

## Role Description

### Kent Country Parks

### Volunteer Trainee – Various Sites

**Role title:** Volunteer Trainee – (6-month role)

**Responsible to:** OCND Community Engagement Officer

This traineeship is primarily based at Trosley Country Park. While overseen by the OCND Community Engagement Officer the main point of contact for Kent Country Parks will be Freya Prince (Senior Country Park Ranger).

#### Main Purpose of the traineeship

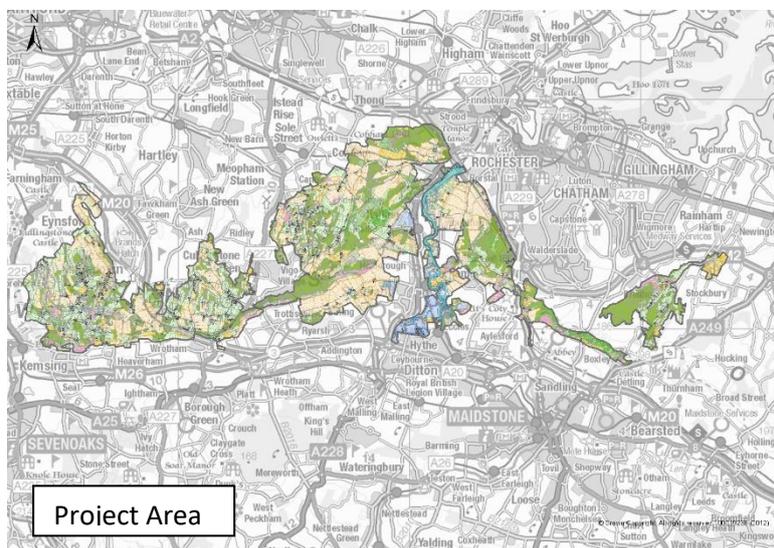
This traineeship was developed to give students an opportunity to gain both practical and office-based skills that will support their development within the conservation sector. It can provide a unique chance to work with multiple organisations providing a well-rounded and engaging experience. The placement will be expected to assist the projects officers and partner organisations with tasks to achieve the OCND aim:

*“restore and connect remaining fragments of precious chalk downland for the benefit of the rare species and people who love them”*

# Old Chalk New Downs Volunteer Trainee

## Old Chalk New Downs

The OCND project covers almost 10,000 hectares along the Downs from Kemsing, through Cobham to Detling.



Much of this precious landscape has been lost or become fragmented, making it difficult for its rare species, many found only within the North Downs, to spread and survive. Many people have lost connection with the 'Great Outdoors' and nature, which can lead to ill health and what is often called a "nature deficit syndrome".

The Old Chalk New Downs project looks to address these issues through improving, restoring, and reconnecting threatened downland habitats, while addressing the loss of people's connection with their natural heritage.

## Main Duties & Responsibilities

Duties may be amended during the traineeship without affecting the level of responsibility.

- Livestock checking and handling over a range of sites.
- Practical task work at Trosley Country Park as well as Lullingstone and Teston Bridge Country Park. Working on a wide range of habitats with volunteers. Tasks include, grassland clearance, coppicing, fencing, weeding and wood processing.
- People engagement, helping with guided walks and on-site events.

### Working with volunteers

- Supporting volunteer groups with practical nature conservation tasks.

# Old Chalk New Downs Volunteer Trainee

---

## Surveys and monitoring

- Assisting the OCND team with various plant and invertebrate surveys.
- Recording volunteer times.
- Inputting recorded survey data.

## Publicity and promotion of the Project and its work

- Assisting with targeted photography for publicity stock photos.
- Promoting the work of the OCND project by assisting with social media posts.
- Raise the projects profile through Instagram.

## Person Specification

### Qualifications

Currently undertaking or recently completed a higher education degree or equivalent in countryside management, conservation or relevant subject.

### Essential

- Proven interest in the environment and knowledge of current conservation issues within Kent
- Ability to travel around the project area though own means
- Basic IT skills

### Desirable

- Experience of practical habitat management work
- Experience of working with volunteer groups
- Experience working with the general public
- Clean Driving License

### Personal Qualities

- Excellent communication skills with both staff and the general public
- An ability to work on your own initiative and within a team
- A willingness to undertake outdoor work in all weather conditions



# Old Chalk New Downs Volunteer Trainee

---

## Traineeship Placement Package

The role is unsalaried but there is a budget of up to £2,500 for pre-approved training, travelling and other work-related expenses. Travelling expenses are capped at £300 over the duration of the traineeship.

This role is for a minimum of 3 days a week (between Monday - Friday). Normal office hours are 8:30 until 16.30 (including a lunch break). However, the timing is flexible, and some weekend work is expected and will be arranged in advance.

During the placement trainees will receive external and internal training courses paid for via the fund above as well as on-the-job training. Some courses are pre-set, but other training opportunities are available depending on the trainee's professional development. Training may include:

### Pre-set training

- First Aid
- Brushcutter
- Livestock checker
- Chainsaw
- Tractor Driving

Other Training opportunities may be available

## Application Process

Please send your CV and a 500-word supporting letter to [OCND@kent.gov.uk](mailto:OCND@kent.gov.uk)

Your supporting letter should state which traineeship you are applying for, why you are applying for the volunteer trainee position and what skills you would bring to the role (paying reference to the role's duties and responsibilities and person specification).

For more information call: 03000 410348

