Countryside Jobs Service

Focus on Volunteering

In association with RSPB

18 September 2017

Get clarity, save nature and boost your career with The RSPB

Is figuring out what you want to do as a career challenging? Talking to your career guidance advisor at school, looking for the first job after university or college, or thinking about a complete career change later in life can be daunting with so many options. You may be considering volunteering to find out more about your chosen career or organisation you are interested in, but not everyone has the time or the resources to be able to volunteer for long intense periods.

If you’re looking to volunteer to gain experience in your chosen field or hoping for clarity on your career choices, it’s good to remember that the RSPB has many ways to find out more about us as an organisation and work out if a career in a charity is really for you. A little of your time really does go a long way and you don’t have to leave home for 6 months to do it (unless you want to of course - more on that later).

If you have an hour or less then micro volunteering sees people coming together to each give small amounts of time that join up to make real change. The RSPB’s Big Garden Birdwatch every January is a great example. Just one hour to count the birds in your garden may seem like a small amount of time to give, but taking regular actions to help nature and wildlife shows you are committed to conservation and will show prospective employers that you are taking opportunities to grow your knowledge and develop your interest in nature.

For busy professionals working full time, volunteering is becoming increasingly popular. Taking the opportunity to get involved with one-off interesting projects at a time and commitment that suits you can help you meet other similar professionals involved in your chosen area of work. You only give as and when you can meaning you can fit your volunteering around your day job. At the RSPB we have a medical panel which includes doctors, pharmacists, physiotherapists and legal experts as well as learning and development professionals working together as coaches and leadership experts, all giving their time and guidance on developing our workforce of employees and volunteers. Regular phone conference meetings allow them to network with each other about their volunteer mentoring and the work they are doing as a volunteer team.

And it’s not just about birds at the RSPB, there are opportunities around the organisation in areas you wouldn’t normally think of as being somewhere you can volunteer. Marketing, communications, corporate services, information technology, human resources and outdoor learning/working with children are all areas that have volunteering opportunities and one day a week volunteering can help give you essential experience. Keith Leonard

Taking small actions such as Big Garden Birdwatch will increase your interest in conservation and help build your knowledge
(Rahul Thanki rspb-images.com)

Schools on reserves and Schools Outreach are also areas you can get involved in
(Eleanor Bentall rspb-images.com)
volunteered with the IT team at RSPB Headquarters before moving into a permanent paid role as a Systems Engineer “Volunteering allowed me to gain knowledge in a subject that interested me while playing a small part in saving nature”.

Opportunities to live and work on a reserve give volunteers important skills and experiences to take forward into their chosen career. Our Residential Volunteering scheme has been running since the late 70s and sees over 600 volunteers each year staying at 46 reserves around the UK Countries. From one week to six months or a year, there are opportunities to suit your time frame. Ieuan Davies volunteered at Lake Vyrnwy for two weeks “The experience has given me an insight into the world of conservation and enabled me to see first-hand how people are trying to protect threatened birds”. Gavin Chambers, who volunteered at Mersehead before moving on to become an Assistant Warden at Lake Vyrnwy also felt the experience helped give him essential experience “The variety of work I have been involved in, from manning the visitor centre to counting thousands of geese, has been the perfect stepping stone to a career in conservation”.

If six months to a year does appeal to you as a volunteering opportunity, we have residential and non residential volunteering internships available. Sophie King’s career in conservation started with becoming a volunteer intern “I knew that if I wanted a career in conservation, then first I needed some real, tangible work experience”. Sophie used the experience she gained from volunteering to move into a paid position as an RSPB Membership Development Officer in northern England “I’ve been supported throughout my internship, from getting to grips with the role and developing the skills I need for a career in conservation, to advice and encouragement in applying for jobs”.

And let’s not forget the feel good factor of volunteering. Many organisations now offer their employees the opportunity to give back to their community as part of their role, giving them some opportunities for personal development along with the satisfaction of knowing they are making a difference to their local community.

Whatever your age, skills and free time, whether you only have a little time to volunteer or can donate your time and talents to give a year to live and work on a reserve, there is an opportunity at the RSPB that could work for you.

Rhoda Ludford, Volunteering Development Coordinator, contact: rhoda.ludford@rspb.org.uk
To find out more information on our 600+ opportunities have a look at:
Volunteering opportunities: www.rspb.org.uk/volunteering
Residential volunteering: www.rspb.org.uk/residentialvolunteering
Big Garden Birdwatch: http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch/

Scotland:

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<tr>
<th>REF</th>
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<th>PAY</th>
<th>DES</th>
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<tr>
<td>2831-FOCUSR-OK3</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Training / expenses</td>
<td>Any full day Monday to Thursday. We are looking for volunteers to work with our Reserves Project Officer based at Dundee to undertake a varied range of outdoor practical tasks on our nature reserves such as grassland, woodland &amp; peat bog management. Travel from Dundee to the work sites &amp; back is provided. BUT You should be interested in the environment &amp; carrying out physical work outdoors sometimes in poor weather. Willing to work as part of a team.</td>
<td>DUNDEE - TO COVER NORTH EAST SCOTLAND</td>
<td>CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER - NORTH EAST FOR SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST ASK Peter Gilbert <a href="mailto:pgilbert@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk">pgilbert@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2832-FOCUSR-OK3</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Any day Monday to Thursday. You are free to choose your commitment but if you volunteer, you must be available for a full day. A varied range of outdoor practical tasks on our nature reserves such as grassland, woodland &amp; peat bog management. Travel from Grangemouth to the work sites &amp; back is provided. BUT You should be interested in the environment &amp; interested in carrying out physical work outdoors sometimes in poor weather. Willing to work as part of a team.</td>
<td>GRANGEMOUTH (covering East Central Scotland)</td>
<td>CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER FOR SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST ASK <a href="mailto:pgilbert@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk">pgilbert@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk</a></td>
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Join our Midweek Conservation Volunteers to carryout practical conservation tasks across the beautiful central belt. From woodland management, wildflower meadow sowing, removing invasive species, school grounds development...the list goes on! All activities are led by a fully trained leader, no experience needed but always welcome! Contact: Rosie Walker rosie.walker@tcv.org.uk 01786 476170

Would you like to volunteer to help take care of the incredible natural environment of the Cairngorms National Park? From path maintenance & species monitoring, to tree planting & habitat management, there’s something for everyone! To find out about opportunities across the Park visit www.cairngorms.co.uk/volunteers or call 01479 870566.

RiverLife: Almond & Avon are looking for volunteers to help with activities in & around the Almond & Avon rivers. Activities include tree planting, bench painting, step/path repairs & bank protection work. The project runs until 2020 so lots of opportunities to get involved! To find out more email loldershaw@fishforth.co.uk

3 - 5 November Conservation Holiday: Hedge-Laying Try your hand at the traditional rural skill of hedge-laying. We’ll learn to lay the hedge, fix it with hazel sticks & bind the top with willow. Accommodation in our new Treehouse Residential Centre. Taster price of £40 full-board for weekend. Contact Jess on jessica.wharf@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

Join Glasgow Seven Lochs Green Gym & take part in practical conservation volunteering. Green Gyms are suitable for all, no previous experience necessary. Great for anyone who would like to gain experience working outdoors or anyone who would like to spend more time outside. Preferably ages 16 - 24. Contact alice.kenny@tcv.org.uk

Butterfly Conservation Scotland’s ‘Bog Squad’ runs regular restoration sessions with volunteers on peatland sites throughout central Scotland. Tasks usually include installing dams, clearing scrub & conducting peat depth surveys. More information is available on our blog http://bogssquad.weebly.com/ Get in touch with David Hill at peatproject@btconnect.com or on 01786 459813

REF 671-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB VOLUNTEER OFFICER
BE4 Ongoing LOC MORTONALL, EDINBURGH
PAY Training / travel expenses FOR THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

DES You will be assisting & learning from the current volunteer & senior project officer. You could spend your time trying a variety of practical conservation skills travelling to community gardens, parks & reserves around Edinburgh, or engage with communities & schools. As confidence & skills develop, you will take a leading role on the practical volunteering days helping load & maintain tools & supervise other volunteers. When appropriate you will do extra days supporting us with advertising & administrative tasks. You will gain excellent work exp valued by employers, develop a whole range of transferable skills, & best of all join a friendly & supportive team in a camping park in the South of Edinburgh. BUT Willing to lead a group; work well in a team; passionate about the environment & conservation; time management skills; willing to drive the mini-van of volunteers; full driving licence held for a year. Knowledge & exp in practical conservation; conservation & ecology; community & public engagement; exp leading a group or team.
ASK Please contact Rosie Walker rosie.walker@tcv.org.uk 07824 522314

REF 2833-FOCUSR-27/10 JOB TRAINEE ECOLOGIST / ENVIRONMENTALIST
BE4 30/10/17 LOC BIRNAM, DUNKELD
PAY Training / expenses / accom FOR NAIAD ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY

DES 2 – 3 days per week incl some weekends. We are a small business offering ecological consultancy & training services. Key role of the ecological assistant: technician / practicing GIS; promotion of our ecology courses & training events; ornithological surveys & assessment; general admin; support on surveys, mammals, plants & invertebrate ecology as required; supporting on Ecological Clerk of Works ECOW as required. BUT Honours degree in ecology or biology & be able to carry out fieldwork in remote areas of Scotland. Some knowledge of ecological survey techniques & hillwalking exp is essential. Ideally a background in ecology or conservation work with expertise in GIS mapping & assessment. Knowledge of Scottish birds, survey techniques & assessment procedure. First aid qual & clean driving licence. ASK CV & names of 2 references (within last 2 years) to Adrian naiadedology@hotmail.co.uk

REF 2834-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB WOODLAND MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEER
BE4 Ongoing LOC SCOTTISH BORDERS (CENTRAL AREA)
PAY Training / expenses FOR NATURE UNLIMITED

DES A minimum commitment of half a day per week over a 12 week period is desirable. We require volunteers for our employability skills programme. We will support disadvantaged young people & vulnerable adults to develop skills in working as a team, basic woodland management, growing & cooking healthy food & green woodworking techniques. You will be part of a friendly team & receive regular training & support. Sessions take place in a woodland in all weather & will be based mainly in the Galashieals area. BUT No exp required as you will receive necessary training but you should enjoy working with people in the outdoors in all weathers. ASK Jan 07711 837485 info@natureunlimited.scot

REF 525-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB WILDLIFE SURVEYOR
BE4 Ongoing LOC EGLINTON COUNTRY PARK
PAY Training opportunities available FOR NORTH AYRSHIRE RANGER SERVICE

DES 1 day per week. North Ayrshire Ranger Service requires your help to build a picture of the wildlife within Eglinton Country Park & the surrounding District area. Whether you are a beginner or an expert surveyor, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved. Report what you see whilst out walking or take part in a regular survey. Lots of support & training available. BUT No experience required. ASK Contact North Ayrshire Ranger Service 01294 551776 eglintoncountrypark@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Whitmuir Community Farm is home to the 2000m² project where we run a food waste composting service, a series of cookery courses & grow organic vegetables. There are lots of ways to get involved - visit our website for more information: www.whitmuircommunityfarm.org/volunteer or activities@whitmuircommunityfarm.org or 07709 191889.

Volunteer Opportunities at Finlaystone Country Estate
We can offer "on-the-job" training in maintaining our 400 acre woodland or 100 acre gardens. You can also get involved with on-site biodiversity surveys. Find out more on www.finlaystone.co.uk.

Every Tuesday Healthy Outdoors Team (HOT)
NTS Brodick Castle Ranger Centre, Arran, National Trust for Scotland Contact: 01770 302462
10am to 1pm. No experience needed. Wear old outdoor clothes that can get mucky, & wellingtons or sturdy boots. Work gloves, tools, materials, refreshments (tea/coffee, biscuits) & chat all provided.

The ‘V’ Word – why you shouldn’t turn your back on volunteering
by Elliot Newton, Creative Director at A Focus On Nature

Volunteering, a word that can strike dread in those looking to pursue careers in conservation, “not another unpaid position, what are my parents going to think!?”. This to some may be seen as an exploitation, however in a sector which is so competitive and where experience is so highly revered volunteering can be a fantastic opportunity.

I can speak about volunteering from my own personal experiences, having volunteered over the years with a number of organisations. All have been very positive and enjoyable experiences, which I have been very grateful for, they provided me with essential skills that have enabled me to work in conservation.

One of the great things about volunteering is that you can seek out opportunities that you think will be most beneficial to you. For example, when I wished to learn more about the inner workings of conservation organisations I volunteered with Save the Rhino International which gave me a great insight into how a small organisation can have a great global impact. When I wanted to get more experience with practical conservation with UK wildlife, I was able to volunteer with the Environment Trust, learning first hand all manner of conservation techniques. These opportunities not only provided opportunities to learn, but also opportunities to network and prove myself and without these I am sure I would not have been able to access the educational and vocational chances that I have had.

There are opportunities to volunteer across the breadth of the nation some are advertised through organisations such as the Countryside Job Service and we at AFON help to raise the profile of some opportunities through our social media and newsletter too. These range from practical opportunities with organisations including the Wildlife Trusts, Trees for Life and The Conservation Volunteers, as well as other administrative volunteering roles with organisations including the Zoological Society of London and don’t forget us at A Focus on Nature which is run solely by young volunteers. I would also advise a proactive approach, as there is never any harm in contacting organisations that you would like to volunteer with, enquiring to whether they have any opportunities.

At AFON we are now kicking off our ‘Now for Nature’ campaign, this will showcase young people across the United Kingdom, (and further afield) who are working tirelessly to better our environment. This of course can be achieved through a multiple of ways, and volunteering enables you instantly to have a positive impact; through practical conservation days helping to restore, enhance or create habitat, or working behind the scenes to help administrative cogs turn. Alternatively, there are many opportunities to help with public facing events helping to raise either awareness or funds for conservation projects. It would be fantastic to hear from you if you are currently volunteering, so please do get in touch.
So, the next time you have an opportunity to volunteer do not be quick to turn your back, consider the bigger picture. It may be frustrating to not be thrust into the world of employment straight away, though volunteering can provide an array of experiences and even when you are lucky to get a paid position you should never be afraid to volunteer. You never know the doors that it could open, the people you could meet, the skills it could provide and the things you may learn.

Find out more about AFON on http://www.afocusonnature.org/ or email Elliot on ElliotNG@hotmail.co.uk

Wales:

Every Sunday  Workdays
Cardiff, Cardiff Conservation Volunteers  Contact: www.cardiffconservation.org.uk
We are a welsh conservation group. Every task is different & we teach skills such as dry stone walling, hedge laying, woodland maintenance, pond/step/footpath building, planting, clearance work etc. No experience necessary, just enthusiasm & eagerness to learn. We provide hot drinks, biscuits & cake.

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

Please help us to continue our restoration & maintenance of the woodlands, wildlife & gardens at Penllegare. Join the ‘Friends of Penllegare’. Just £15 a year (£20 family). Call into our Coffee Shop 10am - 4pm daily, where we also need volunteers or please visit www.penllegare.org.uk/become-a-friend/

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<tr>
<th>REF</th>
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<th>JOB</th>
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<td>BE4</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>LOC</td>
<td>MID &amp; WEST WALES</td>
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<td>PAY</td>
<td>Travel expenses / training</td>
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| DES  | 2 days / week for 12 weeks or 1 full week. Learn how to build paths, coppice woodland, build simple structures, identify species & more. Accredited training in a range of skills for persons who are unemployed, under-employed, disabled etc. Supportive environment. Free woodland skills training while volunteering with the charity Tir Coed.  | BUT  | All levels welcome incl people with disabilities or long-term health problems; some minimum criteria (age, benefit status) are in place for some opportunities due to funding restrictions. Must live in / near to Ceredigion, Powys, Pembrokeshire.  | ASK  | www.tircoed.org.uk

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<tr>
<th>REF</th>
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<td>LOC</td>
<td>RSPB CORS DDYGA (LL60 6LB)</td>
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<td>PAY</td>
<td>Training / travel expenses (up to 25 miles)</td>
<td>FOR</td>
<td>RSPB CYMRU</td>
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| DES  | We are looking for a small team of 4-6 local history enthusiasts to study, maintain, & raise awareness of the historic features at RSPB Cors Ddyga Reserve on Anglesey. This site is a fascinating reserve that is becoming better known to the public. It has a wealth of historic features incl the Berw Colliery Scheduled Ancient Monument, which provide an additional avenue of interest to the wildlife importance of the reserve. Meet once a month to inspect & maintain the historic buildings. Research & possible restoration projects may take more time, but will largely be up to the team. RSPB Cors Ddyga has received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to support this volunteering opportunity.  | BUT  | Enthusiasm & a willingness to learn & an ability to undertake historical research.  | ASK  | Eva Vazquez-Garcia, Community & Volunteer Development Officer - North Wales 01248 672850 eva.vazquezgarcia@rspb.org.uk  | http://c-js.co.uk/2wDFJc

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<td>LOC</td>
<td>RSPB CORS DDYGA &amp; RSPB SOUTH STACK CLIFFS</td>
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<td>PAY</td>
<td>Training / travel expenses (up to 25 miles)</td>
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<td>RSPB CYMRU</td>
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| DES  | 1 / 2 days per week. RSPB Cors Ddyga: we require volunteer help with habitat management & reserve maintenance on the North Wales wetland reserves. Tasks incl controlling invasive non-native plants, hay cutting, fencing, track maintenance & nest box building. This can be muddy work, but also very rewarding. Be part of a cheerful team that meet weekly & work amongst some of the finest woodland on Anglesey! RSPB South Stack: on Fridays we have a team of local volunteers that come & help with general maintenance & conservation work on the reserve such as fence building, path work & heather burns. Some opportunities arise in ad hoc assistance with this. We also have the occasional project work such as chough surveys.  | BUT  | Enthusiasm & a good level of fitness essential! No special skills are needed although exp of surveying, habitat management & estate maintenance welcome. An up-to-date tetanus injection & enjoy working in a team.  | ASK  | Eva Vazquez-Garcia, Community & Volunteer Development Officer - North Wales 01248 672850 eva.vazquezgarcia@rspb.org.uk

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<tr>
<th>REF</th>
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<td>LOC</td>
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<td>PAY</td>
<td>Training / travel expenses (up to 25 miles)</td>
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<td>RSPB CYMRU</td>
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| DES  | Min 1 day per week. In spring 2017 we created a small nature garden as an example of what people could do in their homes to create a home for nature. Funded by Tesco we would love for someone to maintain & help us to develop it further. So, if you have a few hours a week to help during the growing season, we would love to hear from you.  | BUT  | Basic gardening skills, reliable & happy to work on your own or as part of a team in all weathers without close supervision. Own transport.  | ASK  | Eva Vazquez-Garcia, Community & Volunteer Development Officer - North Wales 01248 672850 eva.vazquezgarcia@rspb.org.uk  | http://c-js.co.uk/2glUsW
 Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something

With all the current pressures on the countryside, parks and wildlife, the Countryside Management Association welcomes everyone who wants to make a difference. If you’re looking to put your skills, talent and enthusiasm to work, the Countryside Management Association (CMA) has some options that might hopefully appeal to you. Apart from our administrator, all the ‘officers’ of the CMA (Board, National Committee, Regional Co-ordinators) take on the roles as volunteers, so you’d certainly be in good company......

As the CMA grows from strength to strength, there are many opportunities to improve what we offer to members and we’d really welcome your help! Many volunteers have already joined as members but you’d be more than welcome to ‘try us out’ and work with us on any of the suggestions given. We’d love to hear from you!

CMA would love to have:
A photo library to call on: As crazy as it might sound, the CMA sometimes struggles to find the right photographs for use in our quarterly magazine ‘Ranger’, on the web site, in powerpoint presentations or in various other articles sent to the media. Photographs of species, habitats, people at work, events, signage, ‘action’ photos, and interpretative displays and so on; the list could be endless. The CMA would really benefit from a bank of photographs to use copyright free (but credited to you of course). Handy with a camera? Enjoy photography? Photos taken with a decent mobile phone can be just as good as a camera so if you think you could help, just contact us and we can discuss the types of photographs likely to be needed.

You can now take a very good photograph with your phone (Photo by Maria Shanina on Unsplash)
Video footage: similarly, various length video clips or relevant footage would be great additions to the web site and/or Facebook page.

Your input to our regular Study Days: all across the land, different CMA regions offer Study Days on a variety of countryside management topics throughout the year (check out the web site). You will have lots of knowledge and experience from your volunteer work so why not consider organising a Study Day for CMA? It’s all about exchanging experiences, showing off what you do and meeting others in the profession. Study days are always great fun and an informal and brilliant way of networking. We’d be only too happy to share with you how we easily set these up and promote them.

Design and artwork input for regional and national publications: Apart from the UK-wide ‘Ranger’ magazine, each region can produce its own newsletter. Whilst there’s lots of news, not everyone in CMA has the skills to design and illustrate a newsletter. Could you help? Likewise, CMA needs more promotional banners and sometimes additional publications or flyers for events. Not only would new design and artwork be of great benefit to CMA, your work would be seen and appreciated by many hundreds of members across the UK.

Some help with finding, negotiating and drawing down sponsorship: As a membership organisation, CMAs primary source of funding is from annual subscriptions. From those, CMA offers a wide range of Study Days, regional and national publications, bursaries to assist attendance at seminars (including European and international events) and an Annual Conference. An increase in commercial / other sponsors could help enormously in providing improved and increased benefits for members. In return, sponsors gain promotion and publicity at Conference, in ‘Ranger’ magazine, the web site and social media. Do you have a knack for that kind of work?

Media articles / press release expertise: In this ever-changing world, the work we all do and the importance of it, needs to be constantly promoted. At the 50th Anniversary CMA Conference in 2016, delegates agreed that most countryside practitioners are not always too great at ‘shouting about’ what we all do and why. If you have the skills and experience in putting together press release or articles to send to a variety of media, we’d very much like to hear from you. Linking up with either Regional Co-ordinators for regional news or the CMA Board for national or international items would see your PR/media experience used to great effect.

‘World Ranger Day’ assistance: World Ranger Day (WRD) is 31st July each year. It is held to remember rangers who have lost their lives in the line of duty across the world and celebrate the work of rangers and allied staff across the globe. Across the continents, all kinds of events are held to commemorate and celebrate. Funds raised that day are donated to the Thin Green Line Foundation; an international fund that supports the widows and families of those who have lost their lives. WRD events or activities are almost impossible without the help of willing volunteers, so if you’d like to volunteer your services, whatever they may be, please contact us.

Help with research: Sometimes a topic is raised at a meeting or is covered in the Ranger magazine that warrants further details being researched. The additional information can then be placed on our web site for those who wish to delve into or read up on that topic further. Topics can arise relating to innovative management techniques, new equipment or that are perhaps species-specific. If researching, finding and collating information is up your street, do get in touch!

A short film highlighting the work of different rangers across the country: This is a somewhat bigger project to organise….. but if a budding film-maker, contact us for a chat.

Formed in 1966 the CMA is the largest organisation supporting the work of conservation, access and recreation professionals in the natural greenspace and countryside sector throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
Northern Ireland:

REF 2842-FOCUSR-OK3  JOB WEEKEND STEWARD
BE4 Ongoing  LOC Castle Ward Estate, Strangford, Northern Ireland
PAY In house training  FOR NATIONAL TRUST
DES 10am - 4pm weekends. As part of your responsibilities you will carry out car parking & visitor orientation duties as required on a daily basis. You will be part of a broader team of Staff & Volunteers assisting as required with Events &/when necessary supporting the Visitor Experience Team & assisting with Event Set-up. You will conduct routine litter patrols & keep the site tidy & presentable for all visitors. BUT Have a friendly & enthusiastic manner & enjoy working with family visitors in particular. This role can be physically demanding & you may be on your feet all day. ASK Kim McMonagle castleward.volunteering@nationaltrust.org.uk

REF 2843-FOCUSR-28/10  JOB FAMILY ACTIVITIES ASSISTANT - ARTS & CRAFTS
BE4 31/10/17  LOC WWT CASTLE ESPIE WETLAND CENTRE, BT23 6EA
PAY WWT benefits & discounts  FOR THE WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST
DES Assist the Learning Team (made up of staff & volunteers) to engage visitors through the medium of arts & crafts. A key focus of your role will be to assist with the organisation of, & delivery of, arts & craft themed activities throughout the year. Providing centre support through the preparation of arts & craft materials & resources for activities & seasonal events. Liaising with the Learning Manager on all aspects of what is required to carry out arts & crafts activities i.e. ordering stock, material preparation, storage of material etc. Adhering to WWT procedures, such as Data Protection compliance, Health & Safety etc. Work during some weekends & public holidays to ensure the objectives of the centre are met. You must be able to get yourself to & from the centre. You will need: an interest in arts & crafts & those relating to children specifically; working knowledge of artistic mediums; good artistic skills & experience of arts & craft prep for small & larger public events; experience working with a variety of age groups; experience of craft resourcing & material preparation with attention to detail & creativity; confident friendly attitude &/or experience of successful face-to-face contact with the public; an interest in & enthusiasm for the work of WWT & the natural world; good listening skills, with the ability to adapt your approach to suit your audience; ability to work on your own initiative under the direction of the Learning Manager. ASK Amy Hannan, Volunteering Development Officer amy.hannan@wwt.org.uk 01704 891224
http://c-js.co.uk/14HPJyH

REF 2844-FOCUSR-27/10  JOB STORYTELLING VOLUNTEER
BE4 31/10/17  LOC WWT CASTLE ESPIE WETLAND CENTRE, BT23 6EA
PAY Training, free entry to WWT sites & discounts  FOR THE WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST
DES In this role you will engage visitors, both young & old, during seasonal events throughout the year. You may also be called upon for some weekend storytelling sessions. We are seeking volunteers for school holidays & for some weekends. To be discussed. You will deliver storytelling sessions to young children & families using entertaining stories relative to the season or subject matter, bringing the stories to life through the use of different voices, costumes, props & pictures, preparing in advance by helping to source & adapt stories & equipment to be used in the delivery of the sessions where possible, weaving in WWT’s key wetland conservation message. BUT Outgoing & friendly with some relevant experience of working with children & performance, or demonstrable skills in these areas. Able to work independently & proactively to manage an audience & capture the attention of families & children in an outdoor setting. ASK Amy Hannan, Volunteering Development Officer amy.hannan@wwt.org.uk 01704 891224
http://c-js.co.uk/14HPJyH

REF 2845-FOCUSR-27/10  JOB EDUCATION - LEARNING SUPPORT
BE4 31/10/17  LOC WWT CASTLE ESPIE WETLAND CENTRE, BT23 6EA
PAY Training  FOR THE WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST
DES Term time weekdays, public holidays & occasional weekends. We believe that the best way for children & adults to understand & connect to wetlands is to exp them, so we bring awe-inspiring nature up close. School children & teachers should feel part of something amazing & be motivated to make a difference. You will support the learning team in organising & running the delivery of our learning programmes throughout the year & help to run logistical & practical elements of schools visitation. BUT Good communication skills & an outgoing personality. A willingness & ability to talk to teachers & all age groups of school children. An interest in learning rel activities & enthusiasm for the work of WWT & the natural world. To be a good listener, with the ability to adapt your approach to suit your audience. The ability to work on your own initiative under the direction of the Learning Manager & their staff. You must be able to get yourself to & from the centre. We regret that we are not in a position to reimburse expenses incurred for travel to the site. ASK Amy Hannan, Volunteering Development Officer amy.hannan@wwt.org.uk 01704 891224
http://c-js.co.uk/14HPJyH

CMA web site: www.countrysidemanagement.org.uk
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/CsideMA/
Twitter: @RangerCMA
Join the CMA and be inspired, informed, respected, connected
Volunteer Photographers with WWT

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT), has such a wide, diverse mix of volunteer roles from canoe safaris to storytelling and bird surveys. But one role is now becoming more and more popular at our centres and that is the role of volunteer photographers.

The WWT is always on the lookout for ‘the perfect shot’ to use in our publicity etc. so it made a lot of sense to ask for the help of volunteers to do this.

The volunteer photographers might be asked to take a list of specific shots from around the centres. This might include shots of visitors enjoying the different activities or it might be of staff and volunteers interacting with the public. It could be that the volunteers are asked to take specific shots of the collection or grounds. There are also some volunteer photographers that focus specifically on the wildlife on the reserves. This might involve trying to get a shot of a rare bird or just a well-framed shot of one of the more common species.

One centre that has recently recruited more Visitor Experience volunteer photographers, is Washington in the North East. This is because the original photographers have proved to be so successful. This has been instigated by Deborah Nolan, one of the Marketing & Communications Managers.

“Our volunteer photographers are just fantastic! They’re a massive help with regards to publicity and they really support the Trust in capturing the energy and excitement that visitors can expect when they come here, as well as the wildlife that can be seen. This helps promote the centre in a positive way while benefiting our volunteers by expanding and potentially improving their portfolios!”

One of the Volunteer Photographers, Ian Henderson was happy to answer some questions about his role.

What do you enjoy about the volunteer photographer role?

“Why I enjoy it – the people, opportunity to make a difference, always improving my knowledge and skills, the whole experience of belonging to an organisation like WWT, the insight in to conservation, forever changing. Spent a day with Sacha Dench covering her visit to Washington WWT before her Flight of the Swans adventure!

Great balance to my “day job”. Helps me relax. Keeps me sane”.

What does the role involve?

“Between 2 and 6 hours most weeks. Mostly at the reserve but some at home working on processing. Some specific events by mutual agreement. Imagination, attention to detail, a sense of humour
and the desire to do well.
The media team at Slimbridge provide a list of subject matter and Deborah and Leanne give me a ‘hit list’ most weeks. I get asked to take shots to assist in the living collection and reserve management. I have covered several visitor events and opening ceremonies. I am invited to join in the regular team development and social events. I also have the flexibility to contribute my own choice of subject matter.”

How long have you been volunteering for?
“2 years and 15 days’.

Where my photos have been used – the highlights have been having my photo on the front cover (and April) of the WWT 2017 Calendar and the 2015 / 16 winter WWT advertising poster on the Tyne and Wear Metro network. My work has also appeared in Waterlife as well as regular coverage in WWT Washington social media releases. It is also used in press releases and in feedback to sponsors.”

The WWT has always worked with volunteers and they are an integral part of the organisation and historically always have been. Volunteers receive an induction process and training. They are invited to social events including a summer BBQ and sometimes a Christmas lunch. All volunteers receive a role description and are offered a review.

The Volunteering team are constantly creating new volunteering opportunities along with the centre staff. This role just shows the variety of skills the Trust is looking for and the type of diverse opportunities on offer.

For more information and to see all the roles for which we are currently recruiting, visit the WWT website. www.wwt.org.uk/volunteer

North East:

REF 2846-FOCUSR-OK3
JOB ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT ASSISTANT
BE4 Ongoing
LOC STOCKSBRIDGE, NORTH SHEFFIELD
PAY Training / workwear / travel expenses
FOR STEEL VALLEY PROJECT
DES 1 day per week - 8.30am-4.30pm. Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. To assist in the practical management of local public greenspace sites by the Steel Valley Project. Tasks include: practical habitat management of sites such as, woodland, heathland & grassland habitats; the installation & repair of countryside access & boundary infrastructure; the development & planning of practical work; undertake training where necessary. Recent projects include vegetation cutback along local public rights of way, wildlife pond installation, dry stone walling, various habitat management tasks to favour the woodland ‘willow tit’ bird, woodland step & path installation & tree planting. New projects include more of the same plus numerous small woodland management projects aimed at improving woodland conditions throughout the area to benefit wildlife & public access. BUT No formal quals or exp required. However, volunteers should have a desire to work outdoors in all weathers & be willing to learn new skills. Volunteers should be able to communicate well, work as part of a group & have a reasonable level of physical fitness. ASK info@steelvalleyproject.org kate.hughes@steelvalleyproject.org 0114 2830880 www.steelvalleyproject.org

REF 2847-FOCUS-OK3
JOB LAND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT VOLUNTEER
BE4 Ongoing
PAY Training / expenses
FOR SHEFFIELD & ROTHERHAM WILDLIFE TRUST
DES The work takes place on our reserves, in & around Sheffield & Rotherham from Blacka Moor & Wyman Brook on the edge of the Peak District to Centenary Riverside, a flood alleviation scheme & nature reserve on an ex steel works site, on the edge of the River Don near Rotherham town centre. Our current living landscapes project, Rotherham Rivers, funded through Waste Recycling Environmental, sees us visiting & improving sites, managed by other organisations for the benefit of wildlife, such as water voles, kingfishers & otters, in & around Rotherham, including Rother Valley Country Park, Don Island, Kilnhurst Ings & Whiston Meadows. This role would suit someone who is keen to engage in a range of practical conservation work, including site maintenance such as fencing, & habitat management such as woodland & heathland. Volunteering with the Land Management Team helps people develop practical conservation skills, build knowledge about local wildlife habitats, keep physically active & is a great place to start developing a career in the sector. In return we can cover expenses, on the job training & funding for relevant external courses such as brush-cutter & first aid at work. ASK http://www.wildsheffield.com/volunteer 0114 2634335
CJS Focus on Volunteering  www.countryside-jobs.com

REF 2848-FOCUS-OK3  JOB LAND OF OAK & IRON EVENTS VOLUNTEER
BE4 Ongoing  LOC DERWENT VALLEY, NE ENGLAND
PAY Training  FOR Land of Oak & Iron (through Groundwork NE & Cumbria)
DES Approx. 1 day / month. Provide support to the Land of Oak & Iron staff team & partner orgs in organising & helping on the day at a range of events to promote Land of Oak & Iron & opportunities for local people to take part. Tasks may incl event planning & publicity, setting up on the day, running activities & talking to members of the public.
BUT Individuals need no prior experience, just enthusiasm & passion for the area.  ASK  Kath Marshall-Ivens
kath.marshall-ivens@groundwork.org.uk 01207 524883 / 07966 330028

REF 2849-FOCUS-OK3  JOB VOLUNTEER ECOLOGICAL RECORDS ASSISTANT
BE4 ?  LOC MORLEY, LS27 7JQ
PAY Expenses / training  FOR WEST YORKSHIRE ECOLOGY SERVICE
DES Min 1 day per week for several months. WYSES is the Local Ecological Records Centre for West Yorkshire. The objective of this post is to research protected/notable species & habitat data & input this data from a variety of sources into the WYSES databases. Records are input into Excel & then imported into Recorder 6, an ecological recording package. These are then exported to a Mapinfo GIS system so that they can be viewed spatially. This will provide exposure to professional ecological survey reports, use of Recorder 6 & GIS packages & rel work exp. Records need to be entered accurately at the highest spatial resolution possible following WYSES data structures. BUT  Keen interest in a career in ecology or similar discipline & be computer literate in the use of Microsoft Excel. The position would be ideal for under graduates or recent graduates looking for rel work exp.  ASK  If you would like to be considered please email a CV to Robert Masheder robert.masheder@wysjs.org.uk.

REF 544-FOCUS-OK3  JOB NATURAL ENGLAND VOLUNTEER
BE4 N/A  LOC MOOR HOUSE - UPPER TEESDALE NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE
PAY Mileage expenses & personal protective equipment  FOR NATURAL ENGLAND
DES We have a range of volunteering opportunities available from practical habitat & estate management work to assisting with public events & school visits. BUT  No experience necessary but must be willing to work as part of a team. Due to the physical nature of some tasks & the terrain, a good level of fitness is required.
ASK emma.king@naturalengland.org.uk

REF 825-FOCUS-OK3  JOB WILDLIFE CHAMPION WASHINGTON TO CONSETT
BE4 Ongoing  LOC NORTH EAST
PAY Training  FOR SUSTRANS
DES We are looking for Wildlife Champions to cover the Coast to Coast track from Washington to Consett. You will be responsible, along with others, for monitoring the biodiversity along this route. This involves collecting data that enables us to record, improve & promote the diversity of wildlife on walking & cycling routes. You will be expected to monitor your allocated section every month to allow us to gain an accurate picture of the area’s biodiversity. This should take no more than a few hours. In addition you will need to dedicate a day or two a year to supporting or organising an engagement event in your area. You will be supported by a local Group Coordinator & receive an induction pack with full instructions, guidance notes & resources & staff will be on hand to provide support & dedicated training. BUT  You don’t need to be a wildlife or biodiversity expert to take part! All we need is your enthusiasm & dedication.
ASK  volunteers-north@sustrans.org.uk 0191 2616160

Every Monday  Regular volunteering: Work Day
Various in Land of Oak & Iron in NE England, Land of Oak & Iron
Contact: 07484 093411, pdownes@durhamwt.co.uk, www.landofaokandiron.org.uk/whats-on
10.30am - 2.30pm Practical woodland and access tasks in Land of Oak & Iron; tools, equipment and gloves will be provided. Contact Peter Downes

Second Wednesday of each month  Hauxley Wildlife Group
Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre, Northumberland, Northumberland Wildlife Trust  Contact: 01665 568324
Brand new group. WT members can register free for exclusive access to illustrated talks by local experts, guided walks & hands on wildlife activities. To register as a member please contact the Centre so we can add your details to our e-mail list.

1 weekend day every quarter of the year  The Springhead Park Volunteers
Springhead Park, Rothwell, Leeds, LS26, Leeds City Council  Contact: springheadparkvolunteers@gmail.com
Looking for new members to help with practical activities, group management, publicity & fund raising. We undertake a variety of practical activities in the park. For example litter picks, river clean-ups, tree planting, creating new paths through woodland & invasive species management.

Every second & fourth Thursday of the month  Practical Group
Gotts park, Armley Ridge Rd, Leeds LS12 3NP, Friends of Armley & Gotts Park  Contact: Joe Walker, 07891 277006, joseph.walker@leeds.gov.uk, www.facebook.com/waderanger
Do you enjoy the outdoors, being active & learning new skills, then why not join us? Practical action days 10 - 2pm to carry out vital conservation work in both parks. All tools, materials & hot drinks provided. Please bring own water, wear sturdy footwear, old clothes & bring waterproofs as necessary.

The North York Moors National Park is holding a volunteer recruitment day on 29th September from 10am to 3pm at The Moors Centre, Danby. Drop by & learn about all of the exciting outdoor & indoor volunteering roles that you can get involved with at the Park. Email volunteers@northyorkmoors.org.uk to learn more.
How practical work days can benefit you
Canal & River Trust explain the advantages of volunteering
By Leon Thomas

12.7 million people volunteer in England once a month and 19.2 million once a year[1]. Practical working days can offer a wide variety of benefits, from developing new skills and abilities to an improved quality of life.

The reasons behind volunteering vary from person to person, while a large number of volunteers want to make a difference in their local communities, others simply choose to join volunteer groups in order to gain or build on a specific skillset. All of them however, benefit from the social aspect of volunteering and the ability to meet new and like-minded people.

For those who volunteer to genuinely make a difference in their community, on a frequent basis they are able to sit back and take glory out of all their hard-work paying off.

Iain Jack a volunteer for the Canal & River Trust said: “For me it is a win-win-win-win situation. I get to work outdoors in some wonderful countryside after years spent mainly indoors at the office or in the factory.”

A study published in 2009[2] showed that volunteering can actually be better for a person’s health – with reports showing that those who volunteer are more likely to have a better quality of life, better social integration and support and increased self-esteem and confidence.

“Towpath Taskforce work days help to keep me physically fit in my advancing years; I get to hang out with like-minded people from all walks of life (the banter alone is worth it). I am also learning all sorts of new skills I have previously admired from afar, for example boat handling, hedge laying and lime mortar work,” continued Iain.

One of the largest components of volunteering is being in a position to not only learn but to also share skills; this is something that organisations are more than keen to encourage when investing in volunteer workers, Tom Freeland, national volunteer co-ordinator at the Canal & River Trust said: “The work achieved is a fundamental part of the day to day delivery for most charities and land-managing organisations, and is largely built on the efforts of volunteers.

“I’ve been involved in conservation work days for a range of organisations over many years, and I’ve always found them to be a joy: a day out on a beautiful (or maybe just interesting) site, working with like-minded people for a shared goal, and the satisfaction of a job well done at the end of the day.

“Practical work parties helped save & restore many canals, and now Towpath Taskforce volunteers are the heart of our efforts to keep the waterways a special place for everyone to enjoy, now and into the future.”
Whether it be for personal reasons, social development or general curiosity, volunteers are the unsung heroes of many organisations and the backbone to a lot of British countryside communities.

For further information on volunteering for the Canal & River Trust visit https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/volunteer and for further information about the health benefits of volunteering visit http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/volunteering/Pages/Whyvolunteer.aspx


North West:

REF 553-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB VOLUNTEER RANGER
BE4 N / A LOC MARTON MERE NATURE RESERVE, BLACKPOOL
PAY Training FOR BLACKPOOL COUNCIL
DES Marton Mere Nature Reserve is calling all enthusiastic people with an interest in wildlife & green spaces to join our friendly Volunteer Ranger Service. Be part of our amazing 3 year, HLF project to transform the reserve & preserve Blackpool’s most important ecological haven for future generations. You will work alongside an enthusiastic team of volunteers, assisting experienced staff & getting involved with a wide variety of projects including habitat conservation, estate maintenance, surveys, environmental activities as well as the promotion of our new visitor centre. BUT No experience or quals needed, as training is given. Only essential requirement is an interest in the env & a willingness to get stuck in! ASK Iollan Banks, Environmental Volunteer Co-ordinator, 07768 557271 martonmere@blackpool.gov.uk

REF 554-FOCUSR-OK3 JOB FAMILY ACTIVITIES ASSISTANT – ARTS & CRAFTS
BE4 N / A LOC Martin Mere Wetland Centre, Burscough, West Lancashire
PAY Training FOR THE WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST
DES An excellent opportunity to work within an internationally important conservation organisation, discount is available in the café & shop & free entry to all WWT wetland centres throughout the UK. Training opportunities provided. You will take on a wide variety of roles in assisting with the organisation & delivery of arts & crafts during the key seasonal events & smaller activities for the visiting public throughout the year. The position will require work during weekdays & public holidays, exact hours to be discussed. BUT Working knowledge of artistic mediums & experience of arts & crafts with small & large groups & families; experience of working with a variety of age groups including children & adults; attention to detail & creativity; confident & friendly attitude & / or experience of successful face-to-face contact with the public; interest in & enthusiasm for the WWT & the natural world; good listening skills, with ability to adapt your approach to suit your audience; ability to work on your own initiative under the direction of the Learning Manager. ASK Amy Hannan, Volunteer Development Officer, amy.hannan@wwt.org.uk 01704 891 224

REF 2850-FOCUS-OK3 JOB EDUCATION - FORMAL LEARNING SESSION ASSISTANT
BE4 Ongoing LOC MARTIN MERE WETLANDS, BURSCOUGH, LANCASHIRE
PAY Training FOR THE WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST
DES We believe that the best way for people to understand & ‘connect’ with wetlands is to experience them, so we bring awe-inspiring nature up close. You will be directly involved in shaping children's unforgettable experience through the warm welcome you give them, your interactions with them & the information that you provide. We need enthusiastic people to help deliver our education programmes to school groups & in doing so ensuring that they feel part of something amazing. You will help out with school groups, lead selected guided learning sessions & interact with children in a sensitive & responsive manner. Attend training sessions & meetings & be aware of procedures regarding child protection. Friendly & approachable to visitors, especially children. BUT Exp in an education setting, confident / exp in delivering enquiry based learning to school groups. Ability to communicate well to a diverse range of audiences & work well in a team of staff & volunteers. Familiar with Martin Mere Centre. Own transport. ASK Amy Hannan amy.hannan@wwt.org.uk http://c-js.co.uk/14HIpJyH

REF 2851-FOCUSR-6/10 JOB CHESHIRE WASTE REDUCTION VOLUNTEERS
BE4 ? LOC CHESHIRE WEST & CHESHIRE
PAY Uniform, expenses & rewards FOR KEEP BRITAIN TIDY
DES Our volunteers help us to reduce waste by doing any of the following: attending events, local shows, fetes & fairs, giving individual advice; delivering workshops in schools; working with community groups; writing articles for press or websites; working with waste management departments at larger events or anything that suits their skills. This is a fully flexible role. Events & talks take place during the week, weekends & evenings & you can attend as little or as many of these whenever you are available. There is no minimum length of commitment. Full training is provided. Volunteers can benefit from developing communication skills in a variety of settings with a wide range of people, whilst helping local people save money & help the environment. Training sessions cover: waste reduction campaigns: home composting & Love Food Hate Waste; how to engage with people & impact positive change. BUT Volunteers must be over 18. A valid driving licence & vehicle may be necessary to attend events. ASK Margaret Warren, Project Coordinator margaret.warren@keepbritaintidytidy.org 07583 019497 http://c-js.co.uk/2ivAWDs

REF 2852-FOCUS-OK3 JOB CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER
BE4 Ongoing LOC CHESHIRE
PAY 0 FOR CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST
DES We have been working in the region for over 50 years & manage 45 nature reserves with habitats ranging from grasslands & wet meadows to reedbeds, coastal dunes & wetlands. Our reserves provide a refuge for rare species incl natterjack toads, great crested newts, the bittern & a wide range of dragonflies & butterflies. We carry out practical habitat management on our reserves & require assistance from volunteers in doing so. BUT No specific quals required, we just ask for a good level of fitness, a love for the outdoors with an ability to work in all weathers & have your
North Lancashire winter work parties 2017-18. Join our team of volunteers carrying out woodland work on our Warton Crag nature reserve near Silverdale, creating habitat for rare butterfly & moth species. For details contact sryder@lancswt.org.uk, or phone 01524 855030.

Are you looking to get into employment & struggling? Cheshire Wildlife Trust is running Access groups to provide skills that will aid the step into employment. This group runs on Mondays & Tuesdays for 6 weeks with minibus pick ups. We are recruiting in Chester & Congleton, volunteering@cheshirewt.org.uk for more information.

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

Every Thursday Health & Wellbeing Group
Northwich & Winsford, Cheshire Wildlife Trust
Contact: volunteering@cheshirewt.org.uk
We have a mini bus that picks up participants from Northwich & Winsford on Thursday mornings & takes the group to local nature reserves to carry out practical conservation work. To register your interest please email.

First & third Friday of every month Volunteers
Meet on Lowfields Avenue, Eastham, Wirral, Friends of Lowfields Woodland
Contact: kfeeney@cheshirewt.org.uk
Help carry out practical conservation work on the woodland. If you might be interested in taking part email Kevin Feeney from Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

**Rangers helping Rangers - Is the answer in our hands?**

The Scottish Countryside Rangers Association is the Professional organisation for Rangers and Countryside Staff in Scotland. The Association since its creation in 1974, today develops through its members volunteering in delivering and creating what we have achieved over the last forty years.

Through also receiving support from ranger employers such as from National Parks, Local Authorities, NGO, Private, and Communities allow their staff to be involved in SCRA in all we provide collectively for our members’ Training, Conferences, Qualifications, Award Programmes, Regional Groups and representation on other organisations at national level.

We are currently in the process of developing a new Market Strategy and a new Website. This will allow SCRA to be able to deliver a more professional service to members through achieving our goals into the future of rangering in Scotland, such as submission to a Petition Committee of the Scottish Parliament seeking to highlight the loss of ranger posts across Scotland.

We urgently need more Volunteers to help share the workload and assist council to continue delivering a professional service.

SCRA also provides a public “supporter membership category” for anyone who is interested in supporting the work of Rangers across Scotland.

What you can expect is a friendly welcome and volunteering for SCRA can be short or longer periods, covering an array of topics in the advancement of the membership. You don’t need to be an expert. If you feel you have time to help; it will be very welcomed and hopefully rewarding by enhancing your knowledge in gaining Committee Skills and putting learning outcomes towards a SCRA Continual Professional Development (CPD).
CJS Focus on Volunteering

SCRA has mutual affiliation with CMA which was established forty years ago this year. SCRA has a long standing twinned programme with the Icelandic Ranger Association.

The International Rangers’ Federation was founded in Scotland. As a member you belong to the global family of Rangers. We are also members of the European Rangers’ Federation which is IRF at a regional level which take in 30 countries including Russia and Israel.

SCRA last month, sent equipment to Rangers in Uganda through Nature Frontline.

So, there are many topics to get involved with, be it working groups covering Education, Health, Interpretation, Scottish Junior Ranger Award and the SCRA Challenge Award.

Get involved in delivering the journal SCRAmble and communication on Twitter, Facebook and Skype etc or help convert the SCRA Archives to digital to be accessed through our website. Get involved in supporting your Regional Group programme.

We live in a world where profile is so, so important, and as rangers we can rely on SCRA to represent our collective views, on many issues as it affects you being a ranger ,and maintaining the future of rangers into the future.

If you wish to Volunteer, please contact Bob Reid at rangerbobreid@gmail.com www.scra-online.co.uk

Midlands:

Volunteer Wildlife Surveyor - Brockhampton Estate, Herefordshire for National Trust. Take part in bat & bird surveys, butterfly transects & a wide variety of other wildlife & habitat monitoring programmes. No experience is necessary, just a passion for the outdoors & a desire to study wildlife. http://c-js.co.uk/2vlDCoh or email craig.cooper@nationaltrust.org.uk for more information.

Help local wildlife - come long & volunteer! People from all walks of life volunteer with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. You could be helping with practical conservation, assisting our Education team, manning our Centres or lending a hand with events. There is something for everyone! Contact amanda.evans@wkwt.org.uk to find out more.

Volunteers are an essential part of our team. If you would like to learn new skills, keep fit & active or simply wish to meet new people we have volunteering opportunities for you on our weekly conservation & woodworking volunteer groups based in the Wyre Forest, Bewdley. Email kate@wyreclt.org.uk

Join the Friends of Hartham Common & make a difference to this vibrant green space at the heart of Hertford. Get involved in the practical conservation volunteering on Saturdays, help with promotion or run events. Gain experience plus meet new people & get active. Contact isabel.crozier@hertfordshire.gov.uk 01992 556094

Third Sunday in the month Conservation work parties
Meet at Tithby Road bridge, Bingham, Friends of Bingham Linear Park  Contact: linear_park@hotmail.co.uk
October - March at 10.00am. Tools provided.

Every Friday Princethorpe Woodlands Living Landscape Volunteer
Meeting at Brandon Marsh Nature Centre, CV3 3GW, & travelling out to sites, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust  Contact: volunteer@wkwt.org.uk mention you are interested in volunteering with the Princethorpe Woodlands Living Landscape team.
9:30 - 15:30. The scheme has received over £1 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund to help reconnect Warwickshire’s ancient woodlands, hedgerows & grasslands. Join us to get stuck in with practical habitat management & surveying in this beautiful area.

Every Thursday Volunteer Group
Worcester Woods Country Park, Worcestershire County Council  Contact: Tanya Feasey or Rob Stevenson 01905 766155 10am - 3pm. Mixed conservation tasks, everything from coppicing to path clearance.

Fortnightly on Tuesdays Work party
Newbold Quarry in Rugby, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust  Contact: volunteer@wkwt.org.uk
Do you live in Rugby & want to help wildlife? Keen to learn new skills? Meet local like-minded people? We’re setting up a new work party 10am - 1pm. Email if you're interested!
ENGAGEMENT VOLUNTEER

**REF 2855-FOCUSR-27/8**

**JOB** FENN’S MOSS NNR VOLUNTARY WARDEN

**BE4** Ongoing

**LOC** Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR, & NNR Base (N Shropshire)

**PAY** Travel expenses

**FOR** NATURAL ENGLAND & NATURAL RESOURCES WALES

**DES** Great opportunity to assist with the restoration of part of Britain’s 3rd largest lowland raised peat bog. The NNR is 690ha & straddles the English / Welsh border, 4 miles from Whitchurch, Shropshire & 10 miles from Wrexham. Role is varied & can incl practical estate & habitat management tasks, surveying / monitoring, assisting with events / guided walks & office projects. Protective clothing & some formal courses & in-house training provided. **BUT** Suitable for a student looking for a work placement or someone wanting to gain further exp in the conservation sector. Reliable & enthusiastic, keen interest in wildlife & conservation, physically fit & prepared to work outdoors. **ASK** David Tompkins, Reserve Manager david.tompkins@naturalengland.org.uk 01948 880362 www.gov.uk/natural-england

**REF 561-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** Regular commitment preferred; Tuesdays & Wednesdays only at the moment. 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 & vols delivering to a professional standard. Possibility of certified training for long term vols. **BUT** Previous experience of practical conservation & quals 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 559-FOCUSR-OK3**

**JOB** VOLUNTEER RANGER

**BE4** N / A

**LOC** BROCKHAMPTON ESTATE, HEREFORDSHIRE

**PAY** Fuel expenses, in-house training

**FOR** NATIONAL TRUST

**DES** At least once a month. 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. **BUT** We need people who are outdoorsy; able to be out whatever the weather’s doing; reasonably fit & house training possible. **ASK** CV or details of experience & certification to kate.price@nationaltrust.org.uk

**REF 563-FOCUSR-OK3**

**JOB** WOODLAND CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER

**BE4** Ongoing

**LOC** BARKERS WOOD, BULWELL, NOTTINGHAM

**PAY** Genuine expenses plus*

**FOR** BULWELL COMMUNITY TOY LIBRARY

**DES** At least 1 day a week but can be Saturday. Assist community woodland manager with hands on day to day management of the woodland incl: coppicing, clearing drainage ditches, planting, hedge laying path improvement & adding value to wood products incl green woodworking for sale to work towards woodland being self sustaining. **ASK** Nicholas Hinchliffe on n.hinchliffe@nationaltrust.org.uk

**REF 2854-FOCUSR-29/12**

**JOB** County Mapped Flora Digitisation Project Volunteer

**BE4** 31/12/17

**LOC** WARWICK, WARRICKSHIRE OR HOME-BASED

**PAY** Training / travel expenses to £5

**FOR** WBRC, WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**DES** Min 4 weeks, 1-2 days per week. Volunteers are needed to help the WBRC with delivering the digitisation of the VC38 County Computer Mapped Flora Files. Birmingham Natural History Society & the Botany Department of the University of Birmingham were co-sponsors of the Vice County 38 Mapped Flora survey when it began in 1950. This was a co-operative study, involving a team of amateur & professional botanists in many hours of field work over 15 years & a book of computerised distribution maps was published in 1971. Although the results of this survey work were summarised & published in computerised distribution maps in the book, the original paper records have never been entered in a currently accessible database in the detail they are needed today. It is estimated that data files contain approximately 175,000 records. Volunteers are needed to help WBRC to scan the files & enter the records into the WBRC database so these records can be used in current distribution maps in order to monitor landscape & environmental change over the recent decades in Vice County 38. **BUT** An interest in botany & nature conservation. Degree in botany or ecology would be advantageous. Willingness to interpret handwritten notes & use & develop IT skills. Familiarity with biological recording & botanical scientific names would be advantageous but not essential. **ASK** Angi-Louiza Arampogou wbrc@warwickshire.gov.uk 01926 418028

**REF 2855-FOCUSR-27/8**

**JOB** ENGAGEMENT VOLUNTEER

**BE4** 1/8/18

**LOC** WENLOCK EDGE, SHROPSHIRE HILLS

**PAY** Training / travel expenses

**FOR** NATIONAL TRUST

**DES** School holidays / weekends. Help the ranger team to inspire & teach people & share why Wenlock Edge is so special. You will improve our visitor’s experiences by supporting the ranger team to deliver events, guided walks, children’s activities & to develop interpretation. This role is quite flexible to suit your availability & interests. You will develop property interpretation & create resources for events e.g. posters, activity sheets. Engage with the public opportunistically & take photographs for use on online media & printed materials. **BUT** Enthusiastic people who want to make new friends & share their passion for nature with others! No prev exp necessary. **ASK** http://cj-s.co.uk/2wxPQK kate.price@nationaltrust.org.uk

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**www.countryside-jobs.com**
Anglia:

REF  2856-FOCUSR-OK3  JOB  LACKFORD LAKES VOLUNTEER
BE4  Ongoing  LOC  LACKFORD LAKES VISITOR CENTRE
PAY  Appropriate training will be provided  FOR  SUFFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST
DES  Looking for people who wish to volunteer their time to helping our Nature Reserve be the best it can be. We have a strong team of vols who help with everything from running the shop, talking to visitors, helping with admin, social media, patrolling the reserve, doing odd jobs & helping our Wild Learning Officer. The role is very flexible & you can give as much or as little time as you have available. We are a very welcoming place & if you think you may be interested then please get in touch. Volunteering with our Wild Learning Officer will be mainly weekdays but we welcome whatever you can give. BUT Friendly person, happy working with the public & able to spread our wildlife message. Experience of working with young people pref when becoming involved with learning but not essential. We have many roles at Lackford & many of our vols help within a number of roles. ASK lackford.education@suffolkwildlifetrust.org or lackford.centre@suffolkwildlifetrust.org 01284 728706.

Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB – Beachwatch is the Marine Conservation Society’s national beach cleaning & litter surveying programme. Our marine wildlife & environment is under threat from litter & 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 - Help us to look after the Suffolk coast & estuaries by being our eyes & ears on the ground & 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

Suffolk Wildlife Trust is the county’s leading nature charity. It is supported by volunteers in all areas of its activities. Roles include conservation internships, environmental education support, species monitoring & regular practical work parties. Visit suffolkwildlifetrust.org for current volunteering vacancies.

New ways of finding volunteers

Like so many conservation organisations, here at Kent Wildlife Trust we would simply be unable to carry out our work if it were not for our amazing volunteers. 65% of our 1,063 volunteers join us on our reserves across the county and carry out a huge range of practical conservation activities. In the last four years we have seen the age of our volunteers dropping as well as decreasing in the length of time our volunteers remain with us. We know that whilst our work to protect Kent’s wildlife will continue, the way in which we attract new people to help us do this must change. Our volunteer pool has traditionally been made up of retired people who we are fortunate to have as long serving volunteers. However, we, along with the volunteers themselves, are looking to the future for these teams. One of our volunteers, Selwyn, told us: “The long term commitment of the volunteers does have its downside, though. We are not getting any younger and we have joked that, in time, we will be arriving on mobility scooters!”

As a volunteer-involving organisation, we have seen that traditional methods for recruitment, training and recognition of our volunteers are no longer achieving what they did now that the motivations for volunteering have changed. Gone are the days where volunteers are looking for ways to fill their spare time, and for many of our new volunteers, we find that we can provide a potential route into a career in conservation, or a way in which to spend time outside and away from work or home life constructively. These new volunteers may not wish to commit as much time to their volunteering, or may move on to other organisations or roles once they have gained experience; and we are proud to celebrate being part of someone’s journey into the conservation
As part of our work to encourage more people to volunteer with us, we’re trying new things. We advertise volunteer roles on our website and through do-it.org.uk (the national volunteering database) as well as through Countryside Jobs. More and more, we rely on social media, advertising directly with colleges and community organisations and, in 2017, we are hosting a number of introductory sessions on our reserves across the autumn season.

By encouraging new volunteers to come and have a go at our activities, we’re hoping to show that volunteering with us does not require expert wildlife knowledge; that we look after our volunteers; and demonstrate the impact of the work that can be achieved by joining us; and to also show what practical conservation work is (it’s not all about planting trees!).

By hosting these sessions, we’re aiming to alleviate any expectation the potential volunteers have of needing to make a commitment - something which can be off-putting - and provide an opportunity for potential volunteers to get to know the teams they’ll be working with. A large proportion of our task day teams are male, and we’re delighted that many women are signing up to the introductory sessions, so we’re hoping that these will encourage diversity and create a welcoming session which inspires the attendees to return.

We’ll be ensuring there are plenty of hot drinks and biscuits (an army of volunteers is, as we all know, powered mainly by cake!) and providing demonstrations of the work we do; explanations of why we’re doing what we’re doing; and a very warm welcome. We’re asking attendees to sign up prior to attending, and this way, we will be able to follow up with them afterwards and provide a pathway into joining our volunteer family.

We’re confident that through these sessions, we will bring in new volunteers to help us as we work with people to restore, save and enhance our natural heritage. More information about our volunteering programme can be found on our website: http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/volunteer

Carly Whyborn
Volunteer Development Officer
Kent Wildlife Trust

South:

REF 2857-FOCUSR-3/11   JOB GROWING PLANTS & PEOPLE VOLUNTEER
BE4 1/11/17   LOC FOREST FARM ALLOTMENT SITE, HAZELBROUCK GARDENS
PAY Up to £5 travel expenses   FOR AUDACIOUS VEG
DES Weekly session (Monday or Thursday afternoons), 1pm-5pm, for two months. We are a community interest company that grows delicious crops & cut flowers, & supports local young adults in accessing training & employment. We are looking for volunteers to bring their enthusiasm & willingness to help us grow the beautiful Audacious Veg site. Learn about growing & harvesting an exciting range of edible & beautiful plants using permaculture & organic principles, meet some amazing people, & help Audacious Veg change the lives of young people. Tasks include sowing & growing plants, weeding & digging, harvesting & general plant maintenance. This placement is perfect for anyone who wants to learn about growing food & flowers, who wants to become part of a warm & friendly community, & who wants to support a budding social enterprise. BUT Committed to creating a supportive atmosphere that welcomes & empowers our beneficiaries. A positive attitude, a willingness to learn, & a commitment to treating all other volunteers & staff with respect. ASK https://audaciousveg.org Natalie Baker 07757 469939 hello@audaciousveg.org

Volunteers clearing scrub at Sandwich & Pegwell Bay (© Dee Govan)

Volunteers about to take a break at Hothfield Heathlands (© Kent Wildlife Trust)
We want volunteers to join our Visitor Services Team at busy times, to greet members of the public & provide information about the Pinetum & Forest. We want you to give directions, advice & a warm welcome. BUT Volunteers need a friendly open personality, good communication skills, enjoy meeting people & like working as part of a team. ASK susan.baines@forestry.gsi.gov.uk 01580 879820

Put your skills into action with weekly gardening sessions in gardeners across Hertfordshire, Harlow, Essex, Cambridgeshire & Bedfordshire. Get buckets of experience – two new gardens every time. Free training in gardening & power tool use. All PPE, tools, equipment, lunches & travel costs covered. ASK www.groundwork.org.uk/east To book a place, arrange a taster day or for more info Emma Reynolds, 01707 255177 emma.reynolds@groundwork.org.uk

We want you to volunteer outside & help vulnerable residents? The ability to be able to share your enthusiasm for nature, birds & wildlife; computer literate, ability to use email, internet, & MS PowerPoint. ASK Jodie Palmer 01273 775333, brightonschoolsoutreach@rspb.org.uk

Want to volunteer outside & help vulnerable residents? Then join Groundwork’s Green Aiders team! Put your skills into action with weekly gardening sessions in gardens across Hertfordshire, Harlow, Essex, Cambridgeshire & Bedfordshire. Get buckets of experience – two new gardens every time. Free training in gardening & power tool use. All PPE, tools, equipment, lunches & travel costs covered. ASK www.groundwork.org.uk/east To book a place, arrange a taster day or for more info Emma Reynolds, 01707 255177 emma.reynolds@groundwork.org.uk

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experience in conservation, community building or someone looking to use their skills to help others. We can provide: work experience in conservation & community building; opportunity to use your skills to help others; leadership experience.  BUT All level of experience is welcome. Enjoy working outdoors; passion for nature. Community orientated & enjoy assisting people. ASK Nicola Downs, Senior Project Officer, 01206 764470 essex@tcv.org.uk

Duke of Burgundy Butterfly Conservation Sessions
Join us this Autumn for this exciting conservation project at sites in Bledlow and Prestwood to help one of the UK's most declining butterflies. To register for these sessions please contact info@chilternrangers.co.uk or call 01494 484486

Get stuck in with practical work restoring habitats on the Eastern Yar river on the Isle of Wight - including pulling Himalayan balsam & clearing scrub - as part of the ongoing Down to the Coast project. Contact steve.egerton-read@hiwwt.org.uk for more information & upcoming work party dates.
**Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday**

**Task Days**
North Surrey & Kingston areas, Lower Mole Partnership
Contact: www.lowermoleproject.org.uk; Lower Mole Partnership Facebook; @ExploreSurreyUK; 01372 743783.

Enjoy seasonal scrub clearance, path maintenance, woodland management, signage making (in our Horton Country Park workshop) & pond restoration task days with our great conservation crew.

**Second Sunday of the month**

**Monthly weekend conservation group**

Snows Farm nature reserve, near Stroud
Contact: volunteering@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

We are looking for more volunteers to assist over autumn & winter, to manage this important calcareous grassland reserve. The group is a great way to spend a few hours helping wildlife.

**Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays**

**Biodiversity Action Team**

East & Mid Sussex, The Conservation Volunteers (Hastings)
Contact: 01424 444675 volunteer-sussex@tcv.org.uk

If you want to gain hands on conservation experience, volunteer with our Biodiversity Action Team! 9.30am to 4pm (tea & biscuits included).

**First Saturday of every month**

**Task Days**

Ashford, Kent, Ashford Community Woodland Volunteers
Contact: Jenny Tippen 01233 622070, jhclayton1948@gmail.com

We maintain some 15 hectares of woodland & meadow on the outskirts of Ashford, Kent. Refreshments are provided. New volunteers are always welcome.

**Sunday 15 Oct**

**“Chalkland Champions”**

Leybourne Lakes Country Park, Kent County Council
Contact: Hilary 0300 019486, hilary.hunter@kent.gov.uk, www.oldchalknwdowns.org.uk

11am - 3pm. A celebration of Kent’s Chalk Downland, its rare species, traditional skills & the people who love it all. There will be exhibits; demonstrations; stalls; produce.

**Sunday 15 Oct**

**Conservation Work Parties**

South Downs Way in West Sussex, Graffham Down Trust
https://www.facebook.com/GraffhamDownTrust/

Contact: jimkirke@hotmail.com.

Events repeated Sun 10 Dec, Sun 14 Jan, Sat 17 Feb, Sat 17 Mar, Sat 7 Apr, 70 acres of reserves that need regular volunteer help to manage. Meet 9.45 at St Giles Church Graffham GU28 0NJ. The Saturday in April is a volunteers BBQ. Lifts to reserves, cake, tea & coffee available.

**Every Wednesday & fortnightly on Saturdays**

**New, Forest of Dean volunteer group**

Woorgreens Nature Reserve, Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
Contact: 01452 383333, volunteering@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

Become part of the team manage this beautiful sites richly diverse healthlands, marshes, & lakes. We run sessions from 10.00am - 1.00pm.

**One Saturday a month**

**Conservation Volunteer**

Allen’s Field (off Liddel Way), South Ascot, SL5 9UX, Groundwork South
Contact: Laura Howles, 07736 133467 laura.howles@groundwork.org.uk

9.30 - 12.30 to enhance Allen’s Field, in partnership with the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead. Tasks vary depending on the season, but have recently included refurbishing steps & removing invasive laurel from the woodland. Work here will be interesting & varied. Refreshments provided.

**Every Thursday**

**Volunteer Group**

Belhus Woods Country Park, Essex County Council
Contact: 01708 865628, belhuswoods.countrypark@essex.gov.uk

Would you like to join our volunteer group & learn new skills, whilst helping the environment & wildlife? Join our Rangers on Thursday mornings from 9.30am till 12.30pm. Suitable outdoor clothing needed.

**We’re looking for volunteers**

To help monitor deer density at our Lower Woods nature reserve in South Gloucestershire. Volunteer teams will collect deer dung over 10 quadrats and then monitor how long it takes for dung to return. Aim, studying deer distribution and favoured feeding areas. More information contact volunteering@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk.

**Free accredited 12 week Practical Diploma in Groundsmanship & Land Management**

Lunch included, travel expenses reimbursed. Eligibility: aged 16-24, below level 3 qualified. Get apprenticeship ready; gain high quality practical skills; stand out to employers. Developed in partnership with the National Trust & T&M Community Sports Club. Email Morden Hall, London hattie.clayton@nationaltrust.org.uk.

**We're recruiting volunteers**

For practical conservation work starting in October to create & improve habitats for threatened species like willow tits & Duke of Burgundy butterflies, within the Basingstoke & Deane borough area. To find out more, email matthew.smith@hiwwt.org.uk.
Volunteering at Dean Castle Country Park – something for everyone
Jessica Wharf with stories by Alexander Black, Daniela Senatore and Stuart Hay

Dean Castle Country Park in Kilmarnock is perhaps not your typical conservation volunteering destination but thanks to a Heritage Lottery funded project, a growing volunteer programme is now in place. East Ayrshire has the second lowest volunteering numbers in Scotland with just 20% of adults volunteering compared to a national average of 27% (Scottish Household Survey 2015). The Country Park itself, run by East Ayrshire Leisure, is in an area of multiple deprivation and in the past has had only occasional volunteers.

The HLF volunteer programme, which kicked-started last year, aimed to get local people more involved in the park, to increase environmental awareness and to improve the park’s biodiversity. The funding enabled the park to have a dedicated volunteer coordinator and natural heritage officer and from there, the volunteering grew. Here are the stories of some of our volunteers.

Alec: Practical Conservation Volunteer
I was studying at Ayrshire College last year and part of the curriculum involved volunteering at Dean Castle Country Park. Although I live locally, I’d avoided going to the park as it didn’t feel like the kind of natural environment I was interested in; in fact it felt more like a big swing park. Neal and Jess, who supervised our volunteering, explained that changes were being made to increase biodiversity through volunteers. This encouraged me to do extra volunteering, as I could see the bigger picture for the future. Since I started volunteering at the park, I’ve taken part in both wildlife and plant surveys as well as habitat improvement. I’ve also been given the chance to learn traditional skills, such as hedge-laying and scything. I now look forward to going to the park and feel that it will become a fantastic learning resource and a place that the residents of Kilmarnock will be proud of. I’ve enjoyed working with like-minded people, and feel that in the management and staff, the park is in good hands. Whatever work I’m involved in gives me another reason to visit the park in the future to see the results of what has been done.

The South London Botanical Institute is based in Tulse Hill, South London with botanical garden, herbarium, library, & lecture room. We run a variety of talks, courses, workshops, open days & school visits & 2 funded projects. We often need volunteers. See www.slbi.org.uk Contact us: info@slbi.org.uk

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

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

The funding enabled the park to have a dedicated awareness and to improve the park’s biodiversity. Beginning coordinator and natural heritage officer, explained that changes were being made to increase biodiversity through volunteers. This encouraged me to do extra volunteering, as I could see the bigger picture for the future. Since I started volunteering at the park, I’ve taken part in both wildlife and plant surveys as well as habitat improvement. I’ve also been given the chance to learn traditional skills, such as hedge-laying and scything. I now look forward to going to the park and feel that it will become a fantastic learning resource and a place that the residents of Kilmarnock will be proud of. I’ve enjoyed working with like-minded people, and feel that in the management and staff, the park is in good hands. Whatever work I’m involved in gives me another reason to visit the park in the future to see the results of what has been done.

Conservation volunteers are needed across the Braintree District. Help to make improvements to both people & wildlife on public open space & local nature reserves. Volunteering provides many benefits: meeting new people, building self- esteem, work experience, keeping fit & learning more about the environment. Contact Amanda: amatu@braintree.gov.uk

Groundwork is launching a citizen science project to monitor the health of the River Lea, Luton. Volunteers will have the opportunity to select a local site convenient for them to carry out practical monitoring. All training & equipment is provided free of charge. For more information please contact andrew.irving@groundwork.org.uk

Volunteers needed to help deliver in-stream river restoration work across Wiltshire during September & October 2017. Contact water@wiltshirewildlife.org or call 01380 736066 for more information.

CCV is always seeking new volunteers to join their regular Sunday conservation tasks in nature reserves around the Chichester area. Lifts can be arranged. Training & tools will be provided. Physically fit volunteers of any age over 16 will be welcome. Contact Scott Robertson: 01243 552113, scottrobt293@hotmail.co.uk

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Alec cleaning a scythe (Jess Wharf)
Dani: Survey Volunteer

I started volunteering at Dean Castle Country Park to gain more competitive experience to look for a conservation job. Initially I conducted surveys with a group of other volunteers which increased my knowledge about many taxa I wasn’t familiar with, such as raptors, moths, butterflies, and bumblebees. Although I started survey volunteering, I got involved in other tasks like building an owl box, planting a willow maze and hedge-laying. The volunteers are led by two dedicated members of the staff who are always available to answer volunteers’ questions to better understand how to manage a country park for the sake of its wildlife and visitors. There is at least one volunteering day a week but you can also do some surveys on your own, as I am currently doing for raptors and butterflies. In this way, I always manage to volunteer a few days every month while doing a full-time job. Alongside learning so much about wildlife, I have also met many people with my same passion for nature which have made my volunteering experience even more enjoyable.

Stuart: Rural Skills Volunteer Trainee

My first experience of volunteering at Dean Castle came last autumn when I came along for a volunteering event at the park. It was great fun working with the other volunteers and getting stuck in getting our hands dirty – in fact, I remember being disappointed that I had to leave early for work! Although I’ve always enjoyed the beauty of the outdoors I confess that I didn’t actually know too much about it and I wanted to change that! I thought volunteering at the park would be a fun way to learn more about nature. Since then I’ve been volunteering regularly and have had chances to gain skills and knowledge in all sorts of areas. One day you could be learning the lost art of hedge laying, the next you could be surveying the plant life in a sunny meadow, or be out on a rainy night hunting for newts in the ponds. No matter what’s to be done around the park it is always a relaxed and fun day and the feeling that you’re doing something positive for the inhabitants (human and non-human!) of your local area only adds to that. I’ve actually enjoyed my experiences so much that I’m now actively pursuing a career in the countryside sector and start studying at college this September! But even if you’re not looking for a career change, I’ve found conservation volunteering to be a fantastic experience. It keeps you active, gives you opportunities to learn new skills and meet new people, and is really just very relaxing and good fun – I’d recommend it to anyone who wants to try it.

From a low base of practically zero, we’ve built our annual volunteer visits to over 600 since the start of the HLF programme. It’s given the park a resource of committed and passionate people keen to champion the park’s wildlife and get stuck in doing practical things to help this cause. Looking at the volunteers who have contributed their stories to this article, they have one thing in common; they started volunteering in one volunteer role and became drawn into all sorts of different aspects of the park. This feels like the key to success in conservation volunteering both for volunteer managers and for volunteers: offering or seeking the chance to grow outside of an initial role and expanding skills and interests to keep them coming back. For volunteers, this is the path to the broad skill-base that this sector demands and for those of us lucky enough to be already working in the sector, we get to spend our time with dedicated and enthusiastic people ready to help whatever the task in hand.

Join our volunteer team at Dean Castle Country Park or just have a go on one of our conservation volunteering holidays: email Jess at jessica.wharf@east-ayrshire.gov.uk
South West:

Volunteer working holidays available on the island of Lundy, Bristol Channel, undertaking a variety of conservation activities. The work undertaken is a mixture of tasks that support the protection of the ecology & natural beauty of Lundy. See www.lundy.org.uk or email workingparty@lundy.org.uk. Places allocated on first come, first served basis.

Help save some of the rarest butterflies & moths in Britain. A range of volunteering opportunities available on Exmoor, Dartmoor & Bodmin Moor; including surveying, practical conservation, & engagement. All welcome, training provided. To find out more please visit www.butterfly-conservation.org/allthemoor or Megan Lowe mlowe@butterfly-conservation.org

Every Thursday  Conservation volunteers at Sharpham Trust
Ashprington, Totnes, Devon, Sharpham Trust  Contact: 01803 731802, volunteer@sharphamtrust.org,
www.sharphamtrust.org  If you like gratifying, physical work outdoors, you can help us with the conservation of Sharpham’s breath-taking parkland – thought to have been laid out by Capability Brown – which surrounds Sharpham House, a Grade 1-listed Georgian villa. No experience necessary.

Every Tuesday  Get Gardening at Sharpham Trust
Ashprington, Totnes, Devon, Sharpham Trust  Contact: 01803 731802, volunteer@sharphamtrust.org,
www.sharphamtrust.org  If you’d like to learn more about gardening, tree-care & horticulture, join our team of garden volunteers. Join in all kinds of active, hands-on tasks in our 18th century walled garden, or our sublime formal & woodland gardens. No experience necessary, warm lunch included.

REF  2864-FOCUSR-20/10  JOB MY WILD CHILD VOLUNTEER
BE4  18/10/17  LOC BRISTOL
PAY  Travel expenses  FOR AVON WILDLIFE TRUST
DES  At least half a day per week on Wednesdays, Thursdays &/or Fridays. We are looking for one or more volunteers to support the delivery of My Wild Child wild play sessions for 2-4 year olds & their families. Wild play sessions are delivered in green spaces around Bristol & will include wildlife conservation activities, wild art, mini beast quests, wild songs, stories & more!  BUT  You will be confident, with good communication skills & enjoy working outdoors in variable weather conditions throughout the seasons. Exp working with children or within a community group setting desirable.  ASK  http://c-js.co.uk/2eOoIFb sara.turrill@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk

REF  1206-FOCUS-OK3  JOB RESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER
BE4  N / A
LOC MAGDALEN FARM, WINSHAM, CHARD, SOMERSET
PAY  Accom. incl meals & training
FOR MAGDALEN ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST
DES  A 132 acre organic educational & therapeutic centre that welcomes c 5,000 visitors of all ages & abilities in a residential & day visit capacity. For the last 25 years we have engaged with & educated visitors using nature & the farming environment as our resource; it is fun, inspirational & innovative. Most of the help required is horticultural. There is also animal care which involves feeding up & putting our lovely poultry to bed! We always have the need for help with conservation & construction such as building wooden bridges. Time: 3 weeks to 2 months. We teach volunteers basic animal care, seasonal horticultural skills & organic vegetable growing. Join different sessions on the farm, such as hands on farming, survival in the wild & river dipping, in order to get an overview of the outdoor education programme.  BUT  Experience not essential as we can teach you. As we are in a rural setting & not a community you will need to be fairly self-sufficient & being sociable is really important too. Self-motivated, enthusiastic, committed & willing to get involved.  ASK  rebbecca@magdalenfarm.org.uk to request a volunteer application pack.

REF  594-FOCUS-OK3  JOB VOLUNTEER
BE4  N/A
LOC CORNWALL
PAY  Training
FOR WILD FUTURES THE MONKEY SANCTUARY
DES  Minimum stay is two weeks & maximum three months. Help clean the monkey enclosures, prepare their food & enrichment. Help with children’s workshops & in the cafe. gardening & help in the day to day running of the sanctuary.  BUT  No quals or experience required, just a willingness to be involved.  ASK  Antony Williams will@wildfutures.org

REF  593-FOCUSR-OK3  JOB DISCOVERY HUT 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 trampler & 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  Volunteers must enjoy meeting people & have great communication skills.
ASK Countryside Team 01395 517557 countrysi@eastdevon.gov.uk

National:

The Environment Now is an exciting new opportunity from O2’s Think Big that will fund 17-24 year olds with a grant of up to £10,000 to create their unique digital ideas to help the environment. Support provided by The Environment Now team, professional mentor & other sustainability partners whilst on 10 month programme. http://c-js.co.uk/2j8NaSX
Use quick kits to find out if your local ponds, streams & ditches are good enough for wildlife. Take part to help find fantastic freshwater free from pollution & contribute to current scientific research. For more information on Clean Water for Wildlife please visit www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/clean-water/

Inland Waterways Association (IWA) leads campaigns to conserve, maintain & restore Britain’s waterways network. IWA works with various organisations to keep all our waterways alive. There are a huge number of opportunities to get involved with IWA’s work including practical work & committee positions, visit our website for more information. http://www.waterways.org.uk/volunteer

International:

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

Use quick kits to find out if your local ponds, streams & ditches are good enough for wildlife. Take part to help find fantastic freshwater free from pollution & contribute to current scientific research. For more information on Clean Water for Wildlife please visit www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/clean-water/
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students or professionals. Previous exp may be required for some positions. All candidates should be able to easily adapt to adverse climatic conditions, be in excellent physical condition, & have intermediate Spanish skills.

AS

http://www.volunteerlatinamerica.com/ info@volunteerlatinamerica.com

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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 on 18/9/17.

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

Next edition will feature Forestry and Arboriculture, published 20/11/17

A4 sides this CJS Focus: 26 Adverts: 58 - Details believed correct but given without prejudice, Ends.