

Volunteer – Public Surveys (Heritage)

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) is seeking volunteers to conduct surveys with visitors at Seven Sisters Country Park.

The VOCul project (Valuing Outdoor Culture and Heritage) is a collaboration between researchers from the University of Exeter, South Downs National Park Authority, Forestry England and National Trust, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The study is hoping to gain a deeper understanding of how visitors engage with the landscape at Seven Sisters Country Park. Additionally, the study seeks to explore visitors' motivations, expectations and preferences, shedding light on what draws people to this site and how they experience it.

Volunteers will engage with visitors in the car park and entrance to visitor centre upon arrival to SSCP, asking them to complete one or both of two components: a short survey and an orienteering-style activity during their visit. Visitors will hand completed activity responses back to either the volunteers or drop them into closed boxes in the car park at the end of their visit.

More information on the project, its purposes and methodology will be available prior to the training and survey sessions.

This is a great opportunity for anyone that enjoys meeting and chatting with new people, has a passion for culture and heritage research, the environment, or engaging with people.

Volunteers are key ambassadors and play an important role in supporting the SDNPA in fulfilling our purposes:

Purpose 1: To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.

Purpose 2: To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.

The SDNPA is an inclusive organisation and we support everyone irrespective of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, faith and religion, disability and age.

However volunteers need to 18+ to apply for this role.

Compulsory Training:

Introduction to the South Downs National Park, all relevant SDNPA Policies and Procedures.
Survey specific training will take place on the morning of 23 June at SSCP

Equipment Provided:

All survey materials, including questions, script and activity documents. ID badge and SDNPA branded outerwear

Transport: The ability to travel to SSCP either through public transport or in your own vehicle will be necessary in this role, parking at SSCP will be free for volunteers for the duration of their volunteering.



Responsible to:

Volunteer Support Officer
Volunteer Coordinator
Project leads

Preferred/Est. Hours:

Surveys will be conducted every day between Monday 23 June and Sunday 6 July. There will be 2 sessions per day, 9.00-13.00 and 13.00-17.00. Volunteers can sign up to one session per day, on as many days as they would like, with a limit of 6 volunteers per session.

Role Description:

- Engaging with visitors in the car park and entrance to visitor centre upon entry to SSCP
- Conducting surveys, collecting information, and providing tools for further activity.
- Act as an ambassador to promote the South Downs National Park, its work and purposes.
- There is an additional role for someone to walk the whole route, collecting all the orienteering/survey equipment at the end of the survey on Monday 7 July.

Key Skills:

- Outgoing and friendly, happy to start conversations with members of the public
- Ability to treat everyone with dignity and respect, including other volunteers, SDNPA staff and members of the public
- Ability to communicate knowledge and information to a diverse range of people
- Willingness to work with/support staff and volunteers as part of a team
- Specialist skills in educating/engaging with/data collection from members of the public on subjects such as natural, cultural or local history are welcomed

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

