

Coppicing Volunteer – Church Copse, Clapham, Worthing

Working as part of a friendly and dynamic volunteer coppicing team you will support the management of Church Copse (Clapham Wood) as an important habitat for declining woodland species such as the hazel dormouse and pearl bordered fritillary butterfly.

You will be under the guidance of first aid trained volunteer leaders, exercising a safety-first approach to sympathetic woodland management.

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

Compulsory Training:

All Practical Conservation Volunteers will undertake an SDNPA induction, 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.
All other specific training requirements will be met.

Equipment Provided:

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

Further volunteer clothing will be issued once three task days have been completed.

Tools including loppers, saws and billhooks

Transport: The ability to access a designated site either through public transport or in your own vehicle will be necessary in this role.

Responsible to:

Volunteer Activity Coordinator: Tashi Barnett,
Assistant Ranger & Tom Garriock, Lead Ranger
Volunteer Support Officer: Chloe Beckerson

Schedule:

Sessions run on Thursdays from 10.00 – 15.00.
Winter (Oct-April): every Thursday
Summer (May – Sept): monthly sessions

Role Description:

- Undertake coppicing of hazel for habitat creation
- Produce stakes and binders from cut material
- Burn and dead hedge excess material that is unsuitable for stake and binder production
- Erect and maintain deer fencing to protect coupes from browsing pressure
- Woodland species monitoring (butterflies, birds, bats, groundflora)
- Green woodworking
- Management of public footpaths and infrastructure

What we would like from you:

- Interest in subject area
- Attention to detail
- Good communication skills
- Reasonable level of fitness to access the site and complete the tasks
- Ability to work with people from all backgrounds
- Willingness to adhere to Health and Safety protocols
- Happy to work outside in winter weather

Key qualities:

Friendly, reliable, and self-sufficient, willing to accept direction/guidance.

