

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.

Role Description:

Our volunteering schedule includes tasks such as:

- 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

Compulsory Training:

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.

Any other specific training requirements will be met.

Equipment Provided:

Relevant personal protective equipment (PPE) and required tools are provided, including loppers, saws and billhooks.

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

However, please get in touch if you have any particular clothing needs to support your attendance on task.

Training Opportunities:

Once established, volunteers have the opportunity to gain the following qualifications:

- Outdoor first aid
- Brushcutter
- Off-road 4x4
- Defensive driver training

The SDNPA also organises hedge laying training, ID courses, and ecological survey training (butterflies, birds, ground flora) as per the requirements of the role.



Transport:

Access to own vehicle is preferable, but not required. Volunteers meet either at the task site, or at Wallops Wood. Pickups from public transport links are offered when operationally viable.

Responsible to:

- Assistant Rangers.
- Volunteer Support Officer.

Commitment:

We ask for a commitment of at least 10 days a year. This allows you to make the most of your volunteering experience and also makes best use of our time and resource investment into volunteers.

Schedule

Sessions run on Thursday from 10:00 – 15:00.

Winter (Oct – April): every Thursday

Summer (May – Sept): monthly sessions

Key Skills & Qualities:

- Friendly, reliable and self-sufficient
- Ability to treat everyone with dignity and respect, including other volunteers, SDNPA staff and members of the public.
- Willingness to work with/support staff and volunteers as part of a team
- Ability to adhere to all SDNPA volunteering policies and procedures
- Willing to accept direction/guidance

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

