcv.org.uk
- **REF 426-FOCUS-OK8 JOB PRACTICAL PROJECTS VOLUNTEER OFFICER**
  - **BE4 Ongoing opportunity LOC KENDAL, CUMBRIA**
  - **PAY Formal & informal training FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS**
- **DES** Work in & around the Lake District National Park. Join a keen & experienced volunteer team, & learn a wide range of conservation & people skills from experts. Gain a Level 2 Diploma in Environmental Conservation. You will be providing assistance in some or all of the following: leading volunteer work parties, practical conservation, maintaining equipment & grounds, tree propagation, work with youth groups, project planning & preparation, publicity, events, administration. Spectacular scenery, rewarding conservation work & vibrant learning experience. Former VO’s have progressed to careers in conservation. BUT Willingness to manage groups or projects. Commitment to contributing to the team & your own self development. Minibus driving useful but not essential. Activities are rural & consequently outdoors. ASK Rachel Miller, 01539 742 612 / 07740 899596 r.miller@tcv.org.uk
- **REF 427-FOCUS-6/5 JOB VOLUNTEER PROJECT ASSISTANT**
  - **BE4 Rolling placements LOC OLDHAM & ROCHDALE, GREATER MANCHESTER**
  - **PAY Travel expenses & training FOR GROUNDWORK OLDHAM & ROCHDALE**
- **DES** Are you looking for: real hands on experience in the regeneration sector? A volunteer placement that suits your career aspirations, skills & academic background? The VPA Programme is a 12-week voluntary placement that gives graduates & adults real project management experience. The scheme lasts for 12 weeks & is a combination of work experience & volunteering to gain further qualifications in Practical Countryside skills (Level 1) & Community Volunteering (Level 3). Choose either a department in Groundwork or one of our partner organisations to gain work experience & either take part in the Full team programme when you complete 2 qualifications or complete the community volunteering only placement. Placements range from internal based projects within our departments for example, Education & Communities, Environmental business Services, Youth, or employability & our partnership organisations offer placements in their organisations for example Oldham Council, Oldham Evening Chronicle, or a housing organisation. Placements tend to change with each team but hopefully we can make suggestions to suit the experience that you are interested to achieve. Next team due to start late May / early June. BUT Graduates or adults with a Level 2 or higher qualification. ASK Gemma Russell at Groundwork, 0161 624 1444 gemma.russell@groundwork.org.uk
- **REF 428-FOCUS-18/3 JOB CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**
  - **BE4 N / A LOC OLDHAM & ROCHDALE**
  - **PAY Training FOR GROUNDWORK OLDHAM & ROCHDALE**
- **DES** / BUT Opportunities for people interested in Countryside skills volunteering for 10 – 12 weeks. Projects based at Groundwork sites. Ground work have a combination of part time & full time conservation volunteer opportunities for people to work towards a Level 1 qualification in Practical Countryside Skills. Learn new skills, add to your CV, have fun & make new friends! ASK Jo Fullman at Groundwork, 0161 624 1444 or joanna.fullman@groundwork.org.uk

**Wednesdays Work Party**
Geltisdale reserve. RSPB Contact: belinda.lloyd@rspb.org.uk
10am-3pm. To work within a team of volunteers, assisting with maintenance of Geltisdale reserve through a wide variety of practical tasks. A great chance to gain experience of practical conservation in the uplands and estate maintenance. Enthusiasm, basic fitness and a willingness to listen and learn required.

**Every Thursday Volunteer Task Group**
Blackpool, Groundwork Contact: Pauline Taylor 01253 345445, pauline.taylor@groundwork.org.uk
We have a conservation volunteer task group that meet from 10am - 3pm, working through out the North Blackpool Pond Trail. If you would like to join us or want to find out more about the project contact us.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Every Monday, Tuesday &amp; Wednesday</th>
<th>Conservation Work Parties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kendal, The Conservation Volunteers</td>
<td>Contact: 01539 742612, <a href="mailto:r.miller@tcv.org.uk">r.miller@tcv.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join our enthusiastic team of volunteers for regular conservation work parties Spectacular scenery, rewarding conservation work, vibrant learning experience. Opportunities also to gain a Level 2 Diploma in Environmental Conservation. Jump on our minibus for fun, fitness and fresh air!</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fortnightly on Fridays</th>
<th>Towpath Taskforce Sefton</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sefton (Bootle – Litherland), Canal &amp; River Trust</td>
<td>Contact: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/axed5p8">http://tinyurl.com/axed5p8</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join us for a practical day including vegetation works, litter pick and general towpath maintenance. This group meets fortnightly on Fridays from 10am until approx. 3pm. Get Involved.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Towpath Taskforce Wigan</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wigan, Canal &amp; River Trust</td>
<td>Contact: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/a6p6eze">http://tinyurl.com/a6p6eze</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join us from 10am for a practical day. Recently we’ve blitzed floating litter, spruced up locks with a new coat of paint and tidied up our towpaths by clearing litter and cutting back overgrown vegetation. Get Involved.</td>
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<tr>
<th>The Bollin LAG aims</th>
<th>Help us make a difference</th>
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<tr>
<td>to control non-native plants within the River Bollin catchment, Cheshire. There are various opportunities for a Volunteer Graphic Designer including branding the project and producing literature. We will publicise your business in return. For more info please contact Sally Davies on <a href="mailto:sally.davies@nationaltrust.org.uk">sally.davies@nationaltrust.org.uk</a> or 07825 115 303</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to Cumbria’s wildlife and wild places by giving your time and volunteering with us. You do not have to be a wildlife specialist to help. Volunteers help us by undertaking practical work on our 40 nature reserves. For further information visit <a href="http://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk">www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Brantwood offers</th>
<th>Wirral Countryside Volunteers (WCV):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a range of outdoor volunteering opportunities. Contribute to the sustainable renovation and development of John Ruskin’s 100 ha unique garden and estate or help to extend the potential for biodynamic and other holistic land management research within this beautiful fellside landscape. Sally - 015394 41396. <a href="mailto:sally@brantwood.org.uk">sally@brantwood.org.uk</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>an enthusiastic volunteer group doing nature conservation work on the Wirral. From hedgelaying and coppicing ancient woodland to pond restoration and scything wildflower meadows. Learn new skills, gain experience, and have fun. New volunteers particularly welcome bit.ly/WirralCsideVols / Please contact Tim: <a href="mailto:wirral.countryside.volunteers@gmail.com">wirral.countryside.volunteers@gmail.com</a> / 07908 830033</td>
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<tr>
<th>The Lake District calls!</th>
<th>The National Trust has a variety of roles</th>
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<tr>
<td>Enjoy talking to people and finding out what makes them tick? Join our informal visitor research project outdoors in the beautiful valleys of Buttermere and Borrowdale - no clip-boards allowed! Contact <a href="mailto:northlakes@nationaltrust.org.uk">northlakes@nationaltrust.org.uk</a> more info at <a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteering">www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteering</a> or telephone 017687 74649</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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 <a href="mailto:nw.volunteering@nationaltrust.org.uk">nw.volunteering@nationaltrust.org.uk</a> or tel 0161 234 9980</td>
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<tr>
<th>Volunteer with Friends of the Lake District</th>
<th>Canal &amp; River Trust - Towpath Taskforce Blackburn</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>on our conservation work parties. Come walking, help with woodland management and other tasks on our land. For full details of dates and tasks and other opportunities go to <a href="http://www.fld.org.uk/volunteer.html">www.fld.org.uk/volunteer.html</a> or ring 01539 720788.</td>
<td>Join this brand new volunteer group to help tidy the towpath, tackle problem plants and carry out general maintenance along the Leeds Liverpool Canal in Blackburn. Get Involved. Join Us: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/cmtu7x7">http://tinyurl.com/cmtu7x7</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Canal &amp; River Trust - Towpath Taskforce Lancaster</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Towpath Taskforce is coming to Lancaster! Join this brand new volunteer group to help clean up the towpaths and canal through Lancaster. Follow the link below to find out more! Get Involved, Join Us: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/c8wmqbs">http://tinyurl.com/c8wmqbs</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>North East:</th>
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<tr>
<td>REF 429-FOCUS-11/3</td>
<td>JOB LIVING WENT TRAINEE PROJECT ASSISTANT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BE4 11/3/13 IV 22/3/13</td>
<td>LOC POTTERIC CARR, DONCASTER</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAY Training &amp; travel</td>
<td>FOR YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DES We are undertaking an exciting river restoration project on the River Went that flows through the Wakefield District &amp; we are looking for a committed individual to join our team as a voluntary trainee project assistant. You will be helping to deliver all aspects of the project so this is a great opportunity to gain experience in working on a landscape scale environmental project. This placement is for 8.5 months &amp; ideally 2 days a week. Training budget, internal training programme &amp; reasonable travel expenses. BUT Enthusiasm for wildlife conservation &amp; willingness to learn new skills; friendly &amp; approachable nature, reliable &amp; flexible; able to communicate effectively &amp; talk to groups of people confidently; experience of using Microsoft software packages; able to work outdoors in all weather conditions for extended periods of time, sometimes in remote locations; confident working in &amp; near water. ASK See our trainee webpage at <a href="http://www.ywt.org.uk">www.ywt.org.uk</a> email <a href="mailto:jo.meays@ywt.org.uk">jo.meays@ywt.org.uk</a> or 01904 659570.</td>
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<tr>
<td>REF 430-FOCUS-18/3</td>
<td>JOB ENVIRONMENT / HISTORY EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BE4 N / A</td>
<td>LOC SKINNINGROVE near Loftus / Saltburn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAY Training &amp; travel</td>
<td>FOR CLEVELAND IRONSTONE MINING MUSEUM</td>
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</table>
Volunteer Museum Guides

At Cleveland Ironstone Mining Museum we offer visitors the opportunity to experience the underground world of a real ironstone mine & to explore the skills, customs & life of the Cleveland miner. The museum operates using fully guided tours. We need museum guides to maximise the benefits that visitors gain from their visit to the museum by describing & interpreting the history & function of its different buildings & structures & placing them & the artefacts they contain within the context of the story of ironstone mining. In house & external training, uniform on site, travel when working out of the valley, free coffee / tea. BUT Child friendly, enthusiastic, imaginative, confident, good communication skills – in particular speaking skills. ASK Jean Banwell, Education Officer, jean@ironstonemuseum.co.uk 01287 642877 www.ironstonemuseum.co.uk

Internship – Operational Risk in Conservation Work

This Internship is about developing & maintaining a culture of safe practice, managing change & designing systems to support our conservation work. This is a great opportunity to gain project management experience as you work with the Countryside Manager & team. You’ll support our staff & vol across the Hadrian’s Wall Country Group as you develop skills in designing solutions & working out better ways of doing things. Travel expenses will be reimbursed. 12 to 20 hours per week, flexible. (128 words). BUT No previous experience required. You’ll need to be confident & well-organised, with excellent communication skills & great attention to detail. It would be beneficial if you have a good understanding of IT, enjoy working with a wide range of people & have a genuine interest in the work of the National Trust. ASK cressida.thompson@nationaltrust.org.uk for a role profile & more information. Apply: http://www.nationaltrustjobs.org.uk then go to the ‘Other Ways In’ section, & put ‘Yorkshire & North East’ in the search.

Wakefield Volunteer Officer

This is the perfect opportunity for recent graduates to gain practical skills in conservation, whilst also developing other skills deemed essential for a career in the environmental sector. You will lead / co-lead practical conservation volunteering groups to carry out a range of activities including woodland management, hedge laying, footpath construction & grassland management along with small construction projects within schools & community gardens e.g. food growing areas. You will be provided with supervision & training in managing volunteers & to ensure you have a rounded experience in environmental leadership you will also be provided with opportunities to produce publicity, project quotes, plan & deliver events & represent TCV Wakefield at formal events. BUT Excellent communication / people skills, a strong commitment to environmental issues, good knowledge of social media & a drivers licence held for over 2 years is desirable though not essential. Commitment to a minimum 3 days per week & occasional weekend working for 6 months. ASK David Boyes-Watson, 01924 299815 or send CVs to d.boyes-watson@tcv.org.uk

Education & Visitor Centre Volunteer Administrator

March / April 2013 – on going, 7-10 hrs a week. Join our friendly Centre Team & assist in the day to day running of the Education & Visitor Centre. The role will include administration of educational visit bookings & room hire facilities, maintenance of file records (both paper & electronic), stock taking in the office & gift shop & some marketing activities. Opportunity to gain experience within the sector with a particular focus on administration & customer service. In house training provided & a wide range of experience in the environmental education & public services sector. BUT Enthusiasm to learn & gain hands-on experience in a competitive field. Knowledge of office equipment & systems (e.g. photocopiers, fax, telephones, email, scanners & filing). Good people / communication skills, approachable personality, team worker. Familiarity with IT including Microsoft Office essential. Some previous experience of working in a public visitor facility an advantage although training will be given. Over 18 years of age. Subject to two satisfactory references. ASK Chat: Emma Wilmot, 01652 637055. CV & covering letter to Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Far Ings NNR Education & Visitor Centre, Far Ings Road, Barton upon Humber DN18 5RG

Seasonal Education & Visitor Centre Volunteer

6 months initially, March / April 2013 – September 2013, 25 hours a week. Join our friendly Centre Team & assist in the day-to-day running of the Education & Visitor Centre. Assist with a busy educational events programme, school visits, in the shop & exhibition area. Gain experience within the sector with a particular focus on environmental education & customer service. The Centre is open to the public Wednesday to Sunday during the summer season, but weekend & evening work required, including opening & closing the Centre. In house training, first aid qualification & a wide range of experience in the environmental education sector. BUT Enthusiasm to learn & gain hands-on experience in a
Citizens recruited as eyes and ears in battle to tackle tree diseases

As Britain’s trees face unprecedented threats from new and damaging pests and diseases, ordinary people’s help in developing better information about tree health problems is assuming ever-increasing importance.

This was highlighted in October 2012, when infection of ash trees by the destructive *Chalara fraxinea* fungus was found for the first time in established woodland here. Media and public interest was immediate and intense, and Colin Morton, head of digital communications at the Forestry Commission, reported, “The enormous public reaction to the Chalara crisis confirmed just how much the British public cherish their trees, and that people are motivated to help when their woodlands are threatened. It was clear that if we could harness that motivation in the right way, we would have a powerful information-gathering tool at our disposal in the effort to control tree pests and diseases.”

Also responding to this surge of concern was the University of East Anglia, in whose backyard the first infected woodlands were discovered. It rapidly launched a chalara reporting app for mobile devices, called Ashtag. It caught the public imagination, and within...
days the university was feeding reports of suspected diseased trees for investigation to the Forestry Commission.

Colin Morton continued, “We were already starting to develop a ‘citizen science’ approach to tree pest and disease reporting. The Chalara outbreak - and the fantastic response to Ashtag - demonstrated the urgent need to accelerate this process. By December our app, called Tree Alert, was ready. Tree Alert is initially set up for reporting Chalara dieback only, but in the longer term it can be developed to cover other pests and diseases. Pressure on public resources means it’s important for designers of citizen science projects to consider the ease with which the data collected by apps can be synchronised with tree health monitoring databases and processed by the scientists who follow up the reports. We’ve benefited immensely from learning about how the Ashtag project has worked.”

Another, longer-established tree health-related citizen science project is ‘Conker Tree Science’, led by Dr Michael Pocock at the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology and Dr Darren Evans at Hull University. It invites the public, schools and others to help them study the horse chestnut leaf miner moth by monitoring its rate of spread, investigating whether and when it is attacked by parasitic wasps, and investigating the role of birds in controlling its numbers. After verification, the information on spread is fed to the Forestry Commission’s Forest Research agency, which has been monitoring it since it was first found in London in 2002.

Also, the Sylva Foundation has expanded its suite of Treewatch tree health surveys to include “Adopt an Ash”, in which participants can help in the hunt for ash trees which appear to be resistant to the Chalara fraxinea fungus. The offspring of such trees could provide the basis of new generations of ash trees to replace those which will be lost to Chalara. Meanwhile, another citizen science survey focusing on tree health will be launched in May 2013. OPAL (the Open Air Laboratory, an initiative led by Imperial College and including 14 other partners, with universities and research institutions among them), is working with Forest Research and the Food & Environment Research Agency (Fera) to encourage citizens to watch Britain’s trees for signs of pest or disease attack while also educating participants about trees and their care. The survey is for everyone, but will be of particular interest to schools, amateur naturalist societies, other community-based organisations, and professional foresters. Details are still being developed, but on-line registrations will open in the spring, and those who register will receive survey packs and instructions for the survey tasks once it launches in May.

Dr David Slawson, Head of Public Engagement at Fera, said everyone wins when the public are recruited in a well thought-out way to tackle tree pests and diseases. “By taking part, people can help us to spot new pests and diseases early, thereby improving the chances of eradicating or containing them before they spread further. They will also have fun, and learn a lot about trees and the natural world in the process. Ultimately, a well informed public is a very useful ally, and this is recognised in the Government’s Tree Health & Plant Biosecurity Action Plan. One of its stated aims is to improve people’s ability to access and report information about pests and diseases. Well designed citizen science projects which deliver quality information in a way that scientists can use to good effect goes a long way to achieving that aim.”

Students undertaking the OPAL Biodiversity Survey at Walford and North Shropshire College, near Shrewsbury (OPAL)
Useful links:
- Tree Alert – forestry.gov.uk/chalar
- OPAL – opalexplornature.org
- Conker Tree Science - conkerTreeScience.org.uk
- Treewatch Adopt an Ash - sylva.org.uk/treewatch/ash
- Tree pests and diseases – forestry.gov.uk/pestsanddiseases
- Tree Health Action Plan - forestry.gov.uk/pestsanddiseases (see link at right-hand side)

Midlands:

REF 437-FOCUS-18/3 JOB Sustrans RANGER OPPORTUNITIES
BE4 N / A LOC VARIOUS MIDLANDS, SEE BELOW
PAY 0 FOR Sustrans
DES / BUT Opportunities in Cole Valley, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Telford & Wrekin, Stafford, Rugby & Stratford upon Avon. Become a volunteer ranger & help look after a section of the National Cycle Network near your home, & so encourage more people to walk & cycle. You will become the eyes & ears for Sustrans & our many partners. We’ll rely on you to deal with minor problems yourself & report major problems so they get dealt with rapidly. There are several key tasks for rangers, most to be carried out monthly, others less frequently. These include checking the signage on the Network, reporting missing signs & sometimes putting up temporary ones, plus checking the whole of your route in the spring. You will also keep an eye on the vegetation & cut back overhanging branches & brambles, monitor & report potholes & other hazards & help look after sculptures & mileposts. ASK Lisa Hartley, Local Volunteer Co-ordinator, lisa.hartley@sustrans.org.uk 0121 633 5517 www.sustrans.org.uk/about-sustrans/volunteer-for-us

REF 438-FOCUS-OK8 LOC WYRE FOREST
BE4 ONGOING PAY 0 FOR WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL RANGER SERVICE
JOB DES
Cattle Looker Ideal for those who’d like to regularly visit a site grazed by cattle. You can help by checking how the animals are & that the water & fences are fine.
Reserve Checker Become the eyes & ears of our nature reserves. On your regular visits help by checking pathways, levels of rubbish & fly tipping, any vandalism & dangerous trees. Then just let us know & we’ll go & fix it.

Conservation Work Party Volunteers Our most flexible way of volunteering, join the group when you have free time. An ideal way to meet other people interested in preserving our local nature reserves. Projects incl habitat restoration, creation & maintenance of wildlife features. BUT Just your enthusiasm. ASK Call 01562 732953 email nicola.foskett@wyreforestdc.gov.uk add our Facebook page www.facebook.com/volunteerranger

REF 439-FOCUS-OK8 JOB Fenn’s Moss NNR VOLUNTARY WARDEN
BE4 ONGOING PAY 0 travel expenses FOR NATURAL ENGLAND & COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES
JOB DES
Great opportunity to assist with the restoration of part of Britain’s 3rd largest lowland raised peat bog. The NNR is 635ha & 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 440-FOCUS-OK8 JOB SHADOW RANGER VOLUNTARY APPRENTICESHIP
BE4 N / A LOC NOTTINGHAMSHIRE & S.YORKSHIRE
PAY In-house & external training FOR FORESTRY COMMISSION
JOB DES
We are looking for individuals with an interest in pursuing a career in countryside management, recreation, working with young people or the environmental sector. Successful applicants will be given training and development opportunities by work shadowing current countryside management staff. Placements run for 6 months where the volunteer shadows a member of staff 1-3 days a week. They will assist and gain experience of working with a diverse range of people, assisting in a variety of tasks, sessions, activities and procedures that rangers undertake within their role. BUT Must be 18+ & have a reasonable level of fitness. ASK www.forestry.gov.uk/eastmidlandsvolunteering Recruitment runs Spring & Autumn 2013

REF 441-FOCUS-OK8 JOB PIN BADGE BOX MINDER
BE4 ONGOING PAY Training / expenses / resources offered FOR RSPB
JOB DES
Can you spare a couple of hours each month to raise money for birds & wildlife? We are looking for volunteers to help raise more funds for conservation by placing pin badge boxes at various sites in your area. The RSPB pin badge scheme generates nearly £1m a year. You can get out & about in your local area, learn new skills & enthuse about RSPB’s work whilst raising vital funds for conservation! * Buckinghamshire, Derbyshire, Herefordshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands. BUT No knowledge of birds required! Local knowledge, basic numeracy skills, strong communication skills, high motivation, a personable approach, & the ability to restock badges & collect & pay in the money every 4-6 weeks. You will be assisted by a friendly volunteer area co-ordinator. ASK Mark Barrett, 01295 676455 mrofundraising@rspb.org.uk

REF 442-FOCUS-18/3 JOB WILDLIFE & COMMUNITY EVENTS ASSISTANTS
BE4 N / A LOC SHERWOOD, TREN'T & TAME, EAST MIDLANDS

Page 13
**Countrieside Jobs Service Focus on Volunteering**

**PAY** Training & expenses FOR RSPB

**DES** Several new posts for a new & exciting project called Futurescapes. We need people who have a real enthusiasm for wildlife & conservation with the ability to inspire & educate others with their passion, who want to make a real difference to local people & wildlife. You will gain great experience, enhance your CV, meet new people & make a real difference. Any training will be provided & expenses can be reimbursed where necessary. All we ask is 1-2 days a month minimum commitment. BUT You must enjoy meeting & talking to new people, be approachable & most importantly have a smile & care about the cause! **ASK** Roseanna Burton, 07738 028371 roseanna.burton@rspb.org.uk

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<tr>
<td>443</td>
<td>FOCUS</td>
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<tr>
<td>BE4</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>BIRMINGHAM</td>
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<td>SUBTRANS</td>
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<td>DES</td>
<td>To inspire people to be more active, to walk &amp; cycle for more of their everyday journeys. As a Champion you can volunteer within your workplace, community or school in Birmingham. There are lots of easy ways to get involved, whether you want to help out on a small scale or take a more active role. Some of the ways you can get involved are: petting &amp; organising group rides or walks; giving travel advice &amp; talks; setting up bike user groups; holding an information stall; create an information display; setting up cycle commuter groups; &amp; we always welcome new ideas from our volunteers. <strong>ASK</strong> Sustrans, 4th Floor George Nott House, 119 Holloway Head, Birmingham B1 1QP <a href="http://champions.sustrans.org.uk/apply">http://champions.sustrans.org.uk/apply</a></td>
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<td>BE4</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>THROUGHOUT LEICESTERSHIRE*</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAY</td>
<td>reasonable travel expenses</td>
<td>LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL</td>
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<td>DES</td>
<td>Work with rangers to carry out a varied programme of conservation projects throughout the year across Leicestershire with our 6 volunteer groups. Our woodlands, heathlands, wetlands &amp; meadows offer the perfect venue to make friends, keep healthy &amp; learn new skills. *Principal bases at Beacon, Bosworth, Snibston &amp; Watermead Country Parks. BUT If you’re willing to get involved &amp; don’t mind working outside then you’ll enjoy our volunteer days. If you want to learn more about the natural environment, enhance your knowledge of natural history &amp; the best ways to manage different habitats then get in touch to find out more. <strong>ASK</strong> The Country Parks Volunteer &amp; Events Co-ordinator, Mobile: 07717 808 982 Office: 0116 305 7937 <a href="mailto:chris.conway@leics.gov.uk">chris.conway@leics.gov.uk</a></td>
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<td>BE4</td>
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<td>Equipment &amp; expenses</td>
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<td>DES</td>
<td>Many of our much loved UK birds are in drastic decline. With your support we can step up together &amp; help halt these declines. We need you to give us a few hours of your time to raise money for our conservation work &amp; help us save our threatened wildlife for future generations. We have organised bucket collections in supermarkets, garden centres &amp; pet stores across the Midlands. We want people to grab one of our big yellow buckets &amp; head down to their local collection between Friday 1 March &amp; Saturday 16 March. Collections in Buckinghamshire, Derbyshire, Herefordshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Rutland, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands &amp; Worcestershire. Have fun, meet people &amp; raise money to protect threatened wildlife. Don’t worry if this is your first time collecting. Our friendly team will explain how it all works &amp; ensure you have what you need to take part. BUT No special knowledge or skills are required. All you need are just a few spare hours in the morning or afternoon - &amp; a friendly smile! We’ll provide you with a bucket kit which will contain everything you need. <strong>ASK</strong> Anna Lawrence, RSPB Midlands Regional Office, 01295 676456 anna lawy <a href="mailto:re@spsb.org.uk">re@spsb.org.uk</a></td>
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**Every Tuesday Farming Volunteers**

**Lower Smite Farm, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust**

Contact: Caroline Corsie 01905 754919,
caroline@worcestershirewildlifetrust.org The aim of the 65 ha farm is to maximise biodiversity potential, rebuild soil health, identify and experiment with future crops and demonstrate to the wider farming community. Carry out a wide range of tasks incl hedge planting, fencing, weeding and hay making. Opportunity to assist with ecological surveying incl rare arable flora, grassland, earthworms and farmland birds.

**Tuesdays & Thursdays Roving Volunteer Work Parties**

**Worcestershire, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust**

Contact: Dominique Cragg 01905 754919,
dominique@worcestershirewildlifetrust.org Join our work parties which go to a different reserve each week and undertake different practical conservation tasks depending on the seasons. It's a great way to keep fit, get fresh air and learn more about different habitats.

**Fourth Sunday of the month Work parties**

**Nottingham, Friends of Sharphill Wood**

Contact: www.sharphillwood.org

We help the Notts Wildlife Trust to manage a 9.6ha mixed broadleaf wood on the southern edge of Nottingham grid ref SK 586 349. The wood is owned by the borough council. Check web site for details.

**Every Thursday Work Day**

**Worcester Woods Country Park, Worcester, Worcestershire County Council**

Contact: Rob or Tanya on 01905 766155 Meet at the Countryside centre at 10 am.

**Every Wednesday Work Day**

**Waseley Hills Country Park, Rubery, Worcestershire County Council**

Contact: George or Matt on 01562 710025. Meet at the Countryside offices at 10 am.
Whether you’re trying to break in to the sector or just wanting to build up your skills base, gaining experience through volunteering is essential. Getting involved in a series of tasks with a variety of organisations proves you are continually expanding your knowledge, are committed to the sector and that you have a good understanding of the industry. With competition for jobs being so intense employers are always looking for those individuals who go that extra mile and have something that makes them stand out from the rest. So if you’re not already volunteering and building up your skills base, why not?! Forestry Commission offer a good range of practical conservation and site management tasks and activities across South Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire suitable for all levels of knowledge, ability and skill base. Whether you can only give an hour or two a month or want to get involved in something more regularly why not see what’s local to you? www.forestry.gov.uk/southyorkshirevolunteering or www.forestry.gov.uk/eastmidlandsvolunteering. Get in touch on 01623 822 447.

Help local wildlife and come long and volunteer! People from all walks of life become volunteers with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. You could be helping with practical conservation activities, surveying a reserve, assisting our Education team, or delivering our magazine. There is something for everyone! Contact charlotte.dale@stedsbc.gov.uk or alison.nimmo@rspb.org.uk

Worcestershire Volunteering Opportunities at Hartlebury Common. Stourport & St Wulstans Local Nature Reserve. Malvern. Working as a small group with the Countryside Sites Officers tasks may vary from coppicing, hedge laying, path work, installing benches, building steps & habitat creation. Please contact Martin Barnett on 01905 766155

Shropshire’s Community Wildlife Groups bring together nature enthusiasts to monitor and conserve local wildlife. Receive free training and undertake surveys of threatened species or habitats. A few hours surveying per year makes an important contribution, plus you meet like-minded people and have fun. To join your local group visit www.shropscwgs.org.uk

Anglia:

REF 446-FOCUS-OK8 JOB VOLUNTEER EVENTS LEADER
BE4 ONGOING LOC RSPB FEN DRAYTON LAKES NATURE RESERVE
PAY Travel expenses & training FOR RSPB
DES Contribute to varied events progs, through which we inspire, inform & spread our love of nature. Perhaps you’re a keen wildlife gardener, a fossil fan or have a talent for helping beginners get into birdwatching. BUT Enthusiasm for nature, outgoing personality, tact & diplomacy. Interest in an area of natural history or heritage rel to the local area. Confidence to take a lead role working with a group of people, supported by staff & vols. ASK Alison Nimmo, 01954 233262 alison.nimmo@rspb.org.uk

REF 447-FOCUS-OK8 JOB PARK VOLUNTEER
BE4 ONGOING LOC WEST STOW COUNTRY PARK
PAY Training will be given by park staff FOR ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL
DES These tasks will include general maintenance work such as habitat management, fence repairs, path clearance, scrub clearance & litter control. There will also be opportunities to be involved in specific conservation projects from time to time. We will provide the tools & training where appropriate. BUT Reliable, enthusiastic volunteers to help out with a wide range of practical tasks in the country park. Previous experience is not essential but an interest in the environment & basic practical skills are desirable. Volunteers must be prepared to work on their own when required. ASK Charlotte Dale, charlotte.dale@stedsbc.gov.uk 01284 728718.

REF 448-FOCUS-OK8 JOB VOLUNTEER MEMBERSHIP CHAMPION
BE4 ONGOING LOC RSPB FEN DRAYTON LAKES NATURE RESERVE
PAY Travel expenses & training FOR RSPB
DES As part of the visitor experience team warmly welcome all visitors to have a great experience of nature & inspire them to actively support conservation through RSPB membership. BUT Enthusiasm for nature outgoing personality, tact & diplomacy. Happy to start conversations & engage with a wide range of visitors. Confidence & desire to encourage support for nature conservation. Commitment is flexible, ideally 1-2 days per month. ASK Alison Nimmo, 01954 233262 alison.nimmo@rspb.org.uk

REF 449-FOCUS-8/4 JOB MASTER COMPOSTER (VOLUNTEER)
BE4 5/4/13 LOC NORFOLK
PAY Full training & expenses FOR GARDEN ORGANIC & NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
DES To encourage people in your local community to start composting at home, offer support to people who are already home composting & may be having difficulties or need encouragement. Two day training course (next Thu 18 & Fri 19 April 2013) for new volunteers at Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse, Dereham, Norfolk. Supported by dedicated project co-ordinator, further training available. Join the successful team of 80 volunteers already spreading the word in Norfolk! BUT Anyone over the age of 18 can become a Master Composter, as long as you’re resident in Norfolk. You don’t need to be a composting already or have any other volunteer or community group experience as full training is
The Snowdonia Society works to protect, enhance and celebrate Snowdonia National Park through campaigning, practical conservation work and awareness raising. As a small charity with just two part-time core members of staff, it is dependent on and thrives as a result of the vital contributions from Trustees and other volunteers. The skills and experience on the Trustee board allow the charity to successfully pursue a wide range of high impact activities, including monitoring and responding to planning policies, applications and consultations, undertaking lobbying and campaigning work and carrying out a range of practical conservation activities throughout the National Park, including at the charity's own property The Ugly House, which is a popular Snowdonia visitor attraction. While staff provide the necessary administrative support, supervise and manage volunteers and are the key point of contact for the Society's beneficiaries and the general public, the contribution made by

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<td>VISITOR EXPERIENCE VOLUNTEER</td>
<td>RSPB FEN DRAYTON LAKES NATURE RESERVE</td>
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<td>PAY</td>
<td>Travel expenses &amp; training</td>
<td>WARMLY WELCOME ALL VISITORS AS PART OF THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE TEAM PROVIDING THE INFORMATION &amp; INSPIRATION THAT GIVES PEOPLE A GREAT TIME - FROM ORIENTATING NEW VISITORS TO SHOWING KIDS A REALLY COOL BEETLE, HELPING OUT WITH EVENTS OR ANY OTHER TASKS WHICH KEEP US RUNNING SMOOTHLY. BUT ENTHUSIASM FOR NATURE, OUTGOING PERSONALITY, TACT &amp; DIPLOMACY. HAPPY TO START CONSERVATIONS &amp; ENGAGE WITH A WIDE RANGE OF VISITORS. COMMITMENT FLEXIBLE, IDEALLY 1-2 DAYS PER MONTH.</td>
<td>ALISON NIMMO, 01954 233262 <a href="mailto:ALISON.NIMMO@RSPB.ORG.UK">ALISON.NIMMO@RSPB.ORG.UK</a></td>
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**West Stow Country Park – Willow Harvesting Day**

We are looking for volunteers to help us harvest willow wands to make hurdles and baskets. We plan to do the work on two dates - Sunday 24th February and Sunday 3rd March. 10am – 2pm.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact:

Chris Gregory – chris.gregory@stedsbc.gov.uk or tel: 01284 729715

**Private nature reserve** in the Cambridgeshire fens, with nationally and internationally important habitat and species recovery programmes, requires part-time volunteer warden to assist the small management team. The reserve is grazed by Buffalo and sheep, so livestock experience is useful, but enthusiasm essential! www.kingfishersbridge.org. Contact the Senior Warden; jamespage@kingfishersbridge.org 01353 725930

**WWT Welney is currently recruiting** for volunteers to help us with our reserve management and public engagement activities. To find out more contact Samantha Lee, Public Engagement Officer on samantha.lee@wwt.org.uk 01353 864027 or book your place onto our volunteer induction day Saturday March 2nd.

**Trustee volunteering at the Snowdonia Society**

Registered charity the Snowdonia Society works to protect, enhance and celebrate Snowdonia National Park through campaigning, practical conservation work and awareness raising. As a small charity with just two part-time core members of staff, it is dependent on and thrives as a result of the vital contributions from Trustees and other volunteers. The skills and experience on the Trustee board allow the charity to successfully pursue a wide range of high impact activities, including monitoring and responding to planning policies, applications and consultations, undertaking lobbying and campaigning work and carrying out a range of practical conservation activities throughout the National Park, including at the charity's own property The Ugly House, which is a popular Snowdonia visitor attraction. While staff provide the necessary administrative support, supervise and manage volunteers and are the key point of contact for the Society's beneficiaries and the general public, the contribution made by
Trustees in terms of knowledge, time and expertise simply can't be paid for. According to its constitution, the charity is required to include 'Officer' roles in its board of Trustees, including Treasurer, Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Naturally, these entail the holder to have particular skills, whether in finance and accounting, management or administration. In addition, the charity is lucky to have a number of other experienced volunteers on the board, who are able to offer advice, support and practical input in relevant fields including conservation, planning, policy and legal affairs. Aside from these specific skills, all Trustees play a vital ambassadorial role for the charity, greatly increasing its sphere of influence. Trustees are able to promote the Society, spread the word about campaigns, activities and events and help with fundraising and awareness raising. The charity has recently launched a business membership scheme, the success of which will depend crucially on 'word of mouth' promotion and publicity, requiring Trustees to actively take a role in recruiting new businesses. Given the limitations of the staff team, Trustees can also ensure that the Society has a physical presence at important events and accept speaker engagements on behalf of the Society.

One member of the charity's board, Margaret, has been a Trustee for a number of years and it's safe to say that her contributions have been vital to much of the Society's work over this time, including her work on a recent project to modernise and renovate the Ugly House as a heritage attraction. Margaret and her husband Max played a key role as volunteers supervising the capital building works – something the Society simply didn't have the funds to pay for – and Margaret coordinated the work of volunteers in ensuring that the attraction was able to open on schedule and to wide acclaim, including constructing composting toilets, installing green roofs and refurbishing rooms inside the property. Margaret's practical skills were important, but what made a real difference was her passion and dedication. The difficulty for a small charity such as this is how to recompense this level of commitment. Trustees cannot be paid for their work and often it feels as though a 'thank you' is not sufficient. What is important for small charities is to ensure that you make it easy for Trustees to volunteer by working to their schedules, reimbursing travel expenses when required and adapting roles to suit the person responsible. And, of course, a card and thank you does go a long way to showing someone how important their contribution has been.

The passion and dedication shown by Snowdonia Society Trustees is not only important in order to achieve its charitable objectives, it also has a less tangible and quantifiable impact, acting as further motivation to staff, members of the charity and other volunteers. The fact that people are prepared to input their time and knowledge is a clear demonstration to supporters that this is a cause worth following, and there is nothing more inspiring to potential volunteers than to see someone who is committed to their role and the mutual benefit that arises as a result.

Of course, a committed and diverse Trustee board does not arise overnight. In order to make the most of the experience of Trustee volunteers, it is important for regular skills audits to be carried out. This ensures that staff and Trustees are aware of the skills their volunteers posses, that they are able to address any 'skills gaps' and use these skills to the benefit of the charity. Likewise, it is important to have a diverse board of Trustees in order to bring a wide range of experience and skills – this can only be guaranteed if Trustee opportunities are advertised widely and through various means, not only by word of mouth or recommendation. One thing that the Snowdonia Society has learned is that people are willing to help and that offers of help should not be turned down – sometimes it is simply a matter of finding the most appropriate role or activity to engage the person concerned.

Ultimately, as is the case with many small charities, the Snowdonia Society would be nothing without its Trustees – a passionate, experienced and diverse range of personalities all of whom make a vital contribution to furthering the charity's
opportunities from working in the great outdoors to helping out in our visitor centre. These opportunities are available at various sites across the Colne Valley, including pond clearance & woodland management & lots more. If you would like to be a volunteer in a local organisation that makes a real difference to the environment & to people’s lives, with a chance to learn new skills, then Groundwork South could be just what you’re looking for. ASK Victoria Tustian, 01895839855 victoria.tustian@groundwork.org.uk Further information about Groundwork South www.south.groundwork.org.uk & about the Colne Valley Regional Park www.colnevalleypark.org.uk

REF 453-FOCUS-OK8 JOB ASSISTANT RESERVES OFFICER
BE4 ONGOING LOC WINCHESTER, HAMPSHIRE
PAY Training & expenses* FOR BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION
DES A great opportunity to assist the Reserves Officer in the day to day running of our three Hampshire Reserves. Two of our reserves support chalk downland species of butterfly. & the third is a SSSI wet woodland / meadow habitat. The role is varied & covers all aspects, including habitat management, training, handling, keeping with practical work-parties, leading walks, local presentations to interested groups, livestock handling, training events, office based work, health & safety assessments, surveying, monitoring & recording. Excellent for someone who wishes to gain experience in the conservation sector. The job can be part-time (2 to 3 days per week, & can be flexible to suit the candidate). BUT Ideally would suit someone who has completed a relevant degree, or is studying for a degree in Conservation & Wildlife management, or similar. Must be keen & enthusiastic & have a desire to inspire others. Must be fit & prepared to take on a range of tasks. ASK Jayne Chapman, Reserves Officer, jchapman@butterfly-conservation.org 01962808400.

REF 454-FOCUS-3/6 JOB COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT VOLUNTARY INTERNSHIP
BE4 31/5/13 LOC MILTON KEYNES
PAY Training & expenses* FOR THE PARKS TRUST
DES You will assist our community team during our busy summer season at education sessions & public events, help with marketing & research projects, attend practical conservation sessions & represent the Trust at public occasions. You may also be able to assist the community ranger team with dealing with a wide variety of issues & assisting with patrolling the parkland. *Volunteer uniform, reasonable travel expenses, first aid training, manual handling training, CV writing & interview practice provided. BUT Excellent written & verbal communication skills, ability to think creatively & develop new activities, full clean driving licence, computer literate, reasonable level of fitness, interest in the outdoors & natural environment. ASK http://bit.ly/X9Gpdg Caroline Hawkins, 01908 233600 caroline@thebutterfliesdept.com

REF 455-FOCUS-18/3 JOB WASTE BUSTERS VOLUNTEERS
BE4 N / A LOC ESSEX
PAY 0 FOR THE WASTE BUSTERS
DES / BUT The Waste Busters are a group of award winning friendly Essex Based volunteers who want to make a positive impact on the environment & save households up to £50 / month, by persuading them that the bin, even if it’s the recycling bin, should not be considered first. In order to do this they attend market days, local vents & large fairs across Essex providing information, leaflets & freebies to the public. As well as talking to community groups on a more in depth basis, getting them involved in some relevant activities. The topics addressed are: Love food hate waste – households can save £9 / week through correct purchasing, storing & portion sizes; home composting – up to 60% of the average rubbish bin is biodegradable, from peelings to cardboard; reuse – the majority of items are still functional when they are thrown away. We would welcome any new members & hold regular socials, so you can get to know likeminded individuals outside of the events setting. Alternatively, if you are part of an organisation that you think could benefit from our messages, then get in touch & I’m sure we can sort something out. ASK waste.busters@essex.gov.uk or 07717 867166.

REF 456-FOCUS-18/3 JOB VOLUNTEERING IN OXFORD’S PARKS & OPEN SPACES
BE4 N / A LOC OXFORD
PAY 0 FOR OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
DES / BUT Do you have some spare time or an interest in the outdoors & wildlife? Why not join one of our gardeners, countryside rangers or other colleagues in your local park or open space. We have something for everyone, so please call us to discuss what we can offer you. Opportunities include: flora or fauna surveying; coppicing; health management;
planning; repairs & maintenance; ditch clearance; user surveys; photography. Recent projects include coppicing, tree
hollowing, tree planting, hazel art installations; fungi & insect surveying, litter picks, re-establishing local friends groups.

ASK Oxford City Council, Parks & Open Spaces, Harbord Road, Oxford OX2 8ES 01865 252240 or
parks@oxford.gov.uk

REF 457-FOCUS-18/3 JOB SQUARES HELPERS NEEDED PLEASE
BE4 N / A LOC LONDON
PAY 0 FOR OPEN GARDEN SQUARES WEEKEND
DES / BUT Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th June 2013. Preparations are already beginning for this year’s Open
Garden Squares Weekend. Many of our volunteers have enjoyed themselves so much that they are returning, but still
more are needed this year because of the high number of participating gardens. Friendly, enthusiastic volunteers are
needed to help at our many outstanding gardens. The volunteers main duties are to welcome the visitors, check & sell
tickets & ensure that the garden is treated with respect. No one will have to be on duty for more than half a day & every
volunteer will receive a free ticket to the whole two-day event. ASK If you or any of your friends would like to be
involved, please contact Jock Blakeney be email at vol@opensquares.org or 07707 066765. More details on our website
www.opensquares.org where you can also sign up for our newsletter.

REF 458-FOCUS-18/3 JOB EDUCATION VOLUNTEER OFFICERS
BE4 N / A LOC RAILWAY FIELDS NATURE RESERVE, HARINGEY
PAY Training & travel expenses FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS HARINGEY
DES Opportunities ideal for people looking to gain experience in environmental or education. You should be able to
commit to regular days to assist with the planning, preparation & delivery (or co-delivery) of environmental education
workshops for primary school children. Recognised professional work experience in environmental education & project
leadership & development. Opportunity to attend TCV courses. Role available from beginning of April to end of July. If
you’d like to get involved in planning the education programme, there are also opportunities available in March.
BUT Essential: keen interest in working in an educative team; willingness to commit to working up to 3 days a week (9am
– 3pm); & to work occasional weekends, although this isn’t common. Outgoing, with good people & communication skills;
reliability & enthusiasm; knowledge of the natural world; willingness to undergo a CRB check; willingness to attend &
successfully complete essential TCV training courses. Desirable: aged 21 or over; First Aid qualification (although there
might be the opportunity to gain this whilst volunteering. ASK Michael, 020 8348 6005 m.bury@tcv.org.uk

REF 459-FOCUS-OK8 JOB CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER
BE4 ONGOIN LOC RUNNYMEDE. EGHAM, SURREY
PAY Training & travel expenses FOR NATIONAL TRUST RUNNYMEDE
DES Our Conservation Volunteers work one or two days a week mainly at our sites at Runnymede & Ankerwycke.
Tasks vary from week to week but might incl scrub bashing, tree felling, gate installation & fence repair. We provide all
tools, training & refreshments.
BUT This role would suit active, outdoor people who have an interest in Environment & Heritage. They should be happy to work in most weather conditions & as part of a small, friendly team.
ASK Runnymede Estate Office, runnymede@nationaltrust.org.uk (Quoting the job title) or Chat: 01784 432891. Waiting
list available if nothing current upon application.

REF 460-FOCUS-OK8 JOB GARDENING & LANDSCAPE VOLUNTEER
BE4 ONGOIN LOC RUNNYMEDE. EGHAM, SURREY
PAY Training & travel expenses FOR NATIONAL TRUST RUNNYMEDE
DES Help with the upkeep, development & protection of the formal visitor areas at Runnymede so that it can be
enjoyed by all visitors. Volunteers will help to enhance, improve & continually raise the standards of presentation. Tasks
range from cyclical projects such as bulb planting, edging & weeding, through to more demanding tasks such as
construction, hedge cutting & planting schemes. We provide all tools, training & refreshments.
BUT This role would suit people with some experience of gardening or horticulture with a day or two a week to spare. ASK Runnymede
Estate Office, (Quoting the job title) runnymede@nationaltrust.org.uk or Chat: 01784 432891. Waiting list available if
nothing current upon application.

REF 461-FOCUS-29/4 JOB WILDWOOD ECOMIND VOLUNTEER
BE4 opportunity to April 2013 LOC HERNE BAY, KENT
PAY Basic training in woodland management, dead-hedging, tool use FOR WILDWOOD TRUST
DES Wildwood is set in many acres of ancient woodland, & needs your help in keeping this in top condition, as well as
helping us construct & maintain animal enclosures. We have collaborated with the charity Mind to enable people who
are mental health service users the opportunity to volunteer at Wildwood & learn new practical skills in our wonderful
woodland surroundings. You will help in keeping the Wildwood grounds & facilities in excellent working order, help in the
construction of new animal enclosures, help our keeper team develop better conditions for our animals. Skills will incl:
pathway construction; waste minimisation; groundworks & building; rainwater collection & distribution system; woodland
management incl coppicing. Spaces available 10am to 2pm Mon to Fri. BUT No quals needed. Reasonably fit /
mobile, for people suffering mental distress only. ASK Chat / app form: Volunteer Co-ordinator, 01227 712111.

REF 462-FOCUS-OK8 JOB MEET & GREET VOLUNTEER
BE4 ONGOING LOC RUNNYMEDE. EGHAM, SURREY
PAY Training & travel expenses FOR NATIONAL TRUST RUNNYMEDE
DES An outdoor seasonal role to provide a warm, friendly welcome to all visitors. Our Meet & Greet Vols will be
available to inform visitors about the site history, the wildlife & the attractions that will enhance their visit to Runnymede.
The role also incl assisting in the recruitment of new members to the National Trust, issuing permits for fishing & mooring
& the selling of raffle tickets. We provide training & refreshments.
BUT This role would suit people who like working in the open air, enjoy variety, like meeting people, have a friendly & helpful nature & like being part of a team.
Volunteer HEDGEHOG CARER (ON-SITE)

**BE4**  
N / A  
LOC SHEPRETH, HERTFORDSHIRE  
PAY 0  
FOR SHEPRETH WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CHARITY  

**DES**  
You will be assigned a day (or more if you wish) per week to come into the hospital to ensure all the hedgehogs are fed & their crates cleaned. You will also be required to complete their daily health record, logging the amount of food they have had, & also their weight gain / loss & liaise with the Triage Team as required. Also responsible for assessing any hedgehogs being admitted on the day & dealing with the initial assessment & treatment regime. Bio-security of the Hospital premises. Faecal testing. Opportunities to become involved in many of the Hospital Projects & fundraising events. A mandatory induction session is required to be attended before your placement starts. **BUT** All applicants must be over 18 years old on the day their placement starts.  

**ASK**  
Natasha Ennew, swcc@sheprethwildlifepark.co.uk

**EVENT HELPER – DATE WITH NATURE ASSISTANT**

**BE4**  
1/9/13  
LOC LEEDS CASTLE, KENT  
PAY Training & expenses  
FOR RSPB  

**DES**  
Friendly? Enthusiastic? Love nature? We need you! Come & help people get involved with wildlife at Leeds Castle. We provide activities, optics & information for you to get stuck in. Volunteer & be part of a great team! If you chatting to people & want to make a difference to wildlife you can help the Community Team in talking to the public about our work & recruiting new RSPB members in this fantastic location. On going training will be provided. **BUT** Friendly & enthusiastic & don’t mind getting stuck into a range of activities. Approachable & confident in speaking to visitors of all ages. Any wildlife knowledge is useful but you don’t need to be an expert as all relevant information will be provided.  

**ASK**  
kate.whitton@rspb.org.uk or 07889 615727 for informal chat.

**TOUR GUIDE FOR SADDLESCOMBE FARM**

**BE4**  
1/3/13  
LOC SADDLESCOMBE FARM, NEAR DEVIL'S DYKE  
PAY training, travel expenses  
FOR NATIONAL TRUST  

**DES**  
Interested in rural history and would like to share your passion with a wider audience. This winter the Trust are developing our tour guide team for this historic property on the South Downs, near Brighton. Saddlescombe has over 1000 years of farming history with Domesday, the Knights Templars to it Victorian heyday. Sessions will be held in March with an emphasis on training & creating a summer programme of tours. **BUT** No specific quals required. We are looking or someone or an enquiring mind & bags of enthusiasm. Knowledge of seaside & farming history would be great too.  

**ASK**  
Graham Wellfare 01273 857712

**HORTICULTURAL VOLUNTEERS**

**BE4**  
N / A  
LOC Nr WATFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE  
PAY 0  
FOR ALDENHAM COUNTRY PARK  

**DES**  
We are currently looking for someone to assist on our park & farm for 1 or 2 days a week. They would be required to help with all aspects of the farm duties. However their main area of duty would be in the horticultural area, this is a new project on our farm. We are hoping to provide food for the animals on the farm & to provide allotment areas for community groups. **BUT** Excellent communication skills, confident & happy to communicate with the general public especially children. Good knowledge of farm procedures particularly horticulture. Enthusiastic, flexible & willing to work outside in all weather conditions.  

**ASK**  
CV & covering letter to Martine at martine@aldenhamcountrypark.co.uk Or call 0208 953 9602 for more information.

**PONY ZONE VOLUNTEERS**

**BE4**  
N / A  
LOC Nr WATFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE  
PAY 0  
FOR ALDENHAM COUNTRY PARK  

**DES**  
We are currently looking for volunteers to assist on the farm for 1 or 2 days a week & some weekends. The post would involve helping with all aspects of farm work however the main duties would focus on the pony zone area. This would include mucking out, grooming & keeping the area clean & tidy. It would also involve talking to & leading children on short pony rides around the farm. **BUT** Excellent communication skills, confident & happy to communicate with the general public especially children. Good knowledge of farm animals particularly horses & how to care for them. Enthusiastic, flexible & willing to work outside in all weather conditions.  

**ASK**  
CV & covering letter to Martine at martine@aldenhamcountrypark.co.uk Or call 0208 953 9602 for more information.

Through February & March

**Hedgerow Planting**

Abbots Hall Farm Gt Wigborough Colchester CO5 7RZ, Essex Wildlife Trust  
Contact: Deb Howard  
DebH@essexwt.org.uk.

The Trust has secured funding to plant 4 kilometres of hedgerows across 4 Parishes in the Birch Living Landscape linking up Dormouse populations. We will be planting 20,000 hedgerow plants. If possible can you bring a spade and make sure you have suitable clothing, packed lunch and drinks.

**Volunteer work sessions**

1st Saturday & 3rd Wednesday each month

Ewelme, Ewelme Watercress Beds Local Nature Reserve  
Contact: www.ewelmewatercressbeds.org

Meet at Watercress Centre, The Street Ewelme at 0930.

Sunday 10 March  
Conservation Day at Ranscombe Farm Reserve  

Cuxton, Kent, Plantlife  
Contact: 01634 292062, ranscombe@plantlife.org.uk

10am-3pm, Come & find out about hands-on conservation at this important wild plant reserve. We will be working with hand tools to create and maintain habitat for rare wild plants. All tools & instructions will be provided. Booking essential.
Every Wednesday  
**Penge Green Gym**

Penge, London, The Conservation Volunteers  
Contact: 07740 899689, gg-penge@tcv.org.uk,  
www.tcv.org.uk/penge  
11am - 3pm to transform a neglected green space in SE20 into a wildlife and community garden. Tasks such as food growing, constructing willow structures and seating give volunteers the opportunity to learn new skills, get fit and improve the environment.

Every Wednesday  
**Work Days**

Crawley, Sussex Wildlife Trust  
Contact: Tom Forward, 01293 550730, tomforward@sussexwt.org.uk  
Opportunities for young people (16-25) wishing to gain practical experience within a conservation organisation. Tasks include habitat management in local greenspaces/reserves; planting hedgerows, wildlife gardening, tool use, woodworking, wildlife identification. No qualifications required, enthusiastic individuals with interest in wildlife, welcomed.

Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
**Biodiversity Action Team**

Waltham Forest, The Conservation Volunteers  
Contact: Tom Nandi 07917 267573, t.nandi@tcv.org.uk  
Team helps manage some of Waltham Forest’s most beautiful and vibrant sites for nature conservation. There are plenty of opportunities to join in, meet new people and learn new skills.

**New Forest National Park Volunteer Fair 2013**

Come along to find out how you can get involved. Meet with different groups offering volunteering opportunities in the New Forest. Saturday 2 March, 10.30am - 4pm, Lyndhurst Community Centre, Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY  
www.newforestnpa.gov.uk, 01590 646600, events@newforestnpa.gov.uk

**RSPB Otmoor nature reserve**

Help us manage precious reedbed by assisting in moth surveys. No experience of moth trapping or identification skills necessary. All we ask is an interest and motivation to learn more. To find out more please contact the RSPB Otmoor office on 01865 351163 or contact us by e-mail at otmoor.admin@rspb.org.uk

**White Cliffs Countryside Partnership**

has a comprehensive programme of practical conservation tasks that take place in Dover and Shepway (Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh). Join a friendly group to care for a variety of sites, from chalk grassland to sand dunes, rivers to shingle. For more information see bit.ly/11sIdiS

**Looking to volunteer in London this weekend?**

**GO London** offers one-off commitment-free volunteering opportunities to fit in with your busy lifestyle. You don’t need any previous experience or skills. Most GO London volunteering projects are environmental, please check our webpage for more information and for upcoming events.  
www.cvs.org.uk/go, gcacity@cvs.org.uk, 020 76431341

**Amphibian and Reptile Conservation**

Volunteers needed for mid-week work group, carrying out practical tasks on heathland sites throughout Surrey. Great way to gain experience or just get out in the fresh air. Fun and friendly group, with tea and biscuits provided! Contact Matthew Dowse, Reserve Office and Volunteer Coordinator:  
matt.dowse@arc-trust.org 07810 770566.

**Volunteer at our beautiful heritage park!**

Gatton Park is one of Surrey’s hidden treasures, beautiful gardens, stunning views and a rich history that dates back to the Domesday Book. We offer opportunities from Estate Tour Guides, Events Assistants, Gardening & Parkland management to Education Assistants and Archiving  
www.gattonpark.com

**Kent Heritage Trees Project - Tree Planting**

**Henfield Day Centre. Gardener**

We are looking for someone enthusiastic to either work on a garden project of making raised beds to make it wheel chair accessible or to do maintenance gardening at our Daycentre in Henfield. Open Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays. Please ring Charlotte or Karen on 01273 493119 if you’re interested.

**Various volunteering opportunities including:**

- Reserves Work Parties (hands-on, practical conservation work on reserve), Garden Volunteers (hands-on, practical work to manage and maintain our wildlife garden), Youth Leaders (to help run our youth groups). Please email se.education@rspb.org.uk (preferred) or ‘phone 01268 498624 for an information pack and enquiry form.

**Nature Conservation Volunteer Officers**

Assisting TCV Haringey to deliver practical wildlife conservation in parks and green spaces every Tuesday and Thursday, and helping us launch our Saturday project starting in April.  
For more details, contact Michael on 020 8348 6005 or m.bury@tcv.org.uk

**Join Thames21 in our volunteering opportunities across Greater London.** We work with communities to improve London’s rivers, canals, ponds and lakes for people and wildlife. Why not join the thousands of people each year that help us carry out our work? Everybody welcome. All equipment provided.  
http://www.thames21.org.uk/events/

**Do you live in Richmond or Kingston-Upon-Thames and would like to help improve your local green space for people and wildlife?** Join the Environment Trust and the Kingston Greenspace Volunteers as we work to improve our local environment. Contact: Chris Cocksie  
chris.cocksei@environmenttrust.co.uk or visit the volunteering diary at http://etrutvolunteering.blogspot.co.uk/

**Hampshire Conservation Volunteers**

We work at weekends on a wide variety of Hampshire sites which are valuable for wildlife. Spring and summer tasks involve the construction of paths, boardwalks and fences. Autumn is traditionally the time for pond maintenance, while winter sees us managing woodlands and downlands. Please go to www.hcv.org.uk for details.
South West:

REF 468-FOCUS-11/3 JOB LARGE BLUE RANGER
BE4 8/3/13 IV 14/3/13 LOC COLLARD HILL on the Polden Ridge
PAY Travel, subsistence & accommodation FOR NATIONAL TRUST
DES Work with Britain’s leading butterfly experts. Spend six weeks (27/5/13 – 7/7/13) this summer in rural Somerset, working with countryside managers & Britain’s foremost butterfly experts. Be the lead person in a team responsible for visitor management & biological recording at Britain’s only open access site for the rare Large Blue butterfly Maculinea arion: Collard Hill – a SSSI limestone grassland near Glastonbury. Be part of the ranger team that manages the Somerset countryside for the National Trust. BUT Must be an enthusiastic conservationist, an able communicator & physically fit. ASK Hayley.Dorrington@nationaltrust.org.uk

REF 469-FOCUS-18/3 JOB NURSERY VOLUNTEERS
BE4 7? LOC LANHYDROCK
PAY 0 FOR NATIONAL TRUST
DES/BUT Here at the National Trust, we want even more people to enjoy our extraordinary places, to get involved with them, be inspired by them & love them. Opportunities across the property but particularly in our Nursery. Here we produce quality peat free plants, supplying NT shops in the south west & part of the south east. Various tasks i.e. potting, weeding & helping to despatch plants to retail outlets. Full training provided. ASK Dawn Lenn, Volunteers Officer, 01392 279244.

REF 470-FOCUS-OK8 JOB NATURE IMPROVEMENT AREA VOLUNTEERS
BE4 On going 2013 – 2016 LOC NORTH DEVON
PAY Travel expenses FOR DEVON WILDLIFE TRUST
DES The NIA covers over 72,000ha of the river Torridge catchment. This project will restore & recreate wildlife habitats & encourage community action for habitats & species throughout the area over the next three years. It is led by DWT on behalf of the North Devon Biosphere Reserve. The kind of things we would like help with include: Practical tasks – e.g. coppicing, swaling, scrub clearance; Surveys – e.g. birds, flora, woodland, verge side; Organisational – e.g. leaflets, posters, admin, & in time, social media; Run events – help on events for the general public, in schools, with schools. For some roles, there may be an additional application process – mainly those involving children or other vulnerable people. BUT Varied skills: volunteers will be involved with practical work, survey, organisation, admin, social media events. ASK Contact Dawn Lenn, Volunteers Officer, 01392 279244 dlenn@devonwildlifetrust.org if you would like to be on the NIA volunteers list. You are not committing to anything at the moment, simply to being sent details of upcoming volunteer opportunities.

REF 471-FOCUS-22/4 JOB EXCAVATE A DISUSED RABBIT WARREN!
BE4 wb 22/4/13 LOC BICTON GARDENS, DEVON
PAY 0 FOR DEVON WILDLIFE TRUST
DES Ever wondered what a rabbit burrow really looks like? Unique opportunity to find out by excavating a disused rabbit burrow pre-filled with concrete. Dragonfly Film & Television Productions Ltd have asked for our help in making a wildlife programme presented by Chris Packham. BUT This is heavy work, shifting a lot of soil, so you need to be reasonably fit & strong! ASK Dawn Lenn, Volunteers Officer, dlenn@devonwildlifetrust.org 01392 279244.

REF 472-FOCUS-1/4 JOB RSPB VOLUNTEER INFORMATION WARDEN
BE4 31/3/13 LOC SOMERSET RESERVES
PAY Self catering accommodation & training as appropriate FOR RSPB
DES We are looking for someone to lead with our people engagement activities, helping visitors to have an amazing experience with nature; develop links with the local community, i.e. attending local village & community group events. Write blogs & newsletters & the opportunity to assist with other projects in Somerset. BUT Enthusiastic, friendly & a good team player, with a genuine interest in conservation & nature. Good communication & people skills, happy working outdoors in all weathers & confident talking to visitors. Weekend working is an essential part of the role but time off will be given during the week. Minimum age 18, full clean driving licence essential. ASK www.rspb.org.uk/residentialvolunteering or call Becky on 01458 252820.

REF 473-FOCUS-18/3 JOB NATURAL HEALTH VOLUNTEER OFFICERS (VOs) x 3
BE4 N/A LOC CAMBORNE, CORNWALL
PAY Training &expenses FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS CORNWALL
DES To help organise & deliver practical conservation sessions as part of our Green Gym programme which aims to improve people’s health, both physical & mental, through improving the environment. You will get loads of practical conservation work experience in spectacular West Penwith, as well as a grounding in working with communities. We offer a free comprehensive training package, one to one support, an NPTC Diploma in Work-Based Environmental Conservation & volunteering expenses. Based at our sustainable offices in the heart of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site, this is a great way to work towards a job in the environmental or community sectors. BUT Empathic & a good communicator. Must be over 21 & preferably able to commit to a minimum 12 month placement & must have a full driving licence (for at least 2 years). ASK 01209 610610 cornwall@tcv.org.uk

REF 474-FOCUS-18/3 JOB YOUTH & SCHOOLS (VO)
BE4 N/A LOC CAMBORNE, CORNWALL
The Monkey Sanctuary needs volunteers all year round but is in particular need between now & the end of April. Experience life in a working primate rescue sanctuary on the beautiful Cornish coast. Help us clean out the monkey enclosures, learn how to prepare food & enrichment items for the monkeys, help out in our vegetarian café & our educational workshops for visitors to the sanctuary. Stay with us in our private home & get the chance to see the beautiful woolly monkeys, capuchins & Barbary macaques that you’ll be helping us to care for every day.

PAY Training & expenses FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS CORNWALL
DES To help lead the Youth & School programme which aims to improve young people’s practical skills, build confidence & improve team working through taking part in environmental conservation tasks as well as horticulture & forest school activities. A great way to learn practical conservation, leadership & community working skills. We offer a free comprehensive training package, one to one support, an NPTC Diploma in Work-Based Environmental Conservation & volunteering expenses. Based at our sustainable offices in the heart of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site, this is a great way to work towards a job in the environmental or community sectors. BUT Must be over 21 & preferably able to commit to a minimum 12 month placement & must have a full driving licence (for at least 2 years).
ASK 01209 610610 cornwall@tcv.org.uk

REF 475-FOCUS-18/3 JOB MIDWEEK CONSERVATION GROUP VOLUNTEER OFFICER (VO)
BE4 N / A LOC PLYMOUTH, DEVON
PAY Training & expenses FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS CORNWALL
DES Join the TCV Plymouth Midweek Conservation Team & learn practical conservation & community development skills working on our extensive conservation projects programme amidst the beautiful Devon & Cornish countryside. Learn how it’s done; then lead, supervise & train volunteers; liaise with clients; attend site visits; prepare site reports & risk assessments & get loads of practical conservation work experience. BUT Must be over 21 & preferably able to commit to a minimum 12 month placement & must have a full driving licence (for at least 2 years).
ASK 01209 610610 cornwall@tcv.org.uk

REF 476-FOCUS-18/3 JOB PRACTICAL CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER OFFICER (VO)
BE4 N / A LOC TUCKINGMILL, CAMBORNE, CORNWALL
PAY Training & expenses FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS CORNWALL
DES Join our team of Practical Conservation Volunteer Officers (VOs) working on our extensive conservation projects programme amidst spectacular Cornish landscapes. Learn how it’s done; then lead, supervise & train volunteers; liaise with clients; attend site visits; prepare site reports & risk assessments & get loads of practical conservation work experience. We offer a free comprehensive training package, one to one support, an NPTC Diploma in Work-Based Environmental Conservation & volunteering expenses. Based at our sustainable offices in the heart of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site. Cornwall TCV has an enviable record of helping our VOs into jobs in the environmental sector. BUT Must be over 21 & preferably able to commit to a minimum 12 month placement & must have a full driving licence (for at least 2 years).
ASK 01209 610610 cornwall@tcv.org.uk

REF 477-FOCUS-29/7 JOB PRACTICAL CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS WANTED!
BE4 ONGOING LOC VARIOUS SOUTH WEST ENGLAND
PAY Training FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS
DES Volunteers needed in Totnes, Newton Abbot, Exeter, Plymouth, Gloucester, Salisbury, Trowbridge, Yeovil, Bristol. Take part in a wide range of practical conservation & habitat management practical tasks including tree planting, coppicing, hedgelaying, drystone walling, fencing, path construction, woodland management, invasive species control, wetland management & surveying. Learn from countryside professionals, & use your skills to improve your local environment. Work towards City & Guilds Level II Diploma in Work-based Environmental Conservation. BUT No experience necessary, but must be prepared to work outside in all weathers & not mind a bit of mud! Prepared to commit on a regular basis for approx. seven months. ASK For an information pack, please email n.cotterill@tcv.org.uk

REF 478-FOCUS-4/3 JOB VOLUNTEER RANGER
BE4 3/3/13 IV 15/3/13 LOC HOLNICOTE ESTATE, EXMOOR
PAY Training & accommodation FOR NATIONAL TRUST
DES The placement includes mainly practical conservation work, assisting with the management of local volunteers, involvement with vents & project work. A minimum of 6 to 12 months commitment to the position is required. Training may include the use of brushcutters, chainsaws, first aid & off road driving. Shared accommodation available in a cottage next to the estate yard. BUT Clean driving licence. 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.

REF 479-FOCUS-18/3 JOB VOLUNTEER OFFICER
BE4 N / A LOC BRISTOL
PAY Training FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS
DES To assist with the leading of Practical Conservation & Green Space / Access Improvement Workdays in Bristol & surrounding area. Training opportunities include First Aid at Work, MIDAS minibus, Day Leadership. BUT Keen interest in Environmental Conservation / Urban Green Space Improvement & available to commit to one day a week (either a Tuesday or Wednesday). ASK Claire Dinsdale, c.dinsdale@tcv.org.uk 07739 447995.

Volunteers required to help on Cornwall Chough Project carrying out species protection and monitoring. Some residential places available in April & early May. One week minimum. Contact cornishchoughs@rspb.org.uk for more information.

REF 480-FOCUS-29/4 JOB MONKEY SANCTUARY VOLUNTEER
BE4 30/4/13 (placement available throughout the year) LOC LOOE, C cornwall
PAY 0 FOR WILD FUTURES (The Monkey Sanctuary)
DES The Monkey Sanctuary needs volunteers all year round but is in particular need between now & the end of April. Experience life in a working primate rescue sanctuary on the beautiful Cornish coast. Help us clean out the monkey enclosures, learn how to prepare food & enrichment items for the monkeys, help out in our vegetarian café & our educational workshops for visitors to the sanctuary. Stay with us in our private home & get the chance to see the beautiful woolly monkeys, capuchins & Barbary macaques that you’ll be helping us to care for every day. Applications for
Ongoing Spring – Summer 2013
S Hampshire, Cheshire, N & E Yorkshire
Training available
FOR POND CONSERVATION
DES/BUT Survey ponds near your home in South Hampshire, Cheshire or North & East Yorkshire. PondNet is a new trial monitoring network being established with support from Defra & Natural England. The aim is to collect information about trends in pond quality & pond species to provide robust data that will ultimately help to guide freshwater policy. Pond Conservation will assign you a monitoring square & focal pond within 10 miles of your home which you can survey at your leisure. Survey any wildlife groups you wish including amphibians, wetland plants, invertebrates, birds and/or BAP species. Some wildlife knowledge helpful but not essential. Training courses available March-May. ASK Cheshire: Becca 07894 036383 bwilliamson@pondconservation.org.uk. Yorkshire: Penny 01665 483278 pwilliams@pondconservation.org.uk. S Hampshire: Naomi 02380 642992 newald@pondconservation.org.uk. http://www.pondconservation.org.uk/Surveys/PondNet

REF 482-FOCUS-OK8 JOB VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY FUNDAISER
BE4 ONGOING LOC W Dorset, S Dorset, Poole, Plymouth, Wiltshire, Glocs & W Cornwall
PAY Training & support given as applicable FOR RSPB
DES People throughout the South West needed to attend fairs, & organise events such as coffee mornings, cream teas, quiz nights, etc, to raise money for the RSPB. If you can get a group together to fundraise as a team, even better. ASK Email Sue Pickin to organise an informal chat: sue.pickin@rspb.org.uk
For further information visit our website:

www.countrysidevolunteers.org.uk

ASSOCIATION OF COUNTRYSIDE VOLUNTEERS

"The Association for everyone who works as a Countryside Volunteer in the U.K."

The aim of the Association is to promote effective and enjoyable work by volunteers throughout the countryside. The Association also aims to complement the work of the countryside volunteer’s own “service” by bringing together those of similar interests, enabling information and experience to be shared, and by co-operating with the Authorities in promoting high standards within countryside services.

Membership is open to anyone who volunteers in the countryside, including part-time paid staff, and other interested people.

For further information visit our website: www.countrysidevolunteers.org.uk

The online page of volunteer adverts has information on several long running projects.

See: http://www.countryside-jobs.com/Jobs/Vols.htm
Get involved in citizen science

Career break opportunities include a variety of volunteer roles in conservation. Marine conservation, education, research, game parks, etc are all available. We have conservation volunteer opportunities around the world - with many, no experience is necessary. www.thecareerbreaksite.com info@thecareerbreaksite.com 0161 4488846.

MARINElife is seeking volunteers to assist our conservation and research work in a range of roles depending on your skills and interest. Current vacancies include data processing, offshore surveyor, administration and fund-raising. Further information at http://www.marine-life.org.uk/volunteer or e-mail tricia.dendle@marine-life.org.uk (for the surveyor posts rachael.stilgoe@marine-life.org.uk).

Art 4 Space - A highly commended community arts organisation, creating stunning mosaics, cob ovens, sculpture and earth art. Projects can be themed and involve local community groups and schools, in design work through to creation in exciting stimulating workshops. Visit www.art4space.co.uk. We have studios in Wales dani@art4space.co.uk and London jewels@art4space.co.uk

Living with Mammals asks volunteers to record sightings or signs or mammals in gardens or urban green spaces such as allotments, parks or cemeteries between 1 April and 30 June. Whoever your wild neighbours, we want to know! Survey packs with full information are available from PTES, LwM@ptes.org, www.ptes.org.

WWOOF UK is a not-for-profit membership charity, we charge a small fee (£20 per annum) to gain access to a directory of over 500 farms in the UK which you can then contact and arrange to stay on exchanging your labour for education, fresh air, food and lodging. www.wwoof.org.uk

A thousand volunteers needed to count the UK’s most elusive bird
One thousand keen-eyed volunteers are required to count one of the UK’s most elusive birds in more than a thousand woods across the UK in the 2013 national woodcock survey being organised by the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) and the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).
To determine whether these birds were under threat, the GWCT and BTO carried out the first ever national count of woodcock in 2003. This revealed that there were about 78,000 male woodcock in Britain.

The repeat national survey of woodcock being conducted in May and June this year is calling for more than 1,000 volunteers to take part in this massive research effort to discover how the resident woodcock population has fared over the past ten years.
In total 1,500 randomly selected woodland survey sites will be monitored across England, Scotland and Wales with additional sites to be included for Ireland. To participate in the Big National Woodcock Count, please visit www.bto.org/woodcock-survey, where all survey information can be downloaded including survey forms, details of survey sites and information on the counting method itself. There are also links from the GWCT website: www.gwct.org.uk

EuCAN is a Community Interest Company working in the UK and Europe to involve people and communities in the conservation management of their environment by providing training, placements and practical experience in nature conservation and sustainable land management, for graduates, potential volunteers and therapeutic groups.
www.eucan.org.uk Email: nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk

The Countryside Management Association is the leading organisation for people working within the countryside sector. Volunteers wishing to gain employment in this area should make the positive step to join the CMA for the reduced volunteer rate of only £10! For this small price you will receive our magazine - the Ranger, four times a year and have the opportunity to attend free study days and training days.
It is an ideal way for those who maybe have less experience, to learn about new topics and of course to make valuable contacts and to network with those already involved with managing the countryside and urban greenspaces. Join this friendly organisation today.
For an application form please download one from our website www.countrysidemanagement.org.uk or contact CMA admin on cma@writtle.ac.uk or 01245 424116
Do many hands make light work?

Citizen Science can be rewarding on many different levels, but the potential problems and disadvantages have to be analysed carefully to maximise the benefits for ecological monitoring programmes. Scientists and volunteers often have diametrically opposed expectations and goals for participating in the work: While for the scientists collecting a set amount of scientifically robust data and accomplishing the planned (field)work schedule are part of their professional jobs, for volunteers this work is part of their leisure. Thus, while scientists expect to carry out meticulous research, volunteers expect to gain personal growth and education as well as enjoyment from the work. Channelling these differing motivations to maximum advantage for both parties is the challenge of efficient volunteer deployment.

Is the quality of volunteer-collected data comparable to data collected by professionals?

Dr. Christina Buesching and Dr. Chris Newman from the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit at Oxford University are investigating the pros and cons of involving amateur volunteers in ecological surveys. Having worked with almost a thousand volunteers in England and Nova Scotia, Canada, they found that, with appropriate training, most volunteers can learn to perform the majority of basic monitoring techniques effectively.

Interestingly, volunteer enjoyment has the highest impact on volunteer performance, with happy volunteers being not only easier to motivate, and thus manage, but also being more successful in collecting data, in terms of quantity as well as quality. Thus, if participants arrive on the project with a clear expectation of what they hope to achieve, they are hard-working and appreciative of the overall experience. Even if specific expectations are not met, unexpected rewards, such as observing a fox, for example, could serve as substitutes for unrealised aspirations like seeing a badger.

Suitable survey methods

To ensure methodological consistency in data records, prior knowledge should not be assumed, but appropriate training has to be provided. Nevertheless, typical inter-observer variation in data quality amongst volunteers is significantly higher than amongst professional biologists, and a variety of different factors affect volunteer performance, and thus data quality and quantity. Volunteers therefore need to be managed very carefully and deployed sensitively according to their individual strengths, weaknesses, and personal interests.

Many volunteers, for example, display a lower "boredom threshold" than professionals with volunteer attention dropping dramatically, resulting in missed evidence and longer survey times. Professional researchers in contrast, survey many times longer without decrease in data quality. As most monitoring tasks require a large number of repetitive surveys, varying volunteer tasks throughout the day as well as the duration of the project is essential to maintain volunteer interest, and thus data quality. Similarly, volunteers may consider tasks as too strenuous to complete, when professionals would continue working, resulting in data loss often incompatible with sustained monitoring efforts. In addition, novice volunteers tend to disregard non-events (e.g. the absence of field signs) or undervalue common events. It is therefore important to emphasise the importance of “negative”

Pay-Day! Volunteers by definition work for free and give up their own time to do so; thus, the least scientists can do is to share their knowledge. (here, Christina is explaining the physiological, evolutionary and behavioural differences between antlers and horns) (Dr. Christina D. Buesching)

Deer population density is typically monitored by dropping counts in 10m x 10m quadrats. A single researcher would have to traverse the quadrat several times, thus risking either missing or double-counting individual dropping piles. This risk can be eliminated with the help of volunteer teams, as several people can line up along one side of the quadrat and move forward as a parallel line, searching the quadrat forensic-police style (Dr. Christina D. Buesching)
results, as in some cases, confirming the absence of field signs for a certain species is actually more valuable than their presence.

Some surveys, however, require minimal or no training, making them ideally suited to indiscriminate public participation on a short-term ad hoc basis. One such study is the University of Oxford’s annual badger census which has relied on public participation in counting Wytham Wood’s badgers since 1978. It takes place in May, is free of charge, and attempts to monitor all badger setts simultaneously as a ‘snap-shot’ in time. After a short talk, guides lead people to the setts, and instruct them to count the maximum number of badgers seen simultaneously, adding the number of adults and cubs retrospectively, which have definitely left the sett for foraging, thus avoiding multiple counts of the same individuals visible at different times of the evening.

Overall, practical field training is the most important factor improving volunteer performance: More than 90% of volunteers need to see field signs only once or twice in a naturalistic setting to be able to identify them correctly henceforth. Hands-on field training is also important in teaching volunteers new skills, such as the correct deployment of small mammal traps, with 50% of novice volunteers deploying traps correctly after one demonstration and 81% after two demonstrations. If volunteers are instructed to “think like a mouse”, trap setting can be enhanced even further. The mental associations evoked by this instruction, lead >85% of volunteers to select good sites. In contrast, if locations are described in a logical matter-of-fact fashion, only 40% of volunteers utilise appropriate places. Frequent supervision is also important, especially in the initial training period with follow-up spot-checks concentrating on any emergent concerns. The inclusion of theoretical background information detailing the importance of each particular task also raises volunteer motivation significantly resulting in more consistency. Positive feedback naturally increases motivation, and thus data veracity, and - not surprisingly - rewards (such as a relief from clean-up duties on residential projects) are particularly effective in teen-teams.

So should we use Citizen Science?

Depending on methodologies and scientific questions, a team of volunteers can be expected to achieve as much as one researcher in day one, twice as much in day two and three times as much in day three. Case studies have shown that with a well-structured programme high-quality data can be obtained and volunteers can make meaningful contributions to scientific research, enabling otherwise unfeasible studies to be carried out.

There are many different ways of volunteering in the fields of nature conservation and research. If you are interested in Chris and Christina’s work in Nova Scotia, please see www.cookslakefarm.com (Please see the opportunity below to work in Nova Scotia)


International:

REF HOL-FOCUS-OK8
TITLE Integrating Wildlife Conservation with Ecosystem Services
BASE South Shore of Nova Scotia, Canada
COST £250 (Sustainable Farm & Forest Project) / £900 (Field Course) fully inclusive
WITH Dr. Christina Buesching & Dr. Chris Newman (Research Assocs at the WildCRU/ Oxford University; see article)
DES We are offering places on two different projects: On the 2-week Sustainable Farm & Forest Project you will be helping with the maintenance of our organic haskap berry orchard as well as the 300acres of FSC-certified woodland, which we are using to develop non-lethal & conservation-friendly methods of keeping mammalian & avian nuisance species (e.g. raccoons, porcupines, blue jays) from destroying crops & timber. While we are unable to re-imburse you financially, in return for your manual labour we will take you beaver watching & teach you about sustainable ecosystem services, as well as taking you on a tour though a diversified & sustainable farm/forest enterprise. The second option is a hands-on 10-day field course on survey techniques for mammals, including e.g. live-trapping of small mammals & raccoons, fieldsign surveys, experimental design & data analysis with a day of sightseeing in the UNESCO World Heritage town of Lunenburg. BUT Sustainable Farm & Forest Project: no qualification required, but enjoyment of outdoor work a must; Field Course suitable for biology student/ keen naturalists ASK www.cookslakefarm.com
Volunteer in a Natural Reserve

**REF**: HOL-FOCUS-OK8  **TITLE**: VOLUNTEER IN A NATURAL RESERVE

**DATE**: ONGOING  **BASE**: SOUTH AMERICA

**COST**: Pay approx. £50 per week for food. WITH Volunteer Latin America

**DES/BUT**: This nature reserve was created to protect the land from deforestation. There are 900 hectares of mountains, lush native forests, rivers, & beautiful hills. There are many different kinds of animals present including foxes, squirrels & pumas. The project welcomes international vols interested in collaborating with the growth & maintenance of the natural reserve & organic garden (trail building, creating walkways, gardening, construction work, general maintenance, etc). Vols are expected to work four hours in the mornings from Monday to Saturday. In the afternoons volunteers are free to enjoy the nature reserve or simply lay in a hammock with a good book. The reserve has more than 15km of well marked & maintained trails through forests & rivers, allowing the opportunity to see a variety of indigenous flora & fauna. This is a great spot for bird lovers. Vols receive free lodging in exchange for their work & discounted food The food is 100% vegetarian & mostly prepared with fresh & organic products from the garden.

**ASK**: info@volunteer4africa.org, www.volunteer4africa.com, www.facebook.com/volunteerlatinamerica

Volunteer Marine Researcher

**REF**: 485-FOCUS-OK8  **JOB**: VOLUNTEER MARINE RESEARCHER

**BE4**: On going – expeditions run throughout the year  **LOC**: MADAGASCAR / BELIZE

**PAY**: Training FOR BLUE VENTURES EXPEDITIONS

**DES/BUT**: Volunteers join our field scientists at one of our research sites in Madagascar & Belize to help with reef monitoring activities as well as community projects such as beach clean-ups, sea cucumber monitoring, helping at the manatee rescue centre & much more depending on location. PADA dive training, marine species identification & monitoring training. BUT Motivated with an interest in conservation. Ability to live in relatively basic conditions & to work within a group. ASK www.blueventures.org

Voluntary Pruners & Practical Landscapers

**REF**: 486-FOCUS-18/3  **JOB**: VOLUNTEER MARINE RESEARCHER

**BE4**: N / A  **LOC**: NEAR ARRIONDAS & THE SPANISH NORTH COAST

**PAY**: Accommodation & vegetarian food provided FOR SPANISH DONKEY SANCTUARY

**DES/BUT**: Private donkey sanctuary in northern Spain needs volunteer pruners of neglected apple trees. Other jobs include fencing, cutting trees & gardening. See our web page www.paraisodelburro.com for more information.

**ASK**: If you want to spend a couple of weeks in beautiful Asturias, please contact Marleen Verhoef: marleen.verhoef@hotmail.com

Blue Ventures

Join one of our expeditions to either Madagascar or Belize and learn to dive and work alongside our field scientists in collecting reef data to help our conservation efforts. Expeditions last from 3-18 weeks. www.blueventures.org

Non-profit organisation that provides free and low-cost volunteer opportunities throughout the African continent. We provide all the information you need to make a tangible difference to Africa's animals, its people and environment, including numerous opportunities to volunteer for free.

info@volunteer4africa.org www.volunteer4africa.org

**Key:**

| REF | CJS reference no. (job number – source – delete date) | JOB | Description of Job
| BE4 | Application closing date IV – Interview date | LOC | Person Spec / Requirements
| PAY | £ range - usually per annum (but check starting point) | FOR | Employer

CJS Suggestions:

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

The CJS team would like to thank everyone who has contributed adverts, articles and information for this CJS Focus publication. Next edition will feature Visitor Management & Engagement, due to be published on 10 June 2013.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** to DOUBLE CHECK the BE4 (closing date) of the vacancies. And please contact only the person, telephone number, email address given.

This CJS Focus was published 18/2/13.

A4 sides this CJS Focus: 29: Adverts: 78 - Details believed correct but given without prejudice, Ends.