Focus on Volunteering

In association with TCV, the community volunteering charity

17 September 2018

Winter is coming – time to volunteer!
by John Bark, The Conservation Volunteers

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

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

The charity provides transport, tools, equipment and project leadership through paid staff helped by ‘key volunteers’ who commit to a regular number of hours every week. The work to be done is agreed with landowners (TCV owns no land) and may be a one-off project or part of a longer-term management agreement. Financial support for TCV comes from local and national government, private organisations, charities, trusts, landowners and lotteries, including support received from the players of People’s Postcode Lottery, whose recent £400,000 Green Trust funding has helped us support even more communities this year.

Volunteer enthusiasm does not drop off in colder weather, according to one TCV project leader in the South of England: “We probably get more work done in the winter. Warm weather can sap your energy and summer holidays often mean fewer volunteers are available.” (New people are more likely to start in summer though, especially students on vacation looking for work experience.) While there may be nothing better than a cold, calm November day for getting heavy work done, there are obviously limits where health and safety are
Ice and snow might prevent access to a remote site, while project leaders need to keep an eye on team morale, perhaps calling an early finish on days when it just will not stop raining.

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

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

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

TCV runs many activities for around 20,000 kids, including forest schools in term time to encourage a lifetime habit of caring for the environment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Find out more on www.tcv.org.uk Tel: 01302 388 883 or Email: information@tcv.org.uk
Scotland:

REF 1992-FOCUS-OK3
JOB VOLUNTEERING IN THE HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND
BE4 Ongoing
LOC CARR GOMM, CRAIGMILLAR COMMUNITY GROWS
PAY Accommodation / training provided
FOR SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE
Min one month, up to twelve months. Make new friends, improve your CV & have a great time at Creag Meagaidh National Nature Reserve. Volunteers should bring enthusiasm for the Nature of Scotland, a willingness to learn new skills & a good level of fitness would be an advantage. Exp not necessary. You will help with: variety of estate work including working with our livestock, sowing seeds for the field bird trail, fixing paths, woodland management; species & habitat monitoring which could include counting rare birds, trapping mink or pond dipping in the summer checking for invertebrates; talking to & helping visitors at the reserve; deer management. Check out YouTube to see what a previous volunteer says about Creag Meagaidh: http://c-js.co.uk/2orbxn. For more information or to apply email julia.colpus@nature.scot or volunteer@nature.scot

REF 1993-FOCUS-2/11
JOB ASSISTANT DATA MANAGER (WADER POPULATION DATA)
BE4 31/10/18
LOC EDINBURGH
PAY Training, expenses & networking FOR RSPB SCOTLAND
Keen ecologist required. Willing to improve their skills in GIS to collate and digitise Wader and other biodiversity data from RSPB Scotland Reserves. Would suit a full time volunteer for three months or longer, or one day a week on a long term basis. The role could potentially be diversified to support other work, including, developing the post beyond data collation to data analysis or collecting biological survey data for taxa other than birds on RSPB reserves in summer 2019. Contact Jeff Waddell, 07921 067976 jeff.waddell@rspb.org.uk

REF 1994-FOCUSR-2/11
JOB FORTH RESERVES VOLUNTEER ADMIN ASSISTANT
BE4 N / A
LOC RSPB SKINFATS RESERVE, FALKIRK
PAY Training and travel expenses provided if necessary FOR RSPB SCOTLAND
1-2 days per month. The Forth Reserves team is a small team who manage five reserves across Central Scotland. With limited staff time and an increasing amount of office work, we really need additional support to help run our office and therefore our reserves more efficiently. The main tasks will be data entry to update RSPB systems but may also include answering phones, dealing with deliveries, ordering stationary, filing, meeting prep, and other office based tasks. The Skinflats reserve office is not easily accessed by public transport, the nearest train station is 6 miles away and the nearest bus stop is 2 miles away. Having your own transport would be beneficial. See https://c-js.co.uk/2w5BFp for more info.

REF 1995-FOCUSR-2/11
JOB DATA PROCESSING VOLUNTEER
BE4 31/10/18
LOC Vogrie Country Park, Nr Gorebridge, Midlothian (EH23 4NU)
PAY Training and reasonable travel expenses FOR THE WILDLIFE INFORMATION CENTRE (TWIC)
Min 1 day a week (Monday - Friday). Due to our expansion into central Scotland, additional office volunteers are needed to support the processing of biological records for the TWIC area. Volunteers will be responsible for processing datasets from a variety of sources, including computerising Scottish Wildlife Trust's Local Wildlife Sites data for Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire. This is an excellent opportunity to gain exp working for an environmental charity. Applicants must be competent in using Excel, have an eye for detail and be able to work well as a part of a small team. An ecology related degree and a good knowledge of the UK flora or other species group would be an advantage. CVs should be sent to Natalie Harmsworth, Records Ecologist, natalie@wildlifeinformation.co.uk or phone 01875 825968 for a chat. You can download the job description and person specification on our website: https://c-js.co.uk/2LwlxR

REF 1996-FOCUS-19/10
JOB MEDIA ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY VOLUNTEER
BE4 19/10/18
LOC SCOTLAND (ANYWHERE WITH INTERNET)
PAY 0 FOR SCOTTISH BADGERS
We are looking for an enthusiastic individual to take responsibility for our media engagement strategy across all platforms. You will gain valuable exp in shaping the public perception of badgers in Scotland & subject to a trial period contributing as a member of our charity’s Advisory Group. We are looking for a volunteer with self-motivation & a proactive attitude, interest in the biology & ecology of badgers, exp of writing effectively for journalism, social media. Tasks will include: uploading photos, videos, relevant journals & articles with added comment or insight on all forms of social media; writing & placing articles on behalf of Scottish Badgers with newspapers & magazines for publication; contributing to the charity’s website with photos, videos, articles & upcoming events; producing monthly progress reports to the board of Trustees. Send CV & covering letter to secretary@scottishbadgers.org.uk. Chat: Elspeth Stirling, 07772 033382, estirlingbroch@icloud.com

REF 354-FOCUSR-OK3
JOB COMMUNITY GARDENING AND MAINTENANCE
BE4 Ongoing
LOC CRAIGMILLAR
PAY Training* & expenses FOR CARR GOMM, CRAIGMILLAR COMMUNITY GROWS
Options of different roles all in Craigmillar. Being part of a walking group on Tuesdays till September and then Thursdays with an elderly group 1-3, being part of one of many community gardens, helping to cook soup or make seats out of wood or working alongside others as a mentor. Also joining their management committees. Volunteering with a group gardening at the local community centre on a Monday 12.30 - 2. Volunteering at a community garden Wauchope community garden on a Wednesday 12 - 3. Volunteering at the library garden Wednesdays 10 - 12. Training in pruning, growing vegetables with others in the community, working in groups, expenses for bus fares paid. Contact Karin on 07824 838364 or at karinchipulina@carrgomm.org

Page 3
Any full day Monday to Thursday. We are looking for volunteers to work with our Reserves Project Officer based at Dundee to undertake a varied range of outdoor practical tasks on our nature reserves such as grassland, woodland & peat bog management. Travel from Dundee to the work sites & back is provided. You should be interested in the environment & carrying out physical work outdoors sometimes in poor weather. Willing to work as part of a team.

Contact Peter Gilbert pgilbert@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk for details.

We are seeking volunteers to join in with a range of practical conservation tasks and biological recording, including surveys. Based in Balloch Castle Country Park. Thursday 11 - 3. Lunch and refreshments and out of pocket expenses paid. No prior experience necessary as on the job training is provided. Contact: 07909 595283

wdc.greenspace@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Butterfly Conservation Scotland’s ‘Bog Squad’ runs regular bog restoration sessions with volunteers on peatland sites throughout central Scotland. Tasks usually include installing dams, clearing scrub and conducting peat depth surveys. More information is available on our blog http://bogsquad.weebly.com/ Get in touch with David Hill at peatproject@btconnect.com or on 01786 459813
The Importance of being a Trustee
By Kathy Wormald

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

Although the role of some trustees is wide and varied, it is also very interesting. Being a charity trustee gives people who wish to volunteer the opportunity to obtain inside knowledge on how charities operate, the challenges they face and the complexity of their funding streams. Trustees with

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<tr>
<th>There are regular Green Gyms (Wednesdays) and 5 Ways Well Green Gyms (Fridays) at University Hospital Ayr &amp; Ailsa. With a variety of practical conservation tasks (gardening, food growth, woodland management etc), and healthy walking educational activities. Find out more on <a href="https://c-js.co.uk/2NgMnsX">https://c-js.co.uk/2NgMnsX</a> or contact David on <a href="mailto:d.meechan@tcv.org.uk">d.meechan@tcv.org.uk</a></th>
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<tr>
<td>A nice walk on an iconic mountain in the National Park, with a spade. 19/9/18 - Cobbler path. 2/10/18 – Ben Lomond path. 19/10/18 - Ben A'an path. 20/10/18 - walking Ben Ledi path all days involve completing a “drainage run”. Be prepared for a physically active day in the mountains, with a long, steep walk &amp; manual labour. Free transport from Balloch. <a href="mailto:volunteering@themountainsandthepeople.org.uk">volunteering@themountainsandthepeople.org.uk</a></td>
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<td>3 &amp; 24/10/18 - a nice walk on an iconic mountain in the National Park, with a spade. We will be walking Loch Muick paths completing a “drainage run”. Be prepared for a physically active day in the mountains, with a long, steep walk and manual labour. Free transport from Braemar. <a href="mailto:volunteering@themountainsandthepeople.org.uk">volunteering@themountainsandthepeople.org.uk</a></td>
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<td>The Green Team are recruiting for Adult Volunteer Leaders (21+) to support their Green Volunteer Programme for young people aged 12 - 18yrs. If you enjoy the outdoors and working with young people, free at weekends and keen to join a like-minded team of enthusiastic people then please contact <a href="mailto:mandy@greenteam.org.uk">mandy@greenteam.org.uk</a> or 0131 3377227. Free training and expenses provided.</td>
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<td>Help with invasive species removal across Perthshire, Angus, Aberdeenshire, Moray &amp; Highland. Variety of volunteer opportunities; adopt a mink raft, treat invasive plants, conservation work days, survey work. In return we can offer training &amp; qualifications. No experience necessary Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI). More information: <a href="http://www.invasivespecies.scot">www.invasivespecies.scot</a> Email: <a href="mailto:sisi@nature.scot">sisi@nature.scot</a></td>
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<td>Friends of Eglinton – Every second Wednesdays and Saturday 9:30am – 12:30pm. Eglinton Country Park. Come along, meet new people, get active and feel great. Tools and training provided. Contact North Ayrshire Ranger Service on 01294 551776 or email <a href="mailto:joannejohnstone@north-ayrshire.gov.uk">joannejohnstone@north-ayrshire.gov.uk</a> for further information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roving Volunteers – Conservation volunteering, various days. Help support North Ayrshire Ranger Service by taking part in a variety of conservation tasks in and around North Ayrshire sites. No experience required, tools and training provided. Contact North Ayrshire Ranger Service on 01294 551776 or email <a href="mailto:graemewalla@north-ayrshire.gov.uk">graemewalla@north-ayrshire.gov.uk</a> for further information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A nice walk on an iconic mountain in the National Park, with a spade. 25/09/18 - walking the Mayar path or 26/9/18 - walking the Snub path. Completing a “drainage run”. Be prepared for a physically active day in the mountains, with a long, steep walk and manual labour. Free transport from Perth. <a href="mailto:volunteering@themountainsandthepeople.org.uk">volunteering@themountainsandthepeople.org.uk</a></td>
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<td>The research vessel Actinia run by FSC Millport’s capable crew is the ideal vessel for charter and research use in the Firth of Clyde and further afield, with expert equipment on board and room for 10 passengers. For more information call Alex MacFie on 01475 531 420 or email <a href="mailto:enquiries.ml@field-studies-council.org">enquiries.ml@field-studies-council.org</a></td>
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Two Trustees demonstrating shadow puppetry at an away day (Froglife)
specific expertise can give an enormous amount to a charity, most small charities do not have the resources to employ expertise in areas such as human resources, fundraising, IT or legal matters and help in these areas is incredibly valuable.

I am the CEO of The Froglife Trust, a wildlife conservation charity, with a specific focus on the conservation of reptiles and amphibians, and their habitats. It is not easy to garner support for these species, they are often viewed as uncharismatic and not liked, so it is really important for us that our trustees are knowledgeable about our species and committed to our cause. We have eight trustees on our board, three of these bring professional wildlife conservation and species specific expertise. However, because we are passionate about encouraging people from all walks of life to get involved in our work and most of our work is ‘on the ground’ taking direct action to conserve our species, our other trustees bring different experiences. We have trustees with creative arts, social services, business and engineering expertise. Engineering I hear you say, what has that got to do with wildlife conservation! Well quite a lot actually. We do a lot of building work such as building and installing dipping platforms, interpretation boards and boardwalks and some of our research requires engineering skills such as making frames for wildlife cameras, so this skill set is very useful to us. We also pride ourselves on reaching hard to reach communities through creative projects, our trustees that bring creative and social work expertise help us a lot in this field. Whilst trustees with business backgrounds help us with our trading company, financial, HR and other matters.

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

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

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

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

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

**Wales:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Knighton Tree Allotments Trust</th>
<th>Keep Wales Tidy run working</th>
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<tr>
<td>seeks volunteers to join its woodland conservation weekly workdays on alternating Thursdays and Sundays. We are a group who come together to learn woodland skills and manage woodlands for the benefit of wildlife and our members. For more information please see <a href="http://bit.ly/2kMTxLP">http://bit.ly/2kMTxLP</a> or email <a href="mailto:woodland@tveg.org.uk">woodland@tveg.org.uk</a></td>
<td>parties throughout the year &amp; tasks include litter picking, habitat management, footpath works, woodland management, Coastcare &amp; many more. Anyone who would like to volunteer should contact KWT on 029 20256767 or <a href="mailto:info@keepwalestidy.cymru">info@keepwalestidy.cymru</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wild Ground (formerly NEWWildlife) is a small charity with nature reserves across Wrexham, Flintshire and Denbighshire, which we look after for wildlife - especially the great crested newt. Join our Reserves Team for varied tasks across all of our reserves. Please email us on <a href="mailto:info@wild-ground.org.uk">info@wild-ground.org.uk</a> or call 01978 269568.</td>
<td>Restoring and caring for the woodland, wildlife and unique history of Penllergare Valley Woods. We have volunteer roles in woodland conservation, gardening, and helping in our Coffee Shop. If you would like to volunteer or make a donation, please visit our website (<a href="http://www.penllergare.org">www.penllergare.org</a>) or contact us directly at 01792 344224, <a href="mailto:contact@penllergare.org">contact@penllergare.org</a></td>
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**Volunteering opportunities on our new 'Get Active for Wildlife' project on our 40 acre nature reserve at Denmark Farm Conservation Centre, Lampeter, Ceredigion, SA48 7PN. We have volunteer taster days, work days and training days planned, so come and join us! For more information please contact Linda at linda@denmarkfarm.org.uk**

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<tr>
<th>REF</th>
<th>JOB</th>
<th>TRUSTEE</th>
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<tr>
<td>2000-FOCUSR-OK2</td>
<td>JOB TRUSTEE</td>
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<td>BE4</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>GWENT, SOUTH WALES</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAY</td>
<td>Training and expenses reimbursed</td>
<td>FOR GWENT WILDLIFE TRUST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approx 1 day per month. Do you have a passion for wildlife conservation and expertise in the field of ecology, environmental education or charity and business management? With a new 5-year strategic plan in development and significant investment being made in fundraising and project development, this is a particularly dynamic time to join Gwent Wildlife Trust's Council as a trustee. We'd particularly like to hear from anyone with a background in fundraising, charity finance, ecology or law. Visit <a href="http://www.gwentwildlife.org/jobs">www.gwentwildlife.org/jobs</a> or email <a href="mailto:info@gwentwildlife.org">info@gwentwildlife.org</a> for more info.</td>
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<tr>
<th>REF</th>
<th>JOB</th>
<th>FRIENDS OF FELIN - GREEN ACADEMIES PROJECT VOLUNTEER</th>
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<tr>
<td>2001-FOCUSR-2/11</td>
<td>JOB FRIENDS OF FELIN - GREEN ACADEMIES PROJECT VOLUNTEER</td>
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<td>BE4</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>ERDDIG, FELIN PULESTON OUTDOOR CENTRE</td>
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<td>PAY</td>
<td>Volunteer card</td>
<td>FOR NATIONAL TRUST - ERDDIG</td>
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<td>Would you like to work with nature and wildlife? Are you ready for some hands-on action? Are you 14 years or older? Become a Friend of Felin volunteer and help us look after our community garden, allotment and orchard. No previous experience required, we will help you grow the skills and experience to look after nature on your doorstep. We meet every 2nd Saturday of the month, from 10am to 3pm at Felin Puleston Outdoor Centre on the Erddig estate, Wrexham, LL13 7RF. The Green Academies Project supports young people and local communities to grow the skills and experience they need to look after nature on their doorstep. GAP is part of Our Bright Future, a £33m programme funded by the Big Lottery Fund. Contact: <a href="mailto:mieke.delathouwers@nationaltrust.org.uk">mieke.delathouwers@nationaltrust.org.uk</a>, 01978 356 223. Website: <a href="https://c-js.co.uk/2CrCTLj">https://c-js.co.uk/2CrCTLj</a>. Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/GreenAcademiesProjectNT/">www.facebook.com/GreenAcademiesProjectNT/</a>, <a href="http://www.facebook.com/ErddigNT">www.facebook.com/ErddigNT</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>REF</th>
<th>JOB</th>
<th>GUIDED WALK LEADER</th>
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<tr>
<td>2002-FOCUSR-OK3</td>
<td>JOB GUIDED WALK LEADER</td>
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<tr>
<td>BE4</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>NORTH WEST WALES</td>
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<td>PAY</td>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>FOR WOODLAND TRUST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your volunteering role will include planning, promotion and delivery of guided walks at our beautiful sites in North West Wales. Coed Cadw (the Woodland Trust in Wales) manages over 100 sites across Wales, a diverse mix of urban and rural woods. You will share your natural enthusiasm, people skills and passion for nature, history and stories to help us engage with visitors through the delivery of guided walks. You will deepen visitor awareness of the work of the Trust through leading people on group walks in a welcoming, safe and enjoyable way. You will be provided with regular support from your volunteer manager and you will be volunteering in conjunction with at least one other volunteer or Trust member of staff who will act as a back marker for you on the day of your guided walks. Visit <a href="https://c-js.co.uk/2o6g9q8">https://c-js.co.uk/2o6g9q8</a> for further information.</td>
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<th>REF</th>
<th>JOB</th>
<th>MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS</th>
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<tr>
<td>2003-FOCUSR-30/11</td>
<td>JOB MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS</td>
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<tr>
<td>BE4</td>
<td>30/11/18</td>
<td>RSPB NEWPORT WETLANDS VISITOR CENTRE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAY</td>
<td>Training and local travel expenses</td>
<td>FOR RSPB CYMRU</td>
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<td>1 day per week (Wednesdays or Saturdays). We have vacancies in our team of maintenance volunteers who look after the building and environs, ensuring that visitors have an enjoyable, engaging and safe experience whilst at the reserve. Duties include vegetation management, repairs, DIY tasks, litter picking etc. No previous experience required and relevant RSPB clothing, training and protective equipment supplied. Our reserve website is <a href="https://c-js.co.uk/2NXtJqB">https://c-js.co.uk/2NXtJqB</a>.</td>
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The Belfast Hills Partnership conservation volunteers meet on the last/second last Saturday morning each month to do a variety of practical conservation tasks throughout the Belfast Hills. The tasks suit a wide range of ages and abilities and no experience is necessary. For more information, visit: http://belfasthills.org/get-involved/volunteer/ or email lisa.critchley@belfasthills.org

CJS Volunteer Directory has details of the following throughout the year so if you are not looking at the moment remember to check back with us when you are at https://c-js.co.uk/CJSVolunteer

Voluntary Organisations
Volunteer Roles
Surveys & fieldwork opportunities
Apprenticeship & Intern roles
Becoming a livestock checker
By Sian Parry

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lucy Hiller

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

North East:

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<td>2008-FOCUSR-OK3</td>
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<td>2 or 3 days per week for a continuous 9 month period. The Voluntary River Steward will assist the RSC Landscape team to deliver a variety of waterway maintenance tasks and habitat improvements on Yorkshire’s waterways. The successful post holder will gain experience in tasks including: felling, coppicing and pollarding trees; planting trees, shrubs and other flora; habitat creation such as the erection of kingfisher perches and otter holts; invasive species control and litter and debris management within the river channel, banks and riverside footpaths. There will also be an opportunity to assist in the delivery of a variety of community engagement activities, such as running practical volunteer days, waterway-related and environmental workshops in schools and guided walks. Contact Sarah Emberson <a href="mailto:sarah.emberson@the-rsc.co.uk">sarah.emberson@the-rsc.co.uk</a></td>
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REF 2009-FOCUS-OK3 | VOLUNTARY RIVER STEWARD | SHEFFIELD | Training / uniform / expenses FOR RIVER STEWARDSHIP COMPANY | 2 or 3 days per week for a continuous 9 month period. The Voluntary River Steward will assist the RSC Landscape team to deliver a variety of waterway maintenance tasks and habitat improvements on Yorkshire’s waterways. The successful post holder will gain experience in tasks including: felling, coppicing and pollarding trees; planting trees, shrubs and other flora; habitat creation such as the erection of kingfisher perches and otter holts; invasive species control and litter and debris management within the river channel, banks and riverside footpaths. There will also be an opportunity to assist in the delivery of a variety of community engagement activities, such as running practical volunteer days, waterway-related and environmental workshops in schools and guided walks. Contact Sarah Emberson sarah.emberson@the-rsc.co.uk |
Looking to get a unique high quality experience in all aspects of reserve management? This is a great opportunity to gain some fantastic experience working in all aspects of conservation, with relevant training provided as required. During your placement, you will become a full member of the reserve teams, gaining invaluable experience in both practical management and visitor and people engagement, learning how to manage an RSPB reserve, and working with a dedicated team of staff and volunteers. Specialist knowledge is not necessary, but an enthusiasm for wildlife and an interest in conservation is. You must be happy working outdoors in all weathers and confident talking to visitors. Time Commitment: 6 or 12 months. Our internships are designed to offer work experience and doing an internship does not guarantee future employment with the RSPB. For more information and to apply please contact Sara Macias Rodriguez, Blacktoft Sands, Tel: 01405 704665 email: sara.maciasrodriguez@rspb.org.uk

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

3 days a week on a 12 month placement. Our East Reserves Team working across the Vale of York & into East Yorkshire are looking for a passionate individual to join the team to assist staff to undertake practical land management tasks, assist with the delivery of volunteer task days & help with reserve administrative management. You will learn about the management of some of our most beautiful nature reserves giving you a broad range of practical & administrative skills across different habitats & further protecting Yorkshire’s wildlife. From our first nature reserve Askham Bog with its mosaic of fen, woodland & meadow through to an SSSI located on the cliffs at Flamborough, you’ll be working with a broad range of habitats & associated fauna & flora. To apply for this role please contact: volunteering@ywt.org.uk or visit https://c-jobs.com/2Nhji4L
Discover beautiful woodlands around Prudhoe with Land of Oak & Iron and Friends of Prudhoe Woods. Join our friendly volunteer group & take part in woodland management tasks every Tuesday & Thursday, no experience necessary, wear outdoor clothes & bring a packed lunch. Peter Binns 07922 105403 peter.binns.57@gmail.com www.landofoakandiron.org.uk

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

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

**Exciting volunteering opportunities**

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

**Join our practical conservation volunteer**

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

**Discover beautiful woodlands**

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

**Help Barnsley's wildlife!**

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

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

**St Nicks is a 24-acre nature reserve**

in York. Supporting over 860 species, our site boasts beautiful views and amazing wildlife sightings. Volunteering with us is a great way of gaining practical conservation experience, identification skills or just meeting new people so why not get in touch and get involved? volunteer@stnicks.org.uk https://stnicks.org.uk/

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**North West:**

**REF 2021-FOCUS-OK3**

**BE4**

**N/A**

**PAY**

Training / expenses

**FOR**

LANCASHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

MYPLACE ECOTHERAPY VOLUNTEER

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

**REF 400-FOCUSR-OK3**

**BE4**

N / A

**PAY**

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**FOR**

MERE BROW FARM LTD

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

**REF 2022-FOCUS-21/9**

**BE4**

23/9/18

**PAY**

Training and expenses

**FOR**

RSPB

ASSISTANT WARDEN VOLUNTEER INTERNSHIP

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

**REF 2023-FOCUSR-OK3**

**BE4**

Ongoing

**PAY**

Travel expenses

**FOR**

The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES VOLUNTEERS

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

*Free parking, restaurant & shop discount, 20% discount at Cotswold Outdoors, induction programme. Go the www.brockholes.org to find out more
Merseyside National Trust Environmental Volunteers work at National Trust sites in Merseyside and nearby on Sundays about fortnightly, e.g. hedge and tree planting, woodland, heath and footpath maintenance, coastline conservation. Previous experience unnecessary, tools provided, friendly welcome. Under 16 must be accompanied by adult. Contact John at 0151 6779664, jmh@noc.ac.uk

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help in the delivery of our Fylde Sand Dunes Management Project. If you love the coast, are passionate about your local area and keen to make a difference please contact us on volunteer@lancswt.org.uk 01772 318374 or alternatively register online at: www.lancswt.org.uk/volunteer

Sunday conservation volunteer on National Trust properties in South Manchester. 9.30am- 3.30pm. Outdoor conservation work eg cutting down and burning rhododendrons, building/repairing footpaths and fences, clearing ponds, hedgelaying, planting cotton grass, maintaining woodland and heathland. Tools are provided, training is given prior to starting work. Contact: Sue 0161 2866542, info@mntv.org.uk

Monitoring opportunities are available at our Ainsdale sand dunes, Cabin Hill and Ribble estuary NNR’s - these include monthly wetland bird surveys, invasive species monitoring, butterfly survey and breeding bird surveys. A basic knowledge of your chosen species is preferable but training/monitoring can be provided. For further information please contact volunteerenquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

Volunteers are required for weekly habitat management work days at our Ainsdale sand dunes and Cabin Hill NNR’s. Tasks include scrub clearance, tree planting, fencing, livestock checks and wildlife recording. Some tasks can be physically demanding so a reasonable level of fitness is required. For further information please contact volunteerenquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

The National Trust has a variety of roles in ranger and footpath work, conservation and learning projects across various places in the North West. Help us to care for some of Britain’s most stunning and vulnerable landscapes. To find out more, please visit our website: https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteer
Do you live in Cumbria, near the coast and have an interest in herpetology? Do you fancy joining our wonderful team of volunteers to help the endangered natterjack toad by becoming a dedicated monitor? We would love to hear from you! For more information & contact https://www.arc-trust.org/natterjacks-in-cumbria

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

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

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

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

How volunteering got me the job
By Beth Aucott, Warden for the RSPB

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

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

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

As well as providing me with relevant skills and knowledge, volunteering gave me a chance to see what practical conservation work really entailed. It varied greatly but things such as sinking thigh deep in a bog with a brush cutter, being scratched to bits by
I was lucky that I loved the practical element right from the start. Over my time with the Trust we had a few other people that would join for a session and realise that the practical element wasn’t for them. Volunteering is a good way to experience different parts of the sector and work out what you like. Most of my time was spent out on the reserves but I also had a chance to dip my feet into the world of education work and get involved with a couple of surveys. Those weren’t paths that I wanted to pursue but it gave me a glimpse into how they work.

After a year with Staffs WT the only things holding me back from getting a job was my lack of qualifications for using machinery such as brush-cutters and chainsaws. I managed to fill this gap by getting a place on the Wildlife Skills programme – a series of traineeships funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and hosted by a number of Wildlife Trusts in the South West. I spent a year with Somerset Wildlife Trust working with the Mendips reserve team, gaining more reserves experience and picking up an array of qualifications. In my feedback from my interview I was told that one of the reasons I was offered the position was that I knew what I wanted to do in future and recognised how the traineeship would help me achieve that. That aim and knowledge came from my volunteering experience; it had shown me a career path that I loved and made me aware of what I needed to do to start to walk that path.

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

beth.aucott@rspb.org.uk

**Midlands:**

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

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

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

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

**The Silverstone Woodlands Volunteers Group** improves the woodlands by taking part in activities which help trees and wildlife. It’s a great way to learn new skills and knowledge, keep fit and meet new friends. Meet on second Sunday and fourth Tuesday, 10am - 2pm. We have breaks for tea and biscuits! Call 01604 863830 or email brian.pollard@forestry.gov.uk
**Volunteer at Brixworth Country Park** on the third Saturday of each month to assist with practical conservation and park management jobs. Tools and training provided by rangers on the day, and some refreshments. Wear appropriate clothing, and bring a lunch if you stay all day. 10am - 4pm. Contact Debbie Samwell 0300 126 5932, brixworth@northamptonshire.gov.uk

**Groundwork Greater Nottingham**

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

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

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

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There is no other organisation like the Woodland Trust and we believe our volunteers are like no other too! If you would like to put your office administration experience to good use, we would like to hear from you. This role is to support the Conservation and External Affairs (CEA) Department with general administration duties, including data input and website research. The CEA Department is responsible for the campaigning and conservation work the Trust undertakes, including work to influence policy and action at national and local government levels. Your volunteering role will be based in our friendly office in Grantham. Visit https://cjs-jobs.co.uk/2Lm5aSz for further information.

**Markets & External Affairs Volunteer**

**BE4**

**LOC** GRANTHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE

**PAY** Expenses

**FOR** WOODLAND TRUST

Half a day to a full day per week, depending on workload. Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Partnership are looking for a Marketing Assistant. This volunteer role is a great opportunity for anyone who is looking for work experience in social media management, communication or marketing. You will be helping our team to manage our social media presence, events and update our website with latest news stories. If you would like to apply for this role, please contact the warden Simon on 01652 634507 or farings@linctrust.co.uk

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**Hydrological Monitoring Volunteer**

**BE3**

**LOC** HAMS HALL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE

**PAY** Full training and guidance

**FOR** WARWICKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

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

**Pay & Conditions**

- **Salary:** N/A
- **Hours:** 2+ days per week
- **Training Provided:** Full training provided for trainees
- **Benefits:** Travel expenses

**Volunteer Roles**

- **Conservation Volunteers**
  - Data archiving
  - Data entry
  - Mapping
  - Contact: Mariya Tarnavska, 01926 412471 wbro@warwickshire.gov.uk

- **The Dunsmore Living Landscape scheme**
  - Run by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
  - Aims to link up Warwickshire's ancient woodlands, hedgerows, grasslands and ponds, and reconnect people with their local wild places.
  - We work on nature reserves, farms and country parks throughout the Living Landscape area. Join us to get stuck in with practical habitat management, fencing, habitat management and some monitoring works. Protective clothing & in-house training provided.
  - The role is open to anyone over the age of 18 who is physically fit & prepared to work outdoors. Apply with David Tompkins, Volunteer coordinator david.tompkins@naturalengland.org.uk 01948 880362 or visit https://c-js.co.uk/2LMg/S1

- **Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project Warden**
  - Great opportunity to assist with the restoration of part of Britain's 3rd largest lowland raised peat bog as part of the Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project. The NNR is 690ha & straddles the English / Welsh border, 4 miles from Whitchurch, Shropshire & 10 miles from Wrexham.
  - Volunteer work parties take place every Thursday, tasks carried out include estate management, fencing, habitat management and some monitoring works. Protective clothing & in-house training provided.
  - The role is open to anyone over the age of 18 who is physically fit & prepared to work outdoors. Contact Rae or Sadie or contact craig.cooper@nationaltrust.org.uk for more information.

- **Brockhampton Estate Wildlife Surveyor**
  - Surveys, butterfly transects and a wide variety of other wildlife and habitat monitoring programmes.
  - Training and development for biological recording & mapping software (Recorder 6 & QGIS), botanical nomenclature & identification. Skills: interest in botany & nature conservation; familiarity with biological recording & botanical scientific names advantageous; willingness to interpret handwritten notes & to use & develop IT skills; degree in botany or ecology advantageous.
  - Contact: Craig Cooper, craig.cooper@nationaltrust.org.uk

- **Worcestershire Wildlife Trust Events & Engagement Volunteers**
  - We're looking for friendly, engaging people to get involved and join our team!
  - We run a series of public engagement events and activities at Lower Smite Farm and in public parks and greenspaces throughout Worcestershire across the year. From family activities to county shows, these are the perfect opportunities to engage and enthuse children and adults with the environment and wildlife conservation.
  - You will assist with these public events and activities alongside Wildlife Trust members of staff and other volunteers. The tasks vary with the types of events but may include: engaging children and adults in outdoor, wildlife-themed activities such as walks, talks, bug hunts, pond dipping, crafts, games etc.; being an ambassador for our work; helping with set up and pack down at events; selling raffle tickets. Learn new skills alongside our experienced team. Time commitment is variable – you decide. Contact Rae or Sadie activities@worcestershirewildlifetrust.org or 01905 754919.
## Anglia:

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

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

**Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB**

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

**Beachwatch and the Great British Beach Clean** is the Marine Conservation Society's national beach cleaning and litter surveying programme. Our marine wildlife and environment is under threat from litter and pollution. Join an existing Suffolk team or establish your own! Contact Lynn Allen at Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB, 01394 445225 or lynn.allen@suffolk.gov.uk

## Free Outdoor Activity Instructor Training Program

**FREE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY INSTRUCTOR TRAINING PROGRAM**

**BE4** N / A LOC STAFFORDSHIRE, SHROPSHIRE & NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

**PAY** £200 per month spending money, training, accommodation & food FOR ACUK

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

**REF 1712-FOCUSR-O1** JOB **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT VOLUNTEERS**

**BE4** N / A LOC HINDLUP, WORCESTER & nearby nature reserves

**PAY** Learn new skills FOR WORCESTERSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

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

**REF 998-FOCUSR-O3** JOB **DRAGONFLY CENTRE VOLUNTEER**

**BE4** Ongoing LOC Wicken Fen Dragonfly Centre, Lode Lane, Wicken, Ely, CB7 5XP

**PAY** Training FOR BRITISH DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

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

**REF 2041-FOCUSR-O3** JOB **INDEPENDENT EVENTS TEAM VOLUNTEER**

**BE4** N / A LOC ACROSS NORFOLK

**PAY** Training and expenses FOR NORFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST

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

**REF 2042-FOCUSR-12/10** JOB **GREAT FEN VOLUNTARY OFFICER**

**BE4** 12/10/18 LOC GREAT FEN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

**PAY** Training* FOR THE WILDLIFE TRUST BCN

4 days a week for 12 months. Gain knowledge and experience in conservation activities from autumn, winter, spring and summer in the Great Fen, one of the most important habitat restoration projects in Europe. Half of your time spent in...
Some long term residential volunteering opportunities include an element of professional training. The training offered is always role relevant, needs led and location dependent.

Do you have people who’ve completed residential volunteering that have then become employees either with RSPB or other similar organisations? Yes, we have a good track record of long term volunteering and our internships leading to employment in the conservation sector as a whole, not just with the RSPB. Many long term volunteers and interns are now our wardens and site managers having started their conservation journey as a volunteer.

Volunteer at Rathlin West Light Seabird Centre, Rathlin Island, County Antrim (RSPB)
If I find that the placement doesn’t suit me or I discover a new found passion for a different area (e.g. moving from practical countryside management into environmental education) can I change direction / placements or do I need to finish the placement or perhaps leave and reapply?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Anecdotally we know that some work in advance of applying to save up to support themselves, some claim benefit and some do find part time jobs. However, residential volunteering is full time 5 days a week, and not necessarily Mon – Fri 9 to 5. It can involve an element of weekend working and late starts/early finishes for which time off is given in lieu. We have a duty of care to ensure our volunteers do not overstretch themselves.

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

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

To find out more about volunteering check out www.rspb.org.uk/residentialvolunteering

Over the page we hear from a previous RSPB Volunteer who got the job. Jeff Knot is now the Regional Director for RSPB Eastern England.
Jeff Knott, the region's new director, says hello!

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

South:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Assistant Ranger Volunteers at National Trust’s** Morden Hall Park, Morden Hall Rd, Morden, SM4 5JD Flexible days and times (18+). We need people that have a passion for being outdoors and want to encourage young people to share that passion. You will have a hands-on role. Please book on 0208 5456850 https://c-js.co.uk/2NnAfdK
**Hounslow Heath Green Gym** is a volunteer led Green Gym located in the heart of Hounslow, this incredible nature reserve containing a mix of rare acid grassland, heath, woodland, wildflower meadows and wetlands. Join like-minded people to care for Hounslow Heath every Tuesday 10.45am – 2pm. Contact details: hounslowheathgg@outlook.com

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

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

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

Contact volunteer.london@field-studies-council.org

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

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

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

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

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

Contact: julia.rolf@greenacresgroup.co.uk

**Volunteering opportunities at Abberton Reservoir** including teatoom, visitor centre, education, events, reserves. Join our team; meet like-minded people and help local wildlife. No experience needed. Email abberton@essexwt.org.uk or call 01268 738172.

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

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

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

**Support FSC Epping Forest** to engage schools, adults & families with the environment. Give as much or as little time as you can. Our roles can be tailored to your skills, interest and circumstances. Current roles: Education Support volunteer and Grounds volunteer.

Contact volunteer.el@field-studies-council.org

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


**Richmond Green Gym** is a unique and free opportunity for local people to get involved in transforming Mereway Nature Park and Orchard for the benefit of wildlife and the local community. Join in the group every Wednesday 10.45 - 2pm for practical conservation activities. Contact details gg-richmond@tcv.org.uk
Enjoy seasonal scrub clearance, path maintenance, woodland management, signage making (carpentry in our Hortony Country Park workshop) & pond restoration task days with our great conservation crew. Task days run Tues, Weds and Thurs in North Surrey & Kingston areas. Info: www.lowermoleproject.org.uk; Lower Mole Partnership Facebook; Twitter @ExploreSurreyUK; call 01372 743783.

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

The Horniman Museum and Gardens welcomes a wide range of people, including many young families, each year. We are currently recruiting volunteers for a new Gardening Group for Summer 2018. The Group will meet one Wednesday per month (9.30-12.30pm). Ideally, we are looking for individuals who are able to commit for a minimum period of 6 months and attend at least 3-4 sessions each 6 month period. It’s a great way to get outside, meet new people and support the museum, focusing on a range of tasks in the Horniman Gardens under the supervision of our horticulturalists and gardeners. Volunteers should be aged 18 and over for this opportunity. Group meets around the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Please note that you will be required to attend a taster session first to find out more about the role and for us to meet you. To find out more and apply, either: visit our website for information & application forms. To find out more about the role and for us to meet you. To find out more and apply, either: visit our website

The Stour Estuary Reserve is an important nature reserve and the only one of its kind in Surrey. It is an important habitat for many species of plants and animals, including rare and endangered ones. Volunteers are needed to help with the reserve's conservation work, which includes scrub clearance, path maintenance, and pond restoration. Contact Clare Westley stourestuary@rspb.org.uk for more information.

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

**2049-FOCUSR-OK2**  **JOE**  **ROADSIDE NATURE RESERVES VOLUNTEER WARDENS**

**BE4**  **N/A**  **LOC**  **DOVER, SWALE, MEDWAY & MORE**

**PAY**  **Training**  **FOR**  **KENT WILDLIFE TRUST**

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

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**2050-FOCUSR-19/10**  **JOB**  **THATCHAM COMMUNITY ORCHARD VOLUNTEER**

**BE4**  **18/10/18**  **LOC**  **NATURE DISCOVERY CENTRE, NEAR NEWBURY**

**PAY**  **Limited expenses**  **FOR**  **BERKSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE & OXFORDSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST**

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

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**2051-FOCUSR-19/10**  **JOB**  **TEEN RANGERS ASSISTANT**

**BE4**  **18/10/18**  **LOC**  **NATURE DISCOVERY CENTRE, NEAR NEWBURY**

**PAY**  **Limited expenses**  **FOR**  **BERKSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE & OXFORDSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST**

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

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**2052-FOCUSR-2/11**  **JOB**  **RSPB STOUR WOOD PATROL VOLUNTEERS**

**BE4**  **N/A**  **LOC**  **RSPB STOUR WOOD RESERVE**

**PAY**  **Travel expenses**  **FOR**  **RSPB**

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

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**2053-FOCUSR-OK2**  **JOB**  **BUZZING BEE ROAD VOLUNTEERS**

**BE4**  **N / A**  **LOC**  **SWALE, KENT**

**PAY**  **Training / reasonable expenses**  **FOR**  **KENT WILDLIFE TRUST**

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

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**2054-FOCUSR-2/11**  **JOB**  **GREEN ACADEMIES PROMOTER VOLUNTEER**

**BE4**  **?**  **LOC**  **Morden Hall Park, Morden Hall Rd, Morden, SM4 SJD**

**PAY**  **0**  **FOR**  **NATIONAL TRUST**

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

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**2055-FOCUSR-OK3**  **JOB**  **ANIMAL CARE ASSISTANT**

**BE4**  **Ongoing**  **LOC**  **ORSETT ESSEX**

**PAY**  **Invaluable experience**  **FOR**  **SOUTH ESSEX WILDLIFE HOSPITAL**

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

For Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust

Two weekends per week; can be flexible to fit around your life. Last year, BBOWT secured the future for a magical area of farmland alongside the Thames in Oxfordshire. We could only do this with generous donations from individuals and organisations. Assisting our fundraising team to research potential donors or apply for funding, you can help ensure that we have the money needed to protect wildlife in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. If you enjoy a bit of detective work, feel confident about approaching donors and would love to spend time meeting people at some of our glorious reserves, then this could be the opportunity for you! You will be part of a friendly team, learning about fundraising within a wildlife charity. Access to free meetings, events and training for volunteers. For more information contact fundraising@bbowt.org.uk

**London Local Volunteer Coordinator**

For Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust

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

**Volunteer Field Officer – Countryside Management & Conservation**

For Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust

First aid training & other training as required, expenses paid. For Kent High Weald Partnership 6 months from October 2018 until March 2019 (Wed &/or Thursday) Pos some Saturdays. You'll be working alongside members of our permanent staff team to support delivering scheduled tasks. We are looking for someone with an interest in and passion for, conservation, working as a team, enthusiasm for developing practical skills. You'll need to be physically fit, have a flexible approach and willing to use your initiative. In return we can provide a great opportunity for some practical and diverse work experience within a team of dedicated professionals who love what we do! We'll provide an induction, first aid and vocational training and the chance to develop hands-on skills. We'll also provide you with a uniform and PPE. This is an unpaid role but we are able to reimburse reasonable travel expenses. For more information about us please check www.khwp.org.uk or call 01580 212972 Please send an email to info@khwp.org.uk telling us why you’d like to join our team.

**Volunteer Community Fundraising Champion**

For Berkshire, Buckinghamshire or Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust

Flexible! Give as much or as little time as you can spare. We know that a personal touch goes a long way in persuading people to get involved in causes that are close to their hearts, either through cash donations or getting more actively involved. Get to know your local neighbourhood and use your approachable personality to find locations for collection tins, set up fundraising events or attend local meetings. If you can travel around your local area and would like to bring people together to raise funds for wildlife then we would love to hear from you. You will be part of a friendly team, inspiring people to look after wildlife in your local area and gaining valuable fundraising experience. Access to free meetings, events and training for volunteers. BBOWT works to secure a better future for wildlife in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. For more information about the role contact fundraising@bbowt.org.uk

**School Outreach Session Leader Volunteer**

For RSPB

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

**Volunteer Coordinator**

For Hampshire, Norreys - Outside Newbury

One day a week. You will: assist in recruiting new volunteers; carry out reference checks and interviews for volunteers; assist with volunteer inductions; authorise volunteer expenses; assist in the management of group volunteering tasks
and activities; support TLR’s volunteers and ensuring they are celebrated and recognised in their roles; ensure all volunteers are able to feedback their experiences regularly; create and update volunteering documents and databases to ensure they are current and follow good practice guidelines; develop plans to thank volunteers for their continued help.
Contact: Rupert West, 01635 202444, enquiries@livingrainforest.org

**JOB** 2063-FOCUSR-2/11
**BE4** Ongoing
**PAY** Training / clothing / equipment
**LOC** FSC EPPING FOREST

We are looking for regular volunteers to assist our education team who deliver activities and courses to schools, uniform groups and our holiday activities. You will use your natural enthusiasm, and your passion for nature to help inspire children, and accompanying adults that visit us. Example activities include pond dipping, mini-beast hunts and river studies. Friendly & enjoy working with young people; enthusiastic about being outdoors and exploring and learning about the natural world. Contact volunteer.elf@field-studies-council.org
https://cjs.co.uk/2CvTy0b

**JOB** 2064-FOCUS-2/11
**BE4** Ongoing
**PAY** Training / clothing / equipment
**LOC** FSC EPPING FOREST

Min 3 days a week, term time. We are looking for a volunteer to assist our education team who deliver activities and courses to schools, uniform groups and our holiday activities. You will use your natural enthusiasm, and your passion for nature to help inspire children, and accompanying adults that visit us. Example activities include pond dipping, mini-beast hunts and river studies. Friendly & enjoy working with young people; enthusiastic about being outdoors and exploring and learning about the natural world. This placement role is a great opportunity to develop your skills & experience as part of our team. For further information visit https://cjs.co.uk/2CvxBOY

**JOB** 2065-FOCUSR-2/11
**BE4** N / A
**PAY** Training / clothing / equipment
**LOC** FSC LONDON

Min 12 days a year. We are looking for regular volunteers to assist our education team who deliver activities and courses to schools, uniform groups and our holiday activities. You will use your natural enthusiasm, and your passion for nature to help inspire children, and accompanying adults that visit us. Example activities include pond dipping, mini-beast hunts and river studies. Friendly & enjoy working with young people; enthusiastic about being outdoors and exploring and learning about the natural world. Flexible opportunities available throughout the year. Contact volunteer.london@field-studies-council.org or visit https://cjs.co.uk/2CvTy0b

**JOB** 2066-FOCUSR-2/11
**BE4** N / A
**PAY** Training
**LOC** STAUTON COUNTRY PARK, MIDDLE PARK WAY, HAVANT

The Park has different types of habitats including woodland, grassland, streams & a pond so there are always plenty of conservation tasks to do in managing the site for wildlife & visitors. Throughout a typical year the conservation tasks could include: coppicing, woodland management & dead hedge laying & scrub management; installing & maintaining gates, fences, signs & benches; keeping footpaths accessible by clearing overgrowing vegetation & maintaining the surface; wildlife surveying & monitoring. No specific skills are needed for this role although most of the work is based on uneven terrain. No previous experience is needed as any tasks & use of hand tools will be demonstrated by the Countryside Rangers. Please apply at https://cjs.co.uk/2Nowzzr or contact Liza Smith Tel: 023 9245 3405 liza.smith@hants.gov.uk

**JOB** 2067-FOCUS-28/9
**BE4** 29/9/18
**PAY** Expenses* 22.5 hpw including some weekend and bank holiday working. Help our garden team to maintain and enhance the 30 acre Edwardian garden and current projects. *Out-of-pocket travel costs (up to 90 miles petrol or £30 public transport per day) between home and volunteering place will be paid as well as a lunch allowance. Apply pvolunteering@nationaltrust.org.uk

**JOB** 2068-FOCUSR-28-12
**BE4** N / A
**PAY** Full training provided
**LOC** BEDGEbury PINETUM, GOUDHRUST, KENT

A new & exciting opportunity has arisen to be part of a small team undertaking practical work in Bedgebury Pinetum, an internationally renowned conifer collection. Work includes clearing scrub & weeds around specimen trees. Exp of working in a horticultural or arboriculture environment is desired, & you need to be a keen team player with a positive & friendly outlook. A commitment is required to work Thursdays, 10:00 - 15:00, throughout term time & some holidays. Full training is provided as well as the opportunity to partake in other volunteer events at Bedgebury such as annual picnics, awaydays & Thank You Barbecue. Free pass to Bedgebury Pinetum after seven sessions. Email liz.randall@forestryengland.uk for more details.

**JOB** 2069-FOCUSR-OK3
**BE4** N / A
**PAY** Some internal training
**LOC** HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS

Weekly, monthly, yearly - the choice is yours! Longer term placements are available. Come and join our award-winning Ranger team. Have fun outside and gain new skills whilst learning about the management of woodland, chalk grassland and chalk streams. Feel the benefit of being in the outdoors surrounded by nature – we make a good cup of tea too. No experience required. Applicants must be 16 or over. Contact steph@chilternrangers.co.uk for more information.
**CJS Focus on Volunteering**

**ASSISTANT TO SCIENCE OFFICER**

**REF** 2070-FOCUS-2/11  
**BE4**  
**PAY** To be discussed

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

**science@themammalsociety.org**

**JOB** UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX, FALMER, BRIGHTON

**FOR** THE MAMMAL SOCIETY

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**VOLUNTEER EVENTS AND GUIDED WALK ASSISTANTS**

**REF** 700-FOCUSR-OK3  
**BE4** Ongoing  
**PAY** Travel / expenses  

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

**JOB** FARNHAM & HAZELEY HEATH RSPB RESERVES

**FOR** RSPB

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**OUR PAST, OUR FUTURE VOLUNTEER**

**REF** 2071-FOCUS-OK3  
**BE4** N/A  
**PAY** Travel & lunch expenses / some training  

The Our Past, Our Future Landscape Partnership Scheme volunteers can take part in archaeological digs, botanical surveys, digitising historical documents, recording the history of commoning, clearing invasive plants, monitoring water quality & much more. The range of activities are supported by 11 different partners to inspire a new generation to champion & care for the New Forest. Volunteers can give as much time as they would like. No previous experience or qualifications required, just a desire & passion to learn about, improve & enjoy the New Forest National Park. Contact Richard Austin, richard.austin@newforestnpa.gov.uk for more details.

**JOB** NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK

**FOR** THE SOUTH LONDON BOTANICAL INSTITUTE

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**ASSISTANT TO SCIENCE OFFICER**

**REF** 431-FOCUSR-OK3  
**BE4** N / A  
**PAY** Travel expenses

The Assistant to Science Officer will assist the Science Officer with the administration of the project, including the preparation of budgets, financial reports and the maintenance of accurate records. The role will also involve the management of volunteers and the organisation of events. The successful candidate will have excellent organisational skills and the ability to work as part of a team. For further details please contact info@slbi.org.uk or tel. 02086745787.

**JOB** SOUTH LONDON BOTANICAL INSTITUTE

**FOR** SOUTH LONDON BOTANICAL INSTITUTE

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**SCHOOLS LEARNING ASSISTANT VOLUNTEER**

**REF** 2072-FOCUS-2/11  
**BE4** 31/10/18  
**PAY** 0

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

**JOB** MORDEN HALL PARK, LONDON

**FOR** NATIONAL TRUST

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**TREASURER**

**REF** 433-FOCUSR-OK3  
**BE4** N / A  
**PAY** Work experience  

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

**JOB** ESSEX

**FOR** THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

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**UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX, FALMER, BRIGHTON**

**JOB** UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX, FALMER, BRIGHTON

**FOR** THE MAMMAL SOCIETY

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**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**JOB** NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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**SOUTH LONDON BOTANICAL INSTITUTE**

**JOB** SOUTH LONDON BOTANICAL INSTITUTE

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**TREASURER**

**JOB** SOUTH LONDON BOTANICAL INSTITUTE

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**THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS**

**JOB** THE SUSTAINABLE LIVING INITIATIVE

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**THE MAMMAL SOCIETY**

**JOB** THE MAMMAL SOCIETY

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**NATIONAL TRUST**

**JOB** NATIONAL TRUST
Monday mornings during school term times. Help to lead an innovative programme of weekly activities for children aged from 18 months to 4 years and their parents/carers. Set up for sessions, using and maintaining resources and equipment appropriately, and ensuring that it is returned to its proper storage place after use. Monitor the quality of the work through evaluation and informal feedback. Manage the daily finance of the activities including taking money, recording and following financial procedures. Work with the Learning Assistant and the rest of the team to ensure that all sessions are adequately resourced and staffed in advance. Act as a good ambassador for the National Trust, providing a warm, friendly welcome to all visitors.

We are looking to ground truth a previously completed desktop study of historic hedgerows. The project will be using the "Hedgerow Survey Handbook" which is a nationally agreed methodology for recording the wildlife and cultural significance of hedgerows. For further information please contact the Learning Assistant for more details at mordenhallparklearning@nationaltrust.org.uk

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

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

Please apply online: www.wildlifeaid.org.uk/volunteer
Citizen Science: A Speedy Way to Support Wildlife and your Career?
Dr Poppy Lakeman Fraser, OPAL Senior Programme Coordinator

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

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

One such programme that works across the science-learning spectrum to connect people, science and nature is the Open Air Laboratories (OPAL)\(^7\). With OPAL you can take part in national surveys to monitor soil, water and air quality, track invasive species distribution, or record the impact that your habitat changes are having on populations under threat.

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

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

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

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

“With clear instructions and wonderfully resourced packs, OPAL enables the non-specialist to monitor the natural environment in their school grounds or local green space. We began by improving bumblebee nectar sources and then through the Polli:Nation Survey, we realised the lack of butterfly and solitary bee sightings in the school grounds. Repeating the survey (after making the changes) and observing the increased biodiversity gave pupils a sense of empowerment. Armed with the evidence that, although small, they had
brought about positive change, ignited the Polli:Promise campaign. Working together on citizen science projects and campaigns, has made science relevant and developed our critical thinking. By directly learning about the state of the environment, it has, through the power of collaboration, brought about real-life change for pollinators and people.”

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

“Working with and for OPAL has moulded me as a young professional. From the very beginning Iwan gave me a lot of respect and trust. This gave me the confidence to carry out surveys and motivated me to want to teach people about the nature directly around them. After a few years I became an OPAL Champion. In turn, I started to do better on my BSc Wildlife and Plant Biology course. Within a few months of finishing my masters I was lucky enough to become an OPAL Officer for the National History Museum Wales. I worked closely with the wider OPAL organisation to create a CPD course for teachers and a course for University students. The lessons I have learnt through OPAL are priceless and I will use them forever in my professional life. I have now started my dream job as an ecologist and I don’t think I would have got here without my years of OPAL experience.”

Get involved
- Why not spend an hour monitoring wildlife and planting pollinator food sources in your local green space by taking part in the OPAL Polli:Nation Survey². Butterfly Conservation and Imperial College London will be analysing results this Winter and need you to help out!
- Why not also checkout online tools such as the OPAL Data Explorer³, where interactive maps and graphs allow you to explore your local patch and compare your survey findings with those of other sites around the UK.
- Why not share your ideas about ways in which science could be made more accessible for you. The NERC funded OPENER project⁴ run by the University of Reading is building a community of practice around citizen science and welcomes your thoughts.

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

South West:

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6 to 12 months. As a member of the ranger team on the stunning 12,500 acre Holnicote Estate you will gain experience in a huge variety of practical conservation skills working on high moorland, in ancient oak woodlands and on coastal habitats. You will also assist with the co-ordination and management of local volunteers, help deliver events and various wildlife surveys including dormice, bats and butterflies. We pride ourselves on providing a first class volunteer ranger experience, offering comprehensive structured learning throughout the year. To apply please email robert.manicom@nationaltrust.org.uk with your CV and covering letter.
We carry out a variety of projects including: tree planting; beach cleans; species & habitat surveys; wildlife pond creation; hedgelaying; invasive plant species management (e.g. rhododendron, parrotfeather, Himalayan balsam etc.); coppicing (a traditional woodland management technique); dry stone walling, to name but a few! Events each weekend, but no requirement to commit to a certain number of days. You will gain valuable nature conservation skills in countryside management, such as how to create & restore important habitats for wildlife & people. You will also gain other key skills such as communication, team working & leadership. If you are really keen you may want to progress to become a Volunteer Project Officer (VPO) & get more involved ‘behind the scenes’ planning & leading practical projects & social events. You don’t need to have any skills, experience or abilities to join as a volunteer; all you need is a love of the outdoors & be a good team player. Find out more from Chris Bond, plymouthenvironmentalauction@hotmail.co.uk www.pea-volunteering.co.uk

We offer a range of year round volunteering opportunities on Exmoor. From helping with our Dark Skies Festival to recording historic buildings and peatland restoration, discover a wealth of volunteer opportunities with both us and our partner organisations on the Get Involved section of our website www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk
Help us stop an alien invasion on Exmoor! The River Barle is an important site for spawning salmon, trout, kingfishers, otters and many fungi, lichens and algae. We need volunteers to help control invasive species such as Signal crayfish and Himalayan Balsam, along the river. For more information contact getinvolved@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

National:

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<td>Resilience for Natives - Volunteer Mid Wales, Ceredigion &amp; Gwynedd</td>
<td>Training and equipment loaned</td>
<td>HOME BASED</td>
<td>Weekly to daily. The project, continues BASC conservation work with trusted partnerships and collaborations including the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales and Bangor University. The project is looking to recruit local people, including BASC members, to establish networks of volunteers to monitor and remove mink in four key areas for water voles in Ceredigion and one in Gwnedd adjacent to the Menai Straights, and improve habitat for water vole in key locations. The project will also continue to support the Mid-Wales Red Squirrel Project by further developing the grey squirrel control network around the Tywi Forest area, and assessing the effectiveness of using volunteer surveys to assess the level of tree bark damage from grey squirrels. See <a href="https://basc.org.uk/conservation/green-shoots/green-shoots-in-wales/">https://basc.org.uk/conservation/green-shoots/green-shoots-in-wales/</a> for further details and registration form.</td>
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The British Dragonfly Society (BDS) needs your help in protecting Britain’s Dragonflies. Join the DragonflyWatch and record Dragonflies at your local wetland sites. Your records will help the BDS monitor the health of Dragonfly populations across the county, identifying important sites, and influencing conservation action. Beginners are always welcome and advice, and support, is available to those who need it. BDS recorders are also encouraged to pursue other volunteering activities for Dragonflies, depending on their personal interests, including fundraising, engagement, research, and practical habitat management. Visit www.british-dragonflies.org.uk/content/get-involved
Interested? Visit our website for further details and apply!
https://jobs.com/2w7hT78

They have contributed to several peer-reviewed research articles.
web: www.gardenmoths.org.uk
email: gardenmothscheme@gmail.com

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

JCS Focus on Volunteering
www.countryside-jobs.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Lots of marine animals are changing the time of year that they breed in response to warmer or cooler waters. Capturing Our Coast is interested in how this varies around the UK and you can help! Interested? Visit https://c.js.co.uk/2x34tfg to download your activity pack and spot signs of beach babies.

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

Create Open Data on Plastic Pollution Anywhere @ OpenLitterMap.com

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

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International:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The next Focus will look at Employability: how to make you the most employable you can be. Articles will give advice and information on how to get that job in this sector; as you know it’s not the easiest sector to break in to. Remember to look out for the Focus in association with Lantra in November and if you have a subject you’d like to cover, if you can offer us an article or if you’d love to find out the answer to…. Please get in touch with Amy on focus@countryside-jobs.com or 01947 896007.
Key: REF CJS reference no. (advert number – source – delete date) JOB Title
BE4 Application closing date IV = Interview date LOC Location
PAY £ range - usually per annum (but check starting point) FOR Employer

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

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

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

This CJS Focus was published on 17/9/18.

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

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