

Role description & skills profile

Role title	Outdoors & practical volunteer
Point of contact	Countryside estate team
Start date	Any time of year
Why do you need me?	
Our challenge is to restore Surrey's nature following Lawton's approach for a bigger, better, more joined up ecological network. We will do this both on our own land holding and by working with other land owners and managers in partnership. Our practical volunteers help out on our reserves to keep these important habitats in peak condition for wildlife.	
What activities will I be involved in?	
<p>Autumn/winter opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing habitats including chalk downland and rare heathland • Scrub clearance to improve habitat • Maintaining ponds by removing overgrown vegetation • Woodland management such as coppicing, hedgelaying and tree planting • Removal of problem species like rhododendron <p>Spring/summer opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and estate management work such as fencing, steps and sign construction or gate hanging • Removal of problem plant species such as ragwort or bracken • Path and access improvements • Setting up grazing compartments 	
What skills and abilities will I need to have?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No previous experience is necessary as you can learn as you go • Ability to work outside in all weathers • Ability to listen and follow instructions • Capability to safely use hand tools and equipment • Ability to work in a team of other volunteers • Willingness to follow Surrey Wildlife Trust policy e.g. health and safety • Enthusiasm for the cause 	
What are the goals?	
To assist Surrey Wildlife Trust in restoring nature across our county	
What can I gain from this experience?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be part of a team that truly cares about the environment • Camaraderie and companionship of the group and other volunteers • Increase your knowledge of wildlife and their associated habitats • Utilise existing skills, or learn a new skill set • Have a rewarding day in the fresh air, knowing you have made a difference for wildlife in Surrey 	
How much time do I need to give?	As little or often as you want. We hold conservation volunteering days every week.
Is there an induction and training?	Introduction and safety briefing at the start of each session.
Will my travel expenses be paid?	<p>If you are unable to carry out your voluntary role due to the cost of travel, we will seek to reimburse out-of-pocket travel expenses within agreed guidelines. Travel expenses will only be paid if agreed beforehand by the Community Engagement team. All claimed must be in accordance with the Trust's Expenses Policy.</p> <p>As a charity with limited funds, Surrey Wildlife Trust's ability to pay travel expenses is dependent on resources being available.</p>