

Volunteer Role Profile

Both National Landscapes

Conservation Volunteer

Role description

The National Landscapes in Suffolk and Essex help landowners and partner organisations to look after the wildlife, recreation value and landscape at various locations in the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths (CH), Dedham Vale (DV) and wider Stour Valley (SV).

These locations include nature reserves, geological features, key landscapes etc. Conservation Volunteers undertake a variety of practical tasks. This work is vital as it helps the National Landscapes to fulfil their role to co-ordinate and support the management of the landscape. Conservation Volunteers can expect to assist with a range of tasks, such as:

- Heathland Management, such as clearing invasive trees and shrubs.
- Woodland Management including pruning, coppicing and clearance as well as planting new woodland and hedgerow and making woodland products.
- Grassland Management cutting and raking valuable areas of grassland to benefit wildflowers and other wildlife.
- Maintaining Public Rights of Way by erecting waymark posts/discs/advisory signs.
- Promoting biodiversity by building homes and improving habitat for wildlife, including threatened species.
- Promoting biodiversity by managing invasive species.

People of all fitness levels are welcome, and previous experience isn't necessary.

Key Responsibilities and Attitudes

- Working positively with other volunteers, staff and landowners to undertake practical conservation tasks.
 - Undertaking manual work outdoors in all weathers.
 - Using tools and equipment in a safe and appropriate way, with respect for others and the environment.
 - Be aware of and responsible for own health and safety and that of others whilst working.
 - Being aware of your own limitations when using tools or undertaking physical work. Being honest about your own capabilities.
 - Undertake any reasonable tasks requested by the group leader.
 - Be a positive ambassador for the Suffolk/Essex National Landscape and wider Stour Valley.
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Volunteer Requirements

- Ability to walk over rough ground and undertake manual work outside in all weathers.
 - Ability to follow instructions.
 - Ability to reach an agreed meeting point/start point of the allocated task.
 - Wear appropriate clothing and footwear.
 - Own transport to the meeting point. The DV team provide a minibus which collects people from the bus depot next to Waitrose car park in Sudbury at 9.30am.
 - Need to have had a tetanus vaccination within last 10 years.
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Time Commitment and practical requirements

Dedham Vale/Stour Valley - Twice monthly work sessions are organised in an official programme throughout the year. Coast & Heaths - Twice monthly work sessions are organised in an official programme from Oct to March. These tasks take place mainly during the week but sometimes at weekends. Lunch is not usually provided, so a packed lunch is needed. Tasks start at 10am and finish at approximately 3pm.