

Community Volunteer – Church Copse VRS

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) needs volunteers to undertake practical work on nature reserves and green spaces across the South Downs National Park. The South Downs Volunteer Ranger Service (SDVRS) is an affiliated organisation made up of volunteers who partake in practical conservation of the South Downs. The SDVRS has been operating as a voluntary organisation for over 30 years.

The Church Copse VRS group is site specific to Church Copse, Clapham Wood near Clapham village (West Sussex). The main responsibility of the group is to complete annual coppicing work in the woodlands from October to March every fortnight on a Thursday. This involves cutting hazel and processing product (stakes and binders) and burning the brash.

Volunteer Rangers will learn skills in traditional woodland management and will use a range of hand tools to cut and process hazel into materials for fencing, hurdles and more.

The group will begin on 4th October and will run every fortnight until 28th March 2019.

All volunteers are expected to adhere to South Downs National Park Authority volunteer policies and procedures. Our volunteers play an important role in fulfilling our purposes and are key ambassadors for the work of the Authority.

Compulsory Training:

All Volunteer Rangers must undertake the SDNPA's initial taster session and introductory day training.

Equipment Provided:

Comprehensive uniform and relevant personal protective equipment (PPE) are provided in this role. All tools required for tasks will be provided and fit for purpose.

Transport: Volunteers will organise their own transport to the site at Church Copse where a small, free carpark is situated.

Responsible to:

Volunteer Activity Coordinator: Rebekah Smith, Assistant Ranger
Volunteer Development Officer: Daniel Greenwood

Preferred/Est. Hours:

This is a flexible role between 4th October and 28th March 2019. Volunteers are required to fulfil a minimum commitment to undertake this role

Role Description:

- Undertake practical habitat management work at Church Copse; namely hazel coppicing and processing product
- Act as an ambassador for the SDNPA and adhere to Health & Safety guidance

Key Skills:

- Reasonable level of fitness to access
- Ability to work with people from all backgrounds
- Ability to communicate with staff
- Willingness to adhere to Health & Safety protocol
- Specialist skills and experience relating to tasks are welcomed

Key qualities: Friendly, reliable and self-sufficient, willing to accept direction/guidance

