

Shadow Volunteer

Role Name: Community/Conservation Shadow Volunteer

Forest: Ollerton Pit Wood

Country	England
Reporting Location	Sherwood Pines, Kings Clipstone, Mansfield, NG21 9JL
Position Type	1-3 days per week for 6 months
Supervisor	Amy Chandler
Salary	Voluntary
Closing date for applications	23:59 on 5 th January 2026

Background Information

Forestry England is the country's largest land manager, caring for the nation's forests for people, nature, and the economy. The foundation of our organisation is our world-class sustainable management of the nation's forests.

The Central Forest District has responsibility for the management of some 30,000ha of the Nation's Forests within a triangle formed by Liverpool, Hull, and Milton Keynes.

This gives rise to a large diversity of users, customers, neighbours and pressures, all of which are interacting on a varied backdrop of land uses.

The district has three Community Woodland areas, in Nottinghamshire, The National Forest, the Northwest covering Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Lancashire.

Community Woodlands are a key element of the land holding the Forestry Commission manages, providing woodland sites for local communities to enjoy, for nature to thrive and timber to grow. The Community Woodlands vary in size and facilities and are managed by small, dedicated, and motivated teams.

Shadow Volunteers

We are proud to be able to offer shadow volunteer individuals with an interest in pursuing a career in conservation, community engagement, recreation, site management, working with volunteers and the public and wanting to gain experience in the sector.

Successful applicants will be given training and development opportunities by work shadowing current staff developing on the job skills, including development of practical site management, working within communities, volunteer management, engaging and working with the public, schools, and colleges. The Sherwood Community Woodlands Shadow Volunteer position enables individuals to gain experience of managing our restored community woodlands and surrounding mature woodlands.

What we offer

- Training relevant to the role from your experienced member of staff you are shadowing along with gaining knowledge from wider colleagues.
- Guidance and support in applying for further training or employment opportunities.
- Genuine out of pocket expenses which includes travel expenses beyond your reporting station.
- Volunteer parking pass after 35 hours of volunteering.
- Volunteer uniform.
- Formal training opportunities - first aid, risk assessment, and manual handling.

Purpose

Experience, encourage and support active community and volunteer involvement on countryside sites within the North Nottinghamshire area, through community practical projects, engagement and management of community interest groups and public expectation. Learn how to involve local people in the decision making and management of their local environment.

Working as part of the Community Ranger team assist, support and help empower local communities to become actively involved in the care and management of urban fringe woodlands & countryside sites in North Nottinghamshire. Assist and provide support to a diverse range of people, experiencing a range of tasks, activities and procedures that rangers undertake within their role.

Key work areas

Provide a built estate that is fit for purpose for all users

- Carry out facility and trail inspections and ensure that defects are properly recorded and rectified in a timely manner.

Shadow Volunteers

- Assist in the maintenance of facilities including, but not limited to, litter picking, bin emptying, dealing with fly tipping, installation and maintenance of signs, vegetation management, trail maintenance.

Embed a safety-first culture in our teams

- Report any incidents or accidents to Shadow Mentor/Supervisor.
- Ensure personal safety at all times by following job risk assessments and by carrying out PPE and safety checks, in compliance with policy guidance.

Person Specification

Read this section carefully as it will help you complete the [online application form](#).

We are not expecting you to have qualifications or previous experience in the environment sector. The Shadow Volunteer program is about giving you that experience. We are looking for enthusiasm, curiosity, ability to listen and learn, ask questions, show initiative and show responsibility for the people and environment where you work.

The application form will ask you questions based on the person specifications below. You don't need to give examples related to the environment sector or forestry. They can be relevant examples from other experiences you have had.

Experience

Essential

An interest in the environment, Forestry England, woodland management, or recreation.

Desirable

Experience of practical conservation, environmental education, working with young people or environmental management; through previous employment, voluntary work, or study.

Seeking a career in the environmental sector; countryside ranger, environmental or visitor services management.

Working with Other People

Essential

Be approachable, open, polite, and helpful to others.

Respect diverse backgrounds, views, and approaches.

Willingness to work as part of a team as well as the ability to work on your own.

Desirable

Willingness and enthusiasm to lead groups and activities.

Communication

Essential

Ability to listen and communicate with people from a variety of age groups, abilities, behaviours, and backgrounds.

Ability to deal with difficult situations with tact, diplomacy and in a constructive manner.

Deliver Results

Essential

Motivated and capable of working under your own initiative.

Prioritise and organise your time and resources effectively to meet agreed deadlines and objectives.

Desirable

Understand and apply current legislation, rules, and procedures relevant to the job (e.g., Health & Safety, Risk assessment).

Learn and Apply

Essential

Observe your mentor and the team, demonstrate willingness to learn and repeat tasks to build experience.

Be open to change and show a willingness to undertake appropriate training to develop new skills and confidence.

Take responsibility for own work, learning from experience, mistakes, and constructive feedback.

Other

Able and willing to work 1-3 days per week, predominantly weekdays although may occasionally include evenings and weekend working.

This post may require you to hold and continue to hold, a full current driving licence. Duties will require you to be fit and able to negotiate rough terrain. However, Forestry England is willing to consider any proposal put forward by applicants that would allow them to do the role by other means. This role will require a DBS check.

Applicants must be over 18

Shadow Volunteers

How to apply

Please apply online by completing the [application form](#) on the website. Make sure when applying, you type 'Community/Conservation Shadow Volunteer' as the role which you are interested in.

For the Forest, please select 'Ollerton Pit Wood'

If you are interested in multiple roles, you will need to complete multiple applications. You can, however, use the same information and answers for each so feel free to copy the information from one to the other, if you are happy this is correct.

If you have any problems with the application or questions please email victoria.tofte@forestryengland.uk and state which opportunity you wish to apply for and what your requirements are to enable you to apply.

If you consider yourself to have a disability, the application form will ask you to provide details of any support you may need or reasonable adjustments we can make to enable you to fulfil the role (as outlined in the role description for the placement you are interested in). If you are selected for a Shadow Volunteer role based on your skills and experience this will allow us to assess whether support can be safely and practically put in place or whether other alternative solutions are a possibility, in discussion with you.

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