Countryside Jobs Service

Focus on Volunteering

In association with Groundwork

19 September 2016

Giving communities the tools to create better places

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

There’s a wealth of evidence to suggest that we’re at risk of finding ourselves back in the ‘bad old days’ where our parks and open spaces become unattractive, uninviting and, in extremis, unsafe places to be. A 2014 report by the Heritage Lottery Fund revealed that 86% of parks managers reported cuts to budgets and they expect the trend to continue for three years. The same report also found that 71% of households with children under 10 are concerned that reduction in council budgets could have a negative impact on the condition of their local park.

We need to find creative ways of preserving these treasured spaces continue to thrive in the ‘Age of Austerity’ and ensuring communities have the guidance and help at their fingertips to play an active role has to be part of the solution.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Groundwork has managed the 2.5 acre site since 2007, transforming a patch of barely used land into a thriving space complete with wildlife, poly-tunnels, orchard and children’s natural play area that involves and supports the local community with projects including after school clubs, young people and adult employment programmes and supported adult volunteering. Having recently been awarded a Green Flag of excellence, an example of what the power of the community can do.

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

“We grow people - and the community responds to you. It’s rewarding to see you have made a difference.”

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

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

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

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

Sheila Ozeer, volunteered on the ‘Bromley by Bow Floating Ecosystem’ project for Thames21. She said: “Volunteering to install a reed bed not only gave me that feel-good factor of doing something good for nature but I got to meet a group of dedicated people, who like me, are passionate about the environment; which was a real privilege!”
Next time you’re on the beach, keep an eye out for unwelcome beach residents: Nurdles! These tiny plastic pellets are used by industry to make plastic products. Many can end up at sea through accidental spillage where they can harm wildlife. Help us track this pollutant on our shorelines: www.nurdlehunt.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

REF 457-FOCUS-OK3 JOB WALK LEADER OPPORTUNITIES
BE4 N/A LOC UK FOR HF HOLIDAYS
DES HF Holidays Ltd is a leading tour operator specialising in walking, cycling & leisure activities holidays all over the world. We have 20 UK country houses & work with carefully chosen partner hotels in Europe & worldwide. We are a co-operative society & welcome over 50,000 guests on our holidays each year. We have opportunities for volunteer walk leaders in 20 UK locations & more than 60 destinations overseas. Leaders work together in a team to make the holiday successful & are resident for the duration of the holiday. They spend most of the time with our guests from arrival to sharing meals, guiding walks & saying goodbye at the end! We offer: full board accommodation; travelling expenses; ongoing training opportunities; logbook experience; opportunity to improve leadership skills. BUT If you’re an experienced, sociable walker & would like to share your love of the countryside with small groups of walkers on holiday, why not apply to join the team? ASK http://hfholidays.co.uk/leaders or call Gillian Mininch, Walking Leader Recruitment & Training Manager, 01786 890091

REF 2667-FOCUSR-7/10 JOB WORKSHOP LEADER
BE4 5/10/16 LOC NATIONWIDE FOR ACTION FOR CONSERVATION
PAY Professional training, ongoing support, travel expenses FOR ACTION FOR CONSERVATION
DES AFC is a charity with a mission to bring the magic of nature into UK schools, inspiring a youth movement committed to conservation & to the earth. We organise active workshops for students aged 11-18 run by a team of
Association of Countryside Volunteers (ACV)
The aim of this UK wide Association is to promote effective and enjoyable work by volunteers throughout the countryside. The Association also aims to complement the work of the countryside volunteer’s own "service" by bringing together those of similar interests, enabling information and experience to be shared, and by co-operating with the Authorities in promoting high standards within countryside services. For further information please contact: Neville Anderson, Membership Services: nev_anderson@tiscali.co.uk or Roger Higgs, Chairman on rogerhiggs@hotmail.co.uk  Membership is just £10.00 per year, concessionary (student, unwaged, OAP) £6.00.

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

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

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

Every Wednesday Volunteer Day
Kinghorn Loch, Fife, The Ecology Centre Contact: Robert 01592 891567, admin@theecologycentre.org
Tea/coffee & a free lunch are provided

Lots of volunteering opportunities here at Abriachan, high on the hill above Loch Ness....conservation activities, tree planting, weeding, path maintenance, woodcraft enterprise, biological recording, supporting others, interpretation....a variety to suit all interests.

Contact : Clelland or Roni on abriachanforest@gmail.com or call 01463 861236 and leave a message

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

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

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

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At the launch event:

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

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

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

Forming a committee

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

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

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

Writing a constitution

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

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

Once the group is established

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

Continued Success

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

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

Good luck and enjoy your time with your willing helpers.

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

Wales:

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

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

Keep Wales Tidy run working parties throughout the year & tasks include litter picking, habitat management, footpath works, woodland management, Coastcare & many more. Anyone who would like to volunteer should contact KWT on 029 20256767 or south@keepwalestidy.org
Every Wednesday & Sunday  Woodland Working Party
Cefn Ila, Woodland Trust  Contact: volunteering@woodlandtrust.org.uk
The work parties support our restoration of this wonderful site. We ask that volunteers bring lunch & wear appropriate
clothing & footwear. We provide the tools & the hot drinks, No experience necessary.

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

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

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

REF 470-FOCUS-OK3  JOB  HABITAT MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEER
BE4 N / A  LOC  SWANSEA & / or NEATH PORT TALBOT AREAS
PAY Some training & some expenses  FOR  WILDLIFE TRUST SOUTH & WEST WALES
DES  Come along & make a difference at one of our regular volunteer work parties. The New Wild Woodlands Project
is undertaking habitat management improvement work near you. Why not come & get experience at coppicing, non-
native species control, meadow management & surveys. Time: anything from one day (9.00 – 14.30) whenever you can,
up to 3 days a week Tue, Wed, Thu & 3rd Sun of the month.  BUT  No experience necessary, as all required training
given. Just enthusiasm & a willingness to work outdoors!  ASK  Tara Daniels, 07855 009822
t.daniels@welshwildlife.org

Young volunteers develop work skills for future

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

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

Matthew threw himself into the many tasks that he was a participant on from hill navigation in our local
Lammermuir Hills and developing his survival skills by learning natural fire lighting skills. He also worked on
learning about using different hand tools and how they are applied in conservation management of
countryside sites. Matthew says:
“I have been at the Junior Rangers for about 2 years plus and have taken away from my time with them skills that I would never have thought I would have been able to do like cutting down unwanted plants, dead trees which I carry on to help my Family in their gardens especially my Nana and my Cousin Claire in her new house”.

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

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

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

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

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

And the final word goes to Matthew himself.
“Best of all was working with all the other Junior Rangers and the Rangers themselves, learning outdoor skills that I would never have done otherwise, but also having fun”.

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

Anglia:

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

**Suffolk Coast Greeters** are volunteers who enjoy talking to people and offering visitors the chance to enjoy a free and personal welcome to their local area. Greeter and visitors decide together when, where and what they will explore together. Join Us Now! suffolkcoastgreeters@gmail.com 01394 445225
Beachwatch is the Marine Conservation Society’s national beach cleaning and litter surveying programme. Our marine wildlife and environment is under threat from litter and pollution. Join an existing Suffolk team or establish your own! Contact Lynn Allen at Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB, 01394 445225 or lynn.allen@suffolk.gov.uk

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

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

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

REF 2673-FOCUSR-21/10 JOB SCHOOLS OUTREACH VOLUNTEER BE4 N / A LOC HOME BASED – outreach to educational establishments in Norwich & the Broads PAY Induction, training & expenses FOR RSPB DES During school term time, one day a fortnight (we can be flexible on this). As part of the RSPB’s aim to connect as many children as possible to nature, we’ll be descending on primary schools ready to deliver our inspiring outreach sessions. They’re designed to give teachers & their pupils all the support they need to explore the natural world around them. The sessions are fun & interactive. Following a period of shadowing the Schools Outreach Officer, we’d ask you to take the lead on delivering 3 different workshops with classes of children aged 5-12 years, inspiring them to get close up to what creeps, crawls & flies in their school grounds. Teachers would be present at all times. BUT Bags of enthusiasm & a natural at communicating your passion for nature to children; genuinely enjoy working with children; resourceful, flexible & creative approach to working with children; enjoy working outdoors; well organised, great communicator; keen interest in wildlife, conservation & nature; great at working in a team & alone; happy to take instructions, keen to learn new skills; computer literate, able to use email, internet, MS Word. Desirable but not essential: some knowledge of wildlife gardening & basic ID skills. ASK Sharon Sanderson, 01603 697525

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

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

North East:

Unearth an historic waggonway, help restore riverside habitats or learn wildlife survey skills! These & many more natural, industrial & cultural heritage volunteering opportunities with the Land of Oak & Iron Landscape Partnership in & around the Derwent Valley. Contact us to get involved: 01207 524883 landofoakandiron@groundwork.org.uk
www.landofoakandiron.org.uk Facebook/LandofOakandIron Twitter@LandofOakIron
Living Seas Centre Welcome Volunteer - if you would like to meet new people and share your passion and knowledge about wildlife with visitors to our centre and even get crafty, then we would love to hear from you. For more information go to http://www.ywt.org.uk/volunteer-east

Whether you have a year to spare, or just a day, volunteering at Skelton Grange Environment Centre in Leeds can be a fun & enriching experience. At Skelton Grange we aim to provide the opportunity for volunteers to develop new skills & demonstrate existing ones. Join in, feel Good! www.tcw.org.uk/skeltonrange/volunteering

Project Task Days across South and West Yorkshire - From the Humberhead Levels, through Barnsley and onto urban Leeds we are creating a landscape richer in wildlife. Flood alleviation, making homes for water voles, bats and owls; there’s so much to get involved with! Task days advertised here – http://www.ywt.org.uk/volunteer/more-info

Join our volunteer team to learn skills in practical conservation work across the National Trust’s Northumberland Coast portfolio. Activities include everything from vegetation management, to hedge laying and path maintenance. If you enjoy bonfires and getting muddy this might be the opportunity for you. For more information please email northumberlandcoast@nationaltrust.org.uk
### Inspiring People - Potteric Carr, Doncaster
Doncaster, is looking for passionate and inspiring people to share their love of nature with local people. Whether its pond dipping, craft workshops or bat walks there’s lots to do as part of our friendly Inspiring People team. Further details from kat.woolley@ywt.org.uk

### Interested in local wildlife and looking for flexible, rewarding part time work?
This role suits someone looking for flexibility work, a change of pace and lifestyle or wanting to supplement their existing income. Access to own transport essential, but no experience is necessary as training is provided. 
http://www.nwt.org.uk/jobs/membership-recruiters

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

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

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

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

#### Every Thursday Practical Conservation Volunteer
Tyne Valley, Northumberland, National Trust - Hadrian's Wall & Tyne Valley Contact: http://c-js.co.uk/2bZ6Tk
Love the outdoors and don't mind getting your hands dirty? Our practical conservation volunteer team carry out work like walling, brash clearance and footpath maintenance across five NT sites in the Tyne Valley. Must have a reasonable level of fitness, as all tasks involve practical work outdoors.

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

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### A Wonderful Wildcat Experience
By James Walker

As I pulled into the town square in Huntly, Aberdeenshire, on a dark and surprisingly mild December night, a sense of realisation kicked in. It was time to find out if the gamble would pay off. I had left a permanent ranger role which, despite providing useful experience and having great colleagues, felt to have stagnated in terms of development opportunities, to intern with Scottish Wildcat Action for three months. I dreamed of being able to work on conservation projects, combining research, people engagement and practical conservation to achieve long term objectives and this seemed to be a perfect first step.
After seeing the advert for the posts online I knew I would never forgive myself if I didn’t apply. So after forgoing a social life for a weekend to prepare my application and many hours put into reading and watching anything on wildcats I could find, it was time for the interview. This was done over the phone and I felt cautiously optimistic by the end. It took a while to sink in after getting the call to say I had a place, but once it did the excitement and trepidation began building.

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

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

Trips to Edinburgh Zoo and Highland Wildlife Park to learn about the wider project work were a real highlight. In Edinburgh, we met the communications coordinator for the project, Vicky MacDonald, to learn about how best to spread the news and raise awareness of wildcat conservation, as well as seeing the zoo’s Koalas and Giant Pandas! At Highland Wildlife Park, David Barclay, the cat conservation project officer, showed us the captive wildcats at the park and provided an insightful explanation of the conservation breeding programme. The visit also provided an opportunity to meet the other project officers and interns, sharing experiences from the survey and suggestions for future ones.

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

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

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

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

**North West:**

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

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

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

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

**VOLUNTEER WADER WARDEN PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR**  
BE4 N/A  LOC MORECAMBE BAY  
PAY Out of pocket expenses FOR RSPB  
DES An opportunity to be a major part in an ongoing project aiming to reduce levels of recreational disturbance to roosting birds at high tide. The focus is on a light touch approach; raising awareness, educating & engaging with recreational users of the sites. With your efforts this initiative can significantly reduce levels of recreational disturbance in the bay & better safeguard winter high tide bird roosts. It may require a considerable commitment, potentially up to 3-4 hours per day up to 5 days per week including weekends. This depends heavily on tide states & weather. This is a complex role & gives you the opportunity to gain rare experience of recruiting, managing & supporting volunteers. You will be taking the lead with a dynamic public-facing conservation project working across some of the beautiful coastal landscapes in the UK.  
BUT  Friendly, confident & approachable & willing to start conversations with members of the public. Basic ID skills & an understanding of the ecology of wading birds desirable although some training can be provided. Happy spending time outdoors, sometimes in poor weather. Able to travel to some more remote sites not well serviced by public transport.  
ASK Calum Booth, calum.booth@rspb.org.uk 01524 581000.
REF 507-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER
BE4 N / A LOC FESTIVAL GARDENS LIVERPOOL
PAY On the job training for a plethora of tools / activities FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS
DES Do you have an interest in conservation? If you are keen to take an active role in your local environment, then this is the role for you. Conservation volunteers are needed throughout the year at Festival Gardens. Various horticultural tasks are completed on a daily basis, tasks vary dependent on the season but volunteers choose daily from a plethora of tasks they wish to complete. Volunteers are free to come between the hours of 10:00-16:00 Monday to Friday. Time spent is up to the participant. We will supply coffee, tea & have a microwave & fridge which volunteers are welcome to use. BUT No qualifications required, just lots of enthusiasm! No skills required, on site tool safety training done as & when needed. Just bring yourself, a packed lunch, old clothes & footwear with ample ankle support. ASK Please contact Rangers Joseph or Paul to arrange an induction: j.evans@tcv.org.uk or p.kirby@tcv.org.uk

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

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

Midlands:
REF 2684-FOCUS-14/10 Forestry Commission & Notts County Council
Shadow Ranger Placement Opportunities
Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire & Cheshire
Training is provided
A fantastic opportunity to get your foot in the door of an environmental organisation, gain experience and learn alongside Ranger staff. We are looking for individuals with an interest in pursuing a career in countryside management, recreation, bushcraft, working with young people or the environmental sector for our voluntary work placements. Time commitment of 1-3 days per week for 6 months.
You must be willing to work as part of a team, one to one and on your own. Motivated and capable of working under own initiative. Enthusiastic. Physically fit and able to negotiate rough terrain. Willing to undergo a Disclosure Barring System check. Good communication skills. Full driving licence is desirable
Closing date: 16th October
Find out more on www.forestry.gov.uk/shadowrangers
**QUEENSWOOD COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRE VOLUNTEERS**

**BE4**

Training & travel expenses

**FOR**

DINMORE HILL, LEOMINSTER, HEREFORDSHIRE

We are looking for volunteers to help run a new visitor centre at Queenswood, providing members of the public with information, guidance about the Country Park & Bodenham Lake, as well as staffing the new shop! From welcoming visitors, serving customers in the shop & enthusing visitors to join the ‘Friends of Queenswood & Bodenham Lake’ scheme, you will make a real difference to Queenswood & visitors’ enjoyment of this special place. You will be available to answer visitors’ questions about the sites & help them discover more each time they return. You will be educating visitors about the history of Queenswood & Bodenham Lake, including our ongoing habitat management work & visitor development. Training to share this knowledge provided. Multiple roles are available. Minimum commitment of 3 months required. **BUT** Previous experience in a similar role useful but not essential. Confidence in speaking to the general public, a passion for wildlife & an interest in sustainable living. **ASK** Rachel Hicks, Visitor Experience Officer, r.hicks@queenswoodandbodenhamlake.org

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**FENN’S MOSS NNR VOLUNTARY WARDEN**

**BE4**

Travel expenses

**FOR**

NATURAL ENGLAND & NATURAL RESOURCES WALES

Great opportunity to assist with the restoration of part of Britain’s 3rd largest lowland raised peat bog. The NNR is 690ha & straddles the English / Welsh border, 4 miles from Whitchurch, Shropshire & 10 miles from Wrexham. Role is varied & can incl practical estate & habitat management tasks, surveying / monitoring, assisting with events / guided walks & office projects. Protective clothing & some formal courses & in-house training provided. **BUT** Suitable for a student looking for a work placement or someone wanting to gain further experience in the conservation sector. Reliable & enthusiastic, keen interest in wildlife & conservation, physically fit & prepared to work outdoors. **ASK** Peter Bowyer, Reserve Manager, peter.bowyer@naturalengland.org.uk 01948 883062 www.naturalengland.org.uk

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**SCHOOL VISITS VOLUNTEER**

**BE4**

Training

**FOR**

WORCESTERSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

WE are looking for an enthusiastic & committed volunteer to join our friendly education team & assist the Engagement Officers to deliver fun & interactive outdoor learning sessions to schools. A typical day could involve minibeast hunting, pond dipping, baking bread, river activities & much more! Time: casual & flexible depending on demand but typically 9am – 3pm on the required days. **BUT** Experience of working with children in a school or other learning environment; experience of delivering creative environmental education to children of all ages; interest & enthusiasm for wildlife conservation & aims of Wildlife Trusts; willingness to be outside in all weathers; basic knowledge of UK wildlife & ID skills. Able to work flexibly on initiative & within team. Able to communicate in engaging & professional manner to children & adults. Understanding of child safeguarding & H&S. Prepared to be involved in tasks as need arises. **ASK** Hannah Thomas, hannah@worcestershirewildlifetrust.org 01905 754919. Apply: www.worcestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

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**VOLUNTEER RANGER**

**BE4**

Fuel expenses, in-house training

**FOR**

NATIONAL TRUST

Rangers love the countryside & being out in the fresh air, so they know what our visitors need. They’re great at taking care of the wildlife & stunning landscapes of Brockhampton Estate, for ever, for everyone. Time: at least once a month. **BUT** We need people who are outdoorsy; able to be out whatever the weather’s doing; reasonably fit & healthy – you don’t need to be Superman but you’ll do a lot of walking & practical tasks. Keen to work with people & animals! Keen to learn about countryside management. **ASK** Apply through myvolunteering on the National Trust website, http://bit.ly/2bOf56Y or contact nicholas.hinchliffe@nationaltrust.org.uk for more information.

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**VOLUNTEER TRAINEE WARDEN x 2**

**BE4**

Modest training budget & travel expenses

**FOR**

NATURAL ENGLAND

2-3 days per week for 6 months. We have two part time volunteer trainee warden positions available designed to develop knowledge of conservation management including wildflower meadows, traditional orchards & oak coppice woodland. This is a perfect opportunity for people wanting to develop their CV, work alongside the warden team & gain experience in this highly competitive sector. The work involved is varied & where possible, tailored to the volunteer’s interests. **BUT** A reasonable level of fitness is required. The roles are aimed at practical & motivated people who like
CJS Focus on Volunteering  www.countryside-jobs.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

How citizens can support science and conservation

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

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

Traditional Orchards

The traditional orchards Priority Habitat project run by PTES has been collating data about the location and condition of this habitat for nine years. Following an extensive office-based GIS (Geographical Information Systems) desk study we needed to do some leg-work and get orchards surveyed on the ground. Locally based volunteers were indispensable in this as they have proven to be the most effective way of maximising site visits at minimal cost. Additionally, the recruitment and publicity process raises awareness of traditional orchards, promotes their biodiversity and heritage value, and encourages an interest in the habitat. Volunteers are also employed to help with office based GIS work, providing a work experience opportunity for people wishing to improve their work prospects or who wish to devote some spare time to conservation. We have been lucky enough to host all types of volunteers from university students gaining a couple of weeks’ experience, graduates with existing skills to put to use, people from other professions with an amateur interest in orchards or mapping, through to retirees looking for something interesting to occupy their time.

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

National Dormouse Monitoring Programme

There had been very few studies on hazel dormice in Britain before the 1980’s although a Mammal Society Dormouse Survey in 1977 suggested that there had been a decline in both the range and population of the species in Britain. This prompted English Nature to fund Pat Morris and Paul Bright of Royal Holloway, University of London to investigate the question of why dormice are rare in Britain. The discovery, by Doug Woods, that dormice would readily use special nest boxes made it possible that this question, and general dormouse ecology, could be investigated. In 1988 boxes were put up at 5 sites in Somerset and
Herefordshire and over 35 visits 384 dormice were found and biometric data recorded and this formed the basis of the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme (NDMP).

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

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

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

As the number of NDMP sites and the people involved in their management and monitoring increases so the general awareness of dormice is raised.

The NDMP was set up to study dormouse ecology and the national population trend but in addition it also provides an opportunity to encourage people to interact with wildlife, become involved in a national mammal monitoring programme and explore their local woodlands. The presence of dormice can also encourage sympathetic woodland and hedgerow management at both a local and landscape level.

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

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

Contact details to find out more:
Orchards: Steve.Oram@ptes.org
MoR: David.Wembridge@ptes.org
NDMP: Ian.White@ptes.org
PTES website www.PTES.org

South:

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<td>2690-FOCUSR-OK3</td>
<td>OUR PAST, OUR FUTURE VOLUNTEER</td>
<td>NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY</td>
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DES The Our Past, Our Future Landscape Partnership Scheme volunteers can take part in archaeological digs, botanical surveys, digitising historical documents, recording the history of commoning, clearing invasive plants, monitoring water quality & much more. The range of activities are supported by 11 different partners to inspire a new
generation to champion & care for the New Forest. Volunteers can give as much time as they would like. BUT No previous experience or qualifications required, just a desire & passion to learn about, improve & enjoy the New Forest National Park. ASK Richard Austin, richard.austin@newforestnпа.gov.uk

REF 2691-FOCUS-7/10 JOB VOLUNTEER OFFICER WARDEN
BE4 7/10/16 LOC GREENWICH PENINSULA ECOLOGY PARK
PAY Training & travel expenses within London FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS
DES 3 days a week for 6 months which must include Wednesdays & Saturdays. Excellent work experience with on the job training with experienced wardens & free TVC training. The focus of the placement is to assist the park wardens in running volunteer practical workdays & to undertake habitat management on a range of habitats in this urban wetland, including marsh, meadow, shingle beach, lakes & woodland. You would be trained to eventually lead volunteer workdays. BUT Basic knowledge of or a background in ecology & conservation & good communication skills. ASK Email your CV to joanne.smith@tcv.org.uk & if suitable, we will arrange an informal interview.

REF 2692-FOCUS-30/9 JOB TRADITIONAL ORCHARD PROJECT GIS VOLUNTEER
BE4 2/10/16 LOC BATTERSEA PARK ROAD
PAY Training in GIS, reasonable travel expenses FOR PEOPLE’S TRUST FOR ENDANGLED SPECIES
DES 2-8 weeks depending on hours / weeks committed, 1 to 5 days per week but a minimum of 10 working days in total. PTES holds the national priority habitat inventory for traditional orchards. We currently have capacity for part or full time volunteer(s) to help with various research & data tasks relating to the conservation of this important habitat. The role offers an opportunity to gain experience within a conservation charity & for someone to develop their habitat, GIS & data management knowledge. The role is voluntary, but reasonable travel expenses will be paid & home working is possible for certain tasks. Flexible working hours. BUT Competence in IT is a must but training in GIS given. Desirable skills are: Mapinfo / Arc & Excel software, web-based research, good grammar & spelling. Though training will be given, an aptitude for IT is essential. ASK Please submit CV to steve.oram@ptes.org

REF 2693-FOCUSR-5/11 JOB NATURE RESERVES WARDENS
BE4 7/11/16 LOC HARROW, GREATER LONDON
PAY Training FOR HARROW NATURE CONSERVATION FORUM
DES Harrow Conservation Forum is a fully volunteer group that takes care of a number of wildlife open spaces in Harrow in northwest London, ranging from 2 to 66ha. Many interesting & rare species are found on our sites including barn owls, yellow necked mice, heath spotted orchids & many rare invertebrates. Three of our sites need volunteer wardens to take over management. This is a real opportunity to put ecological knowledge into practice & guide the management of a site to increase biodiversity. The responsibilities, nature of the work & time requirements vary greatly between the three sites. Times differ from one to several days per month. Specifically, the Warden of Wood Farm will largely be supervising paid contractors & volunteer groups to do larger jobs while the roles at Roxbourne Rough & Stanmore Country Park are more physical & hands on, with Stanmore Country Park the more time consuming of the two.

We will fund training in techniques & natural history as required. BUT All that is required is enthusiasm & a love of nature.

ASK Steve Bolsover, 0779 483 7032 or admin@harrowncf.org www.harrowncf.org/wardens.html

REF 2694-FOCUSR-14/10 JOB SCHOOLS OUTREACH VOLUNTEER
BE4 N / A LOC LONDON
PAY 0 FOR RSPB
DES Minimum 1 day per fortnight. Inspire young people to connect to nature in their school grounds around London. Gain valuable experience of working in schools in the outdoor environment by delivering exciting sessions for primary aged children. BUT Experience of working with young people essential. Abundant enthusiasm, with the ability to communicate your passion for the natural world to help connect children with nature. Resourceful & flexible approach to engage with primary-aged children of all abilities. ASK Contact Luke Brigg at london@rspb.org.uk for more details & an application pack.

REF 2695-FOCUSR-23/2 JOB BUTTERFLY SURVEYOR
BE4 23/2/17 LOC SOUTH OCKENDON
PAY Full identification & survey training FOR LITTLE BELHUS COUNTRY PARK TRUST
DES 2 hours per week. We would like a butterfly surveyor to walk a survey route once a week throughout April to September. This will be around 1.5 hours of walking. The data you collect will help us guide our management & will be entered into the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme. BUT We need a reliable surveyor who has some flexibility throughout the week because the survey needs to be done during specific weather conditions. If you have experience of butterflies that would be a bonus, otherwise an interest in wildlife & a willingness to learn is a must.

ASK dhruibel@littlebelhuscountrypark.co.uk 07725 246192.

REF 2696-FOCUS-31/12 JOB Work Experience & Training with Walworth Garden Farm
BE4 N / A LOC RUSKIN PARK, LONDON SE5
PAY Formal training & up to £8 per day travel & lunch expenses FOR TREES FOR CITIES
DES We expect you to spend 1 day a week studying for a QCF level 2 award / diploma in horticulture & 3 days per week as a volunteer trainee supporting the arbiculture, landscape & operations team with their activities in Ruskin Park & other London sites. Volunteering is essential to help you build a portfolio of work for the level 2 qualification. We provide formal training to long term volunteers, all safety clothing & equipment, including safety boots & hi-vis. You will gain: horticultural & organisational skills & a nationally recognised level 2 qualification; experience working in community spaces at schools, housing estates & parks; assistance & training in CV writing & job searching; experience turning neglected urban areas into thriving community spaces, & in working outdoors in green spaces with communities; build your strength & resilience, & skills for positive social relationships; increased physical & mental health; build self-esteem & confidence levels. BUT The course is aimed at people aged 18 to 24 (or 29 if you live in Lambeth) & not in work,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REF</th>
<th>540-FOCUSR-O3K</th>
<th>JOB</th>
<th>VISITOR EXPERIENCE VOLUNTEER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BE4</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>LOC</td>
<td>BEDGBURY PINETUM &amp; FOREST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAY</td>
<td>Full training &amp; uniform</td>
<td>FOR</td>
<td>FORESTRY COMMISSION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DES</td>
<td>Enthusiastic &amp; friendly volunteers to work as part of Visitor Services team, giving directions, advice &amp; warm welcome. Three hour shifts once or twice month. BUT Friendly open personality, good communication skills. Enjoy meeting people, like working as part of a team. ASK Nicola Downs, Senior Project Officer, 01206 764470</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>REF</th>
<th>536-FOCUSR-O3K</th>
<th>JOB</th>
<th>RECYCLING &amp; WASTE REDUCTION ENGAGEMENT VOLUNTEER</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BE4</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>LOC</td>
<td>ACROSS SURREY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAY</td>
<td>Full training, travel expenses*</td>
<td>FOR</td>
<td>SURREY GREEN NETWORK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DES</td>
<td>Approx 30 hpw. The network is about bringing together people who are enthusiastic about the environment with aims of reducing Surrey's waste. Opportunity to attend roadshows, give talks to community groups, run workshops, write articles for newsletters &amp; local press &amp; to help residents on community projects. Opportunity to help spread waste reduction message. May be selective as to which events / activities best suit according to preference, location or availability. * lunch + free polo shirt, fleece &amp; handbook. Reward scheme based on hours. BUT No experience required just genuine interest in environment &amp; reducing waste. 18+ &amp; reside in Surrey. ASK <a href="mailto:info@surreygreennetwork.com">info@surreygreennetwork.com</a> 020 85417844</td>
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<tr>
<th>REF</th>
<th>628-FOCUSR-O3K</th>
<th>JOB</th>
<th>CARE FARM ASSISTANT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BE4</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>LOC</td>
<td>MILL HILL, NORTH LONDON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAY</td>
<td>Induction &amp; basic training, lunch provided</td>
<td>FOR</td>
<td>SWEETTREE FARMING FOR ALL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DES</td>
<td>We are looking for people who have a passion for helping others &amp; working outdoors on Tuesdays between 9am – 5pm. We firmly believe that working outdoors with animals, gardening &amp; taking part in bushcraft activities has therapeutic benefits for everyone. Each project is designed to engage, inspire &amp; offer a regular routine in the great outdoors. Typical activities include livestock farming, horticulture, bush crafts, horsemanship, falconry, conservation, eco &amp; natural crafts, Forest Schools &amp; cooking. Activities can be curriculum linked &amp; we also offer City &amp; Guilds accredited horticultural training on a long-term basis. We specifically work with adults &amp; children suffering social exclusion due to learning disabilities, emotional &amp; / or physical disabilities &amp; mental health issues. We can brief you on different activities each week &amp; our project leaders will lead activities, you just need to be there to help. BUT No experience or training is required, but confidence to work with a range of different people is helpful. DBS checks are preferable but as you are working with project leaders it isn’t a requirement. ASK Jude Allen, 0207 6449505 <a href="mailto:jude.allen@sweettreefarmingforall.org.uk">jude.allen@sweettreefarmingforall.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>REF</th>
<th>518-FOCUSR-O3K</th>
<th>JOB</th>
<th>VOLUNTEER EDUCATION LEADER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BE4</td>
<td>ONGOING</td>
<td>LOC</td>
<td>LEATHERHEAD &amp; / OR GODSTONE, SURREY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAY</td>
<td>Training</td>
<td>FOR</td>
<td>SURREY WILDLIFE TRUST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DES</td>
<td>From finding fairies with 4 year olds to teaching 16 year olds to survey plantlife, from pond dipping with 10 year olds to calculating diversity with A-level students, every day with the Education Team is different, &amp; most importantly, every day is fun. Assist our staff team with the delivery of sessions &amp; lead small (up to 15 children) walk groups around the reserve, enthusing &amp; teaching them about the natural world. Likely timings are 9.30-14.30 (lower key stages) or 9.00-15.30 (KS3 upwards); 1-3 days a week. Our sessions complement the national curriculum so we are looking for teachers or anyone with a keen interest in natural history to join our brilliant team of volunteers &amp; help us to deliver inspirational days out at our educational nature reserves. This is also a great opportunity for those who want to work in environmental education to gain experience. You can choose the age group you work with &amp; we'll give you all the training you need, so no prior experience of environmental education is required, although those with experience are very welcome! We will arrange first aid training, if necessary, &amp; a DBS check. ASK Jude Allen, 0207 6449505 <a href="mailto:jude.allen@sweettreefarmingforall.org.uk">jude.allen@sweettreefarmingforall.org.uk</a></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>REF</th>
<th>2697-FOCUSR-O3K</th>
<th>JOB</th>
<th>VOLUNTEER GARDENER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BE4</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>LOC</td>
<td>COLCHESTER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAY</td>
<td>Share of harvests</td>
<td>FOR</td>
<td>COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DES</td>
<td>Set in High Woods Country Park, improve or maintain your health &amp; wellbeing by helping staff look after the organic fruit &amp; vegetable garden &amp; heritage orchard. A wide variety of tasks year round such as seed sowing &amp; plant care, compost making, watering &amp; weeding. 3 hours a week. BUT Experience not needed. An interest in growing food, a willingness to learn &amp; able to work with garden staff &amp; other vols. Able to engage positively with visiting members of the public &amp; able to work unsupervised. ASK <a href="http://www.colchester.gov.uk/volunteering">www.colchester.gov.uk/volunteering</a> <a href="mailto:biggarden@colchester.gov.uk">biggarden@colchester.gov.uk</a> 01206 855287</td>
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<tr>
<th>REF</th>
<th>539-FOCUSR-O2K</th>
<th>JOB</th>
<th>VOLUNTEER OFFICERS &amp; LEADERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BE4</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>LOC</td>
<td>ESSEX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAY</td>
<td>Work experience</td>
<td>FOR</td>
<td>THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DES</td>
<td>2 days per week for a minimum of 6 months (flexible &amp; negotiable). We have 5 weekly vol groups &amp; work with many community groups across the county. Whether part of one of our action teams or helping to organise &amp; deliver projects to improve green spaces; volunteers are essential to everything we do. Volunteer officers &amp; leaders can train to lead volunteer groups on a range of practical conservation activities &amp; can get involved in all aspects of running projects depending on their interests &amp; skills they want to develop. This is a great opportunity for someone looking to gain work experience in conservation, community building or someone looking to use their skills to help others. We can provide: work experience in conservation &amp; community building; work experience in conservation activities; help with ideas to spread waste reduction message. ASK Nicola Downs, Senior Project Officer, 01206 764470 <a href="mailto:essex@tcv.org.uk">essex@tcv.org.uk</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**CJS Focus on Volunteering**

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**GOOGLE ADWORDS ADVISOR FOR ADOPT A DOLPHIN SCHEME**

**Role profile**

- **BE4**
  - **N / A**
  - **LOC** HOME BASED

---

**ENVIROMENTAL EDUCATION ASSISTANT FOR VISITORS**

**Role profile**

- **BE4**
  - **N / A**
  - **LOC** GREEN CENTRE, WAT TYLER COUNTRY PARK, ESSEX

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**WILDLIFE GARDENING VOLUNTEERS**

**Role profile**

- **BE4**
  - **28/10/16**
  - **LOC** across NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

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**LOCAL GROUP VOLUNTEERS (NORTH HERTS)**

**Role profile**

- **BE4**
  - **21/10/16**
  - **LOC** across NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

---

**CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS**

**Role profile**

- **BE4**
  - **Ongoing**
  - **LOC** Various locations in Hertfordshire, Essex & London

---

**EVENT ASSISTANTS**

**Role profile**

- **BE4**
  - **N/A**
  - **LOC** SURREY & HAMPSHIRE (near Farnham & Hazeley Reserves)

---

**WILDFOWL DATABASE VOLUNTEER**

**Role profile**

- **BE4**
  - **N/A**
  - **LOC** HAMPSHIRE

---

**HOME BASED CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER**

**Role profile**

- **BE4**
  - **N/A**
  - **LOC** HAMPSHIRE

---

**EVENT ASSISTANTS**

**Role profile**

- **BE4**
  - **N/A**
  - **LOC** HAMPSHIRE

---

**WILDFOWL DATABASE VOLUNTEER**

**Role profile**

- **BE4**
  - **N/A**
  - **LOC** HAMPSHIRE

---

**WILDFOWL DATABASE VOLUNTEER**

**Role profile**

- **BE4**
  - **N/A**
  - **LOC** HAMPSHIRE

---

**EVENT ASSISTANTS**

**Role profile**

- **BE4**
  - **N/A**
  - **LOC** HAMPSHIRE

---

**WILDFOWL DATABASE VOLUNTEER**

**Role profile**

- **BE4**
  - **N/A**
  - **LOC** HAMPSHIRE

---

**EVENT ASSISTANTS**

**Role profile**

- **BE4**
  - **N/A**
  - **LOC** HAMPSHIRE
trainees & some of our volunteers need support from others in the team. We provide nationally accredited training courses with the National Community Boats Association. BUT Surrey Care Trust needs people with all sorts of talents to help run Swingbridge: an aptitude for the practical side of boats, an enthusiasm for environmental work & above all the ability to motivate & enthuse others. ASK Chris Padmore, 07973 282239 swingbridge@surreycaretrust.org.uk www.swingbridge.org.uk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesdays &amp; Fridays</th>
<th>Market Garden Volunteering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peckham, London SE15 2BZ, Brayards Estate Tenants &amp; Residents Association (BETRA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/BETRAMarketGarden">www.facebook.com/BETRAMarketGarden</a> <a href="mailto:betra.rosa@gmail.com">betra.rosa@gmail.com</a> 0207 6355625</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 5.30 – 7.30. Friday 11 – 1.30. Help with all aspects of running the garden, for example watering, planting out, weeding &amp; harvesting. You can take some veg/herbs home but bring your lunch.</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Every Monday, Wednesday &amp; Friday</th>
<th>East Sussex Bio-diversity Action Team Volunteer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hastings, East Sussex, The Conservation Volunteers Contact: 01424 444675, <a href="mailto:volunteer-sussex@tcv.org.uk">volunteer-sussex@tcv.org.uk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join our active practical conservation volunteer group traveling across East Sussex to improve local habitats where ever we can. Between 1 &amp; 3 days per week. No skills or experience required all necessary training will be given, just a willingness to work outdoors in all weathers.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Third Sunday of each month &amp; or every Wednesday</th>
<th>Work Party volunteers - Practical conservation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hazeley Heath RSPB Reserve, near Hartley Wintney in Hampshire, RSPB Contact: Mary Braddock 01252 795632 / 07714 271024, <a href="mailto:mary.braddock@rspb.org.uk">mary.braddock@rspb.org.uk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carry out various habitat management and estate work on the reserve. We want volunteer help in the areas of habitat management and reserve maintenance. All tasks are vital for conservation of the site and for retaining good access to and around the reserve. An excellent chance to make a genuine contribution to wildlife conservation.</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Sunday of each month &amp; or every Tuesday or Friday</th>
<th>Work Party - Practical Conservation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farnham Heath RSPB Reserve, RSPB - Farnham Heath Contact: Mary Braddock 01252 795632 / 07714 271024, <a href="mailto:mary.braddock@rspb.org.uk">mary.braddock@rspb.org.uk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00am - 3.00pm. Carry out various habitat management &amp; estate work on the reserve. We want volunteer help in the areas of habitat management &amp; reserve maintenance. All tasks are vital for conservation of the site &amp; for retaining good access to &amp; around the reserve.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Thursday of the month throughout autumn and winter</th>
<th>Cake and Conservation Gloucester</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robinswood Hill Country Park, Gloucester, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Friends of Robinswood Hill &amp; Gloucester City Council Contact: 01452 383333, <a href="mailto:volunteering@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk">volunteering@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work alongside like-minded volunteers, helping to conserve the wildlife of Robinswood Hill Country Park.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Every Friday</th>
<th>Assistant Ranger Work Group - Winter 2016/17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ranmore Common, Surrey, National Trust - Polesden Lacey Contact: 01372 455062, <a href="mailto:PLVolunteering@nationaltrust.org.uk">PLVolunteering@nationaltrust.org.uk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.30 - 3.00. You will carry out vital conservation work which will benefit its rare flora and fauna and help manage rare habitats such as lowland heathland, wood pasture and acid grassland doing everything from clearing rides, woodland thinning, pond clearing, scrub bashing and much more. September 2016 to March 2017</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Third Saturday of every month</th>
<th>Holland Park Conservation Volunteers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holland Park, Kensington &amp; Chelsea, London, Ecology Services of Kensington &amp; Chelsea Council Contact: 020 79388186, <a href="mailto:ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk">ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work day, 10.30pm – 3.30pm, give as many hours as you can. Experience the rewarding benefits of hands-on nature activities. Tasks could be scything meadows, pond work, planting or weed removal. We provide refreshment, gloves, tools &amp; instruction. You need only wear sturdy shoes, old clothes, waterproofs &amp; bring your lunch.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday &amp; Thursdays</th>
<th>Conservation volunteer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dartford, Sevenoaks, Bexley &amp; Gravesend, North West Kent Countryside Partnership, KCC Contact: 01322 621239, <a href="mailto:sara.spellman@kent.gov.uk">sara.spellman@kent.gov.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>We work in meadows, woodlands, shallow chalk rivers, schools, community areas, public rights of way &amp; green spaces to provide natural flood defence, create &amp; manage habitats, deliver improvement works to nature areas within schools as well as improving areas for wildlife &amp; the community to use together.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mondays &amp; Thursdays (Maidstone) Tuesdays (Sevenoaks)</th>
<th>Nature Park Volunteers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maidstone or Sevenoaks, Kent Wildlife Trust Contact: <a href="http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/node/9981">http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/node/9981</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our well-established wildlife garden is enjoyed by the school groups &amp; visitors. The garden takes a lot of upkeep from our highly committed volunteers. Tasks range from grass-cutting, tree clearance, feeding the birds &amp; creating bug homes &amp; working on our pond, all aiming to inspire those who visit us to get involved with wildlife.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Contact for details</th>
<th>Heartwood Woodland Working Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sandridge, Hertfordshire, The Woodland Trust Contact: <a href="mailto:volunteering@woodlandtrust.org.uk">volunteering@woodlandtrust.org.uk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Come &amp; join our working party. We plant trees throughout the winter &amp; do general maintenance throughout the summer. We’ll provide tools &amp; equipment, just bring along lunch &amp; a drink &amp; wear boots &amp; a waterproof jacket. No experience is necessary for this role.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ith Champions: Survey and research providing as well as the volunteers who give us their considerable skills to help us save nature. Here is what some of our experts, fundraisers, web designers, drivers, electrician donate your time and talents. With 12,000 regular volunteers from all walks of life, RSPB volunteers give a gift of time over 900,000 hours annually. As well as plenty of outdoor and practical volunteering roles including reserve work parties or the very popular Residential Volunteering scheme, there are hundreds of different ways that you can get involved with our work and you don’t have to be an RSPB member or a bird expert to donate your time and talents.

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

**Second weekend of every month**  Conservation Group  Colne Valley and beyond, West of London, Groundwork  Contact: Douglas Hart 07718 043080, douglas.hart@groundwork.org.uk  Join our team of volunteers for practical conservation tasks. Meet new people, learn new skills and help conserve nature!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday**  Work party  Langdon Visitor Centre, Basildon, Essex, Essex Wildlife Trust  Contact: Jonathan Wisbey, 01268 419103 or jonathanw@essexwt.org.uk  Mornings. Practical management of nature reserves including practical conservation tasks, mostly consisting of coppicing & scrub clearance. Full training will be provided on site. Come as often as you like. Please bring suitable clothing. A good level of fitness is required to be able to work on uneven ground & use hand tools safely.

**First Saturday of every month**  Monthly work parties  Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Herts, Chorleywood Community Orchard  Contact: chorleywood.orchard@gmail.com, www.chorleywood-orchard.org.uk  10am – 12noon to maintain this young community orchard. Sociable & fun for all ages.

**Its not just about getting muddy at the RSPB**

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

We look for all sorts of volunteers with diverse skills including graphic designers, media gurus, finance experts, fundraisers, web designers, drivers, electricians and many more. The list is as amazing and varied as the volunteers who give us their considerable skills to help us save nature. Here is what some of our volunteers had to say:
Chas Leslie, a former Training Consultant, volunteers with our Learning and Development team and has been running workshops for staff to attend; "It seems remote from maintaining reed beds and woodland, but by training and developing the RSPB's managers, they are better able to do their jobs — promoting and protecting habitats for birds and other wildlife. It's really just making the best use of my experience and expertise to make a difference. That's all any volunteer wants really — to know they are making a difference."

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

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

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

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

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

South West:

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<tr>
<th>REF</th>
<th>JOB</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2705-FOCUS-OK3</td>
<td>CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BE4</td>
<td>LOC WIMBORNE, DORSET</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAY</td>
<td>FOR THE HEDGE PROJECT</td>
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<td>DES A combination of cattle grazing &amp; practical methods, such as scrub clearance, is used to restore heathland areas found in East Dorset. Volunteers joining us have the chance to gain a wide range of technical skills, knowledge &amp; experience for their CV from cattle management to fencing to survey work during spring &amp; summer months. Time: anything from 1-5 days a week. <strong>BUT</strong> Any relevant academic qualifications &amp; certificates an advantage but not vital, however the drive to make a difference to the local environment is essential. <strong>ASK</strong> Kayleigh Winch, <a href="mailto:k_winch@hotmail.co.uk">k_winch@hotmail.co.uk</a> 07795 678300 during office hours for more information or to arrange a visit.</td>
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| REF 2707-FOCUS-30/9 | JOB VOLUNTEER COUNTRYSIDE RANGER                     |
| BE4 28/9/16 IV 7/10/16 | LOC SOUTH DOWN FARM, MALBOROUGH, NR SALCOMBE, S DEVON |
| PAY 0* | FOR NATIONAL TRUST                        |
| DES Help care for a large coastal property. Carry out practical estate maintenance work, assisting the team & vols to maintain high quality access & interpretation across the 8000 acres. Develop strong practical skills, gain experience in leading groups & vols, gain knowledge & experience in maintaining a wide range of habitats & be based within a leading conservation charity. Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm (flexible) & occasional weekends. **BUT** You will have a good understanding of the countryside & recreation with a good basic knowledge of practical skills & a desire to improve. You must be committed to a career in the |
conservation sector. Self motivated, able to work with a small team & a wide sector or vols. Enthusiastic & have a passion for the outdoors. Willing to work outside in all weathers with a ‘have a go’ attitude. You’ll need transport & a full driving licence. ASK emma.reece@nationaltrust.org.uk 01548 562344 for details & an application form

REF 550-FOCUSR-OK3 FOR FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL
BE4 Ongoing LOC SLAPTON LEY
JOB DES / BUT
Conservation Monitoring Volunteer Required all year. Duties might incl: managing information display at fishing hut, keeping clean, sightings & publicity boards up to date; checking nature trail for safety & quality reporting on action needed: light clearing of trail-side vegetation using hand tools; long term monitoring of climate, birds, insects, plants &/or people; supporting conservation team, to maintain reserve. Need to be able to inspect condition to agreed standards & note actions needed.

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

REF 2706-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB FOREST SCHOOL VOLUNTEER OFFICER
BE4 N / A LOC KINGSWOOD, BRISTOL
PAY Training FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS – TREE LIFE CENTRE
DES 2 days per week. As a Forest School Volunteer Officer you will help run & develop our Forest School programme, working with school groups, parent & toddler groups, & youth groups. There will also be the opportunity to help out with the maintenance & improvement of our site, which we have been developing to promote biodiversity & encourage local wildlife, whilst also being a safe & accessible area for Forest School to take place & the public to enjoy. Full training programme including working with children, first aid, health & safety & risk assessment. BUT You don't need experience, just enthusiasm & the desire to work with children & young adults in the outdoors. DBS checks required. ASK Jason Leck, 0117 9605447 j.leck@tcv.org.uk

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

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

REF 2710-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION RANGER
BE4 3/10/16 LOC TORBAY
PAY Graduate training scheme; free accomm FOR TORBAY COAST & COUNTRYSIDE TRUST
DES 6-12 months, around 37 hours per week including evenings & weekends. This scheme will allow you to develop your theoretical skills combining them with practical skills in this volunteer work placement. We run an innovative & exciting environmental education programme for a wide diversity of participants from nursery through to adults. Activities include: ecological studies in rocky shore; fresh water; woodland & meadow habitats; local food & farming; horticulture & forest school. This intensive graduate scheme offers training across the board in the charitable & environmental sector, thus ensuring at the end of the placement a full set of skills have been acquired to enter into a chosen career path. 90% who have completed the placement secure jobs in the environmental education, conservation or teaching sector.

Opportunity to undertake further educational qualification such as a part time Master’s degree might be available. Free shared accommodation provided at Trust sites. BUT Qualified to degree level. Required attributes include: knowledge of nature conservation & marine conservation issues; knowledge of the benefits of outdoor education & sustainability; willingness to work in the field in all weathers; current driving licence; an unbiased approach to people & ability to deal with people of all ages & backgrounds. ASK www.countryside-trust.org.uk/about-tcct/vacancies-2 or heather@countryside-trust.org.uk

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

Have a go at coppicing and learn about the reasons we use this technique to help maintain a healthy woodland. Join us for this and other activities such as traditional dead hedging. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month from October to December. Contact: Lucy, NT East Devon, 01297 680507, lucy.buckingham@nationaltrust.org.uk
First Saturday of the month (Oct to Feb)  Work party  
East Devon, East Devon Ranger Team, National Trust  
Contact: Lucy 01297 680507, lucy.buckingham@nationaltrust.org.uk  
Have a go at hedge-laying & learn about volunteering, woodland management & countryside conservation with the National Trust.

**International:**

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<th>REF</th>
<th>JOB</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F552-FOCUS-OK3</td>
<td>AFRICAN BAT RESEARCH VOLUNTEER</td>
<td>Training</td>
<td>AFRICAN BAT CONSERVATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>BE4</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Malawi</td>
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**Conservation Volunteers Australia** offers projects starting weekly across Australia, ranging from urban to outback, from desert to coast and everywhere in between! Activities are team based and include tree planting, habitat restoration, wildlife surveys, track building, seed collection etc. Reasonable cost for meals, accommodation and project-related travel applies. Visit: [www.conservationvolunteers.com.au](http://www.conservationvolunteers.com.au)

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

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

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

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

**Conservation Volunteers New Zealand** offers projects starting weekly from Wellington, Auckland, Punakaiki and Christchurch! Activities are team based and include tree planting, habitat restoration, wildlife surveys, track building, seed collection etc. Reasonable cost for meals, accommodation and project-related travel applies. Visit: [www.conservationvolunteers.co.nz](http://www.conservationvolunteers.co.nz)

**Conservation Volunteers International:** 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>African Bat Research Volunteer</td>
<td>Experience in Africa beneficial, ASK, volunteers &amp; student groups from all over the world are invited to make a real difference. Contact <a href="mailto:enquiries@worldwideexperience.com">enquiries@worldwideexperience.com</a>, Twitter: @WorldwideExp, Instagram: worldwide_experience, Youtube: WorldwideExperience1</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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

**Key:**

- **REF** – CJS reference no. (job number – source – delete date)
- **JOB** – Title
- **Pay** – £ range - usually per annum (but check starting point)
- **DES** – Description of job
- **BUT** – Person Spec / Requirements
- **ASK** – More details from / How to apply

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

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

This CJS Focus was published 19/9/16.

The CJS Team would like to thank everyone who has contributed adverts, articles and information for this CJS Focus publication.

Next edition will feature Overcoming Barriers, published 14/11/16

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