

Conservation volunteering opportunities in the National Forest

National Forest/Woodland Trust Community Woods Volunteer

The Woodland Trust and the National Forest Company are working together on a new approach to support Community Woods groups in the National Forest. There is a tremendous amount of volunteer activity taking place across the Forest, and we are looking for a volunteer to assist us in gaining a deeper understanding of these groups, assisting with external communications, signposting and support, and helping to grow the Woodland Communities network.

If you live within or close to the National Forest, have a day or two a week to spare and are passionate about helping to establish a Woodland Community network then we'd love to hear from you. This will be a home working role, but with the opportunity to carry out site visits and benefit from networking and training opportunities.

*For more information about the role and an application form, please contact:
Zoe Sewter (National Forest Company) zsewter@nationalforest.org
or Rachael Cranch (Woodland Trust) rachaelcranch@woodlandtrust.org.uk*

The National Forest Way volunteer Rangers

National Forest Way volunteer Rangers – join our team of footpath guardians, and carry out self-led audits and inspections of the National Forest Way and other promoted walking routes.

Occasional task days are held (usually **Thursdays**) to carry out maintenance and repair work.

Contact enquiries@nationalforest.org

Website <https://www.nationalforest.org/get-involved/volunteering-opportunities>

Overseal Footpaths Group

Local footpaths group operating in and around Overseal village to help look after and maintain the Parish footpaths. The group runs weekly health walks, and occasional task days – **Wednesdays**.

Contact Dot Morson dorothymorson@btinternet.com

Melbourne Footpaths Group

Local footpaths group operating in and around Melbourne village to help look after and maintain the Parish footpaths. There are regular guided walks and occasional task days. Details on website <https://melbournefootpathsgroup.wordpress.com> or contact through Facebook page www.facebook.com/MelbourneFootpathsGroup

Branston Friends Group

An active group of volunteers living in Branston Parish who help keep the footpaths clear, the streets tidy and the planting beds in bloom. The group runs occasional task days and guided walks. Contact Parish Clerk for details: clerkbranstonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Forestry England volunteer Rangers

Hicks Lodge Volunteer task days:

- Every **Tuesday** 09:30 -12:30. Contact Chris Hart for details.
Christopher.hart@forestryengland.uk
- Every first **Sunday** of the Month 09:30 -12:30. Contact Chris Hart for details.
Christopher.hart@forestryengland.uk

Sence Valley Volunteer task days: every third **Sunday** of the Month 09:30- 12:30. Contact Sallie Corfield for details. Sallie.corfield@forestryengland.uk

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)

Community volunteering workdays – carry out conservation tasks such as coppicing, dry stone walling and habitat management. Weekly workdays on **Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays** at various sites in the National Forest.

Contact Kay Thompson. Kay.thompson@tcv.org.uk

Website: <https://www.tcv.org.uk/midlands/tcv-national-forest>

Leicestershire County Council conservation volunteers

Various conservation groups operate around Leicestershire undertaking conservation tasks on most days of the week.

Website: <https://www.leicscountryparks.org.uk/regular-groups/>

Beacon Hill Country Park
Snibston Country Park
New Lount Woods
Bagworth Heath Country Park

Heart of the National Forest volunteers – workdays are on **Wednesdays**.

Contact Property Services Helpdesk on 0116 305 5000 or countryparks@leics.gov.uk

South Derbyshire Parklife Project

Butterfly Survey Volunteers required for our Coton Park Nature Reserve and Swadlincote Woodlands site. This is an ideal way to improve your Butterfly ID in natural surroundings.

Butterfly surveys are carried out between the months of April and September on a weekly basis by volunteers on a rota.

You will be offered guidance and support to get you started and will be able to share your findings with other volunteers and Butterfly Conservation.

For further details contact the Parklife Officer cultural.services@southderbyshire.gov.uk

Coleorton & New Lount Volunteer Group

Twice weekly conservation task days throughout the year (**Tuesdays and Saturdays**) at Coleorton Wood and New Lount Nature Reserve.

See website for details <https://cnlv.g.weebly.com/>

Woodland Trust

We cherish, campaign for and look after the country's woods, old and new and their associated wildlife. But we can't do it without you. Volunteers have been involved at every level of the Woodland Trust's work over the last 40 years and are an integral and valued part of our team. However long you've got, whatever your interests or strengths, you can help the UK's largest woodland conservation charity to make a difference.

Key sites in the Forest are Willesley Wood (nr Moira) Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Wood (Heather) and Martinshaw Wood (Ratby). Visit our website for more details:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer-with-us/opportunities/>

Woodland Trust Top Wood & Coton Wood working group – coppicing and woodland management activities in the various woods around Coton in the Elms. Contact Mark Beer, Coton Wood Ranger for information. m4rks@hotmail.com

Wildlife Trusts

Derbyshire: Living Landscapes project, based in the Trent Valley, to look after 11 reserves including Spring Wood and Carvers Rock. The volunteer team meet regularly to undertake practical conservation, monitoring and survey work.

Contact George Bird (Living Landscapes Officer – Trent Valley)

gbird@derbyshirewt.co.uk

Mobile: 07384 253470

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

Leicestershire: various supervised groups carrying out tasks on nature reserves in the County <https://www.lrw.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/>

Staffordshire: details of volunteering opportunities on reserves and at the Trusts' HQ

<https://www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering>

Sustrans

Sustainable Transport Charity Sustrans have a very active local group here in the National Forest. Our volunteers carry out a huge range of activities, from looking after the [National Cycle Network](#), leading rides or walks, helping to transform streets into places for people and volunteering in local schools and universities.

Email Ben Stuart, Ranger Co-ordinator for the National Forest benstuart76@gmail.com
Or visit the website to sign up <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/volunteer-sustrans>

Heartwood Community Woodfuel group

Our Vision

"To become the voluntary workforce of choice for woodland management in the National Forest"

Our Mission

"The purpose of Heartwood Community Woodfuel Group is to increase the supply of sustainable wood fuel, promote a woodland culture enhancing local woodland habitat and provide broader opportunities for community engagement"

Heartwood are a fully inclusive group and have a base at Rough Park, Lount where group activities, green woodworking and charcoal making take place. We manage several woodlands in the National Forest (Foxley Wood, Linton; Nether Hall Wood, Hartshorne; Woodcote Wood, Smisby) and carry out woodland management work.

Community Woodfuel project – a membership scheme operating various task days and offering training opportunities throughout the year. Come and spend a day in the woods helping with woodland management in the National Forest, and you get to take wood home with you!

Join us – There is no formal commitment needed from you, the group is managed very informally, although health and safety in the woods is our highest priority. With around 100 members we are a growing group, so if you would like more information on how to get involved email us at chair@heartwoodhof.org.uk

Visit our website for more details: <https://www.heartwoodhof.org.uk/>

Heart of the Forest wildlife recorders

A group set up in the Heart of the Forest to record wildlife of all shapes and sizes, led by Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust. Free walks, open to novices and experts alike, this group meets at 10am Conkers Waterside carpark, on every second **Thursday** of the month between February – November.

Email bdevine@lrwt.otrg.uk

Heart of the Forest Heritage Group

We are a group of volunteers who share an interest in our local heritage. We work together to tell the stories of our past; our industries; the everyday lives of families and the unique story of the landscape change across the Heart of the National Forest.

We have fortnightly drop-ins at Moira REPLAN, 2 – 4pm & 6 – 8pm. Contact us at hfheritage@gmail.com or visit the website to find out more <http://www.hfheritage.org/>

Moira Furnace Volunteers

If you can spare a few hours, or more contributing to the upkeep and continued success of the Furnace, whatever your skills or wishes to learn new ones - we would be pleased to welcome you to our small but dedicated team. Ages, genders and abilities are no barrier to joining our crew.

Activities include working within the grounds, helping at events, also during our open season supporting visitors in the museum and shop. Closed season work continues with maintenance of our buildings, woodland, boat and canal side.

Contact us: office@moirafurnace.org
01283 224667

National Trust (Calke Abbey)

Have you ever thought of becoming a volunteer? Well at Calke Abbey we believe that we have a volunteer role that caters just for you. Do you have free time on your hands and wish to spend it engaging with eager visitors as they visit our country house in decline? Or possibly the outdoors is more your calling, where you can spend a sunny Saturday helping in our gardens?

Find out more: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/calke-abbey/lists/join-our-team-of-volunteers>

Burton Conservation Volunteers

Local wildlife and conservation group dedicated to improving the environment, promoting wildlife conservation, encouraging community awareness in and around Burton upon Trent and further afield.

Workdays – **Sundays**

Contact Lawrence Oates
Email: bcvflowerman@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.bcv.org.uk/>

Rosliston Rangers Volunteer Group

Come and join us for conservation work, site management tasks and wildlife recording. Programme includes on-the-job training in site tasks and wildlife surveys plus some specialist training provided by local environmental experts and wildlife recorders. Based at Rosliston Forestry Centre.

Task days: **Tuesdays**

Contact the Environmental Education Project: rosliston@southderbyshire.gov.uk
01283 535039

Whistlewood Common, Melbourne

Whistlewood is ten acres of community-owned land in Melbourne, South Derbyshire.

The site is designed along permaculture principles (a sustainable design framework) so that it will work for people, for wildlife and be a welcoming space for people of all ages and backgrounds.

For more information about how to get involved, visit the website:
<https://www.whistlewoodcommon.org/volunteer/>

Swannington Heritage Trust

Swannington Heritage Trust is an entirely volunteer run organisation maintaining 14 acres of former industrial heritage sites that are now managed as woodlands and grass heathland for the benefit of the community.

For more information about the various tasks and how to get involved, visit
<https://swannington-heritage.co.uk/trust/volunteer/>

National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas

For those of you who enjoy being outside, planting, pruning, doing grounds maintenance, then we recommend our working weekends. These are the first full weekend of each month and you are most welcome to come along.

For more information about our volunteer opportunities, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Kim Riley on 01283 245 123 or email kriley@thenma.org.uk
<http://www.thenma.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/>

Bradgate Park Trust

Various volunteering opportunities at Bradgate Park and Swithland Woods throughout the week. Information on the Bradgate Park website: <https://www.bradgatepark.org/volunteer>

Contact volunteers@bradgatepark.org or phone 0116 236 2713 ext. 26

Charnwood Conservation Volunteers

Charnwood's many green spaces are cared for by the Ranger Service. Their role is to manage both public enjoyment and to improve their value for wildlife and eco system services.

The Ranger Service offers opportunities to become a volunteer ranger. This will involve undertaking practical conservation tasks, leading wildlife walks, organising countryside events, wildlife recording or simply patrolling our green spaces.

Charnwood Conservation Volunteers take part in a whole range of conservation events throughout the year, working on some of Charnwood's most important wildlife sites, including **The Outwoods**. We supply all the tools, training and help lead the tasks.

If you'd like more information on volunteering opportunities in Charnwood, visit our website: <https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/rangerservice>
Or contact us by email: charnwood.rangerservice@idverde.co.uk

Transforming the Trent Valley partnership

Transforming the Trent Valley is a [partnership project of 18 organisations](#) working together to restore and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the Trent Valley, with [Staffordshire Wildlife Trust](#) at the helm. It has funding until April 2024.

There are lots of volunteering opportunities to get involved in, from community initiatives to wildlife, history and access projects. <https://www.thetrentvalley.org.uk/volunteer.php>

The project area reaches from Rugeley to Shardlow, along the Trent Valley. It also takes in the Dove valley from Rocester to Egginton, and the Tame Valley from Hopwas to Alrewas. <https://www.thetrentvalley.org.uk/area.php>

Follow Transforming the Trent Valley on Twitter at [@TheTrentValley](#), on Instagram at [TheTrentValley](#) or like our [Facebook](#) page.

Sinai Park House Trust

Sinai Park House is a hilltop site (near Shobnall, Burton upon Trent) overlooking the Trent Valley, used as a sacred meeting place and a strategic outpost from earliest times. The Paget family reinvented the timber-framed shooting lodge as a stylish Elizabethan manor house with a 13th-century moat, and a host of extensions and refinements have been carried out every century since, all in the Medieval and Tudor style.

Now developing as a heritage attraction with education visits, the Trust are looking for volunteers to help with events and conservation work.

Email: kate@sinaiparkhouse.co.uk
<https://sinaiparkhouse.co.uk/>