

## Practical Conservation Volunteer (Central Area)

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) needs volunteers to assist with practical conservation tasks in a variety of different habitats (woodland, coppice, chalk grassland, heathland, and freshwater). This is a fantastic opportunity to work across the landscape, in an area stretching from Chantry Hill in the East, to Harting Down in the West, and Black Down in the North.

### Role Description:

Our volunteering schedule is very varied, and includes tasks such as:

- Coppicing
- Scrub clearance
- Tree popping
- Invasives management
- Hedgelaying
- Tree planting
- Meadow cutting/raking
- Community engagement
- Access improvements on the South Downs Way
- Bracken scything
- Ecological monitoring

We also offer opportunities to volunteer with some of our partner conservation organisations, e.g. National Trust Slindon, RSPB Pulborough Brooks, Natural England Kingley Vale.

### Compulsory Training:

All Practical Conservation Volunteers will undertake the *New Starter Volunteering E-Learning*.

This will provide an overview of SDNPA volunteer policies and procedures, risk assessments, and safe working practices which must be adhered to at all times.

### Equipment Provided:

Relevant personal protective equipment (PPE) and required tools are provided.

\*Please get in touch if there is any clothing/boots etc. you feel you'd need before being able to come out and volunteer with us.

### Training Opportunities:

Our volunteers have the opportunity to gain the following qualifications:

- Outdoor first aid
- LANTRA brushcutter
- LANTRA off-road 4x4

The SDNPA also organises hedgelaying training, ID courses, and ecological survey training (butterflies, birds, groundflora).

### Transport:

Access to own vehicle is preferable, but not required. Volunteers meet either at the task site, or at the Weald and Downland Museum. Pickups from public transport links (e.g. Midhurst Bus Station, Barnham Station, Worthing station etc.) are offered when operationally viable.

### Responsible to:

Assistant Rangers: Dominic Sunderland & Gemma North  
Volunteer Coordinator: Chloe Beckerson

### Preferred/Est. Hours: Flexible

No minimum commitment required



**Key Skills & Qualities:**

- Friendly, reliable, and self-sufficient
- Willing to accept direction and guidance
- Ability to work with people from all backgrounds
- Ability to communicate with staff
- Ability to adhere to Health & Safety policies and procedures

No previous knowledge or experience is required, just an enthusiasm to learn new skills & a commitment to improving nature within the National Park.

