

Volunteer – Ancient Tree Surveys

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) is looking for volunteers to assist with the recording of ancient, veteran and notable trees across the central area of the South Downs National Park. We will be using the Woodland Trust's existing methodology for tree recording and uploading data to their Ancient Tree Inventory. Identifying where ancient trees are is the first step to help conservationists protect our most ecologically valuable trees.

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 Tuesday March 24th at Slindon

Equipment Provided:

All survey materials, including monitoring forms, tape measure.

SDNPA branded bibs

Volunteers are encouraged to use own smartphone, but paper forms and camera can be supplied.

Transport: The ability to travel to Singleton either through public transport or in your own vehicle will be necessary in this role. Ability to travel to allocated survey location on own if undertaking self-led surveying.

Responsible to:

Volunteer Coordinator
Central Team Rangers

Preferred/Est. Hours:

Surveys of individual/open grown trees year-round. Surveys of closed canopy woodland are best conducted in winter months.

Flexible volunteering schedule, some volunteer sessions will be alongside SDNPA rangers and fellow volunteers – particularly when surveying on private land.

Areas with better coverage through existing ROW network provide opportunity for allocation of 1km surveying squares and completion of these through self-led volunteering style with ad-hoc visits



Role Description:

1. Carrying out field surveys of ancient trees
2. Uploading records to the Ancient Tree Inventory for review
3. There are two avenues available for this volunteer role:
 - I. Going out as part of a small group to record trees in remote locations or on private land – with a volunteer leader or SDNPA staff member
 - II. Self-led volunteering of allocated 1km squares well served by ROW network
4. Act as an ambassador to promote the South Downs National Park, its work and purposes.
5. There is an additional role available for someone to help in an administrative capacity, assisting the SDNPA rangers to deliver this project. Tasks could include: allocating 1km squares, liaising with landowners for private land access, coordinating group volunteering days, uploading paper forms and photos to inventory.

Key Skills:

- Physically able to be outside for several hours, walking and standing for periods of time.
- Ability to use and access to a smart phone to upload data to national database OR collect data on paper forms and use a camera to take supporting photos
- 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

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

