

Role Description



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Volunteer Trainee – Various Sites

Role title: Volunteer Trainee – (3 – 6-month role) based at OCND office, Lock Cottage, Lock Lane, Maidstone, ME14 3AU

Responsible to: OCND Community Engagement Officer

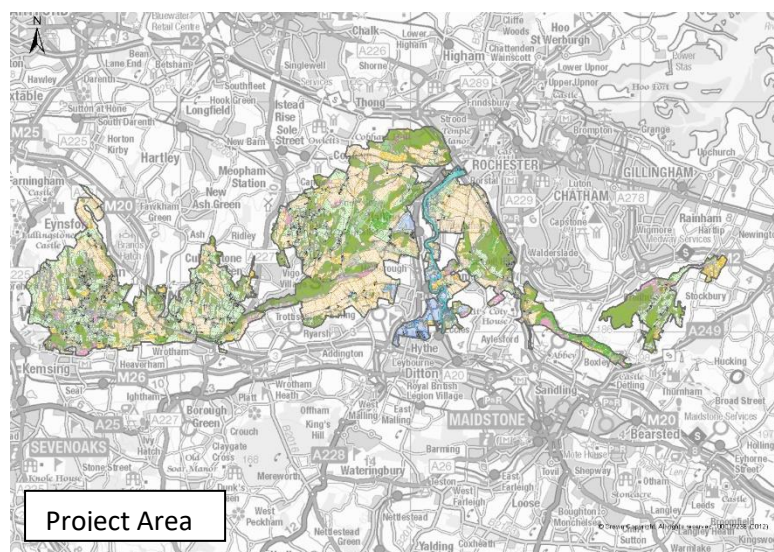
Main Purpose of the traineeship

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 organisation 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

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



OCND. 3 Lock Cottages, Lock Lane, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent. ME14 3AU

www.oldchalknewdowns.org.uk



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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

Main Duties & Responsibilities

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

Working with volunteers

- Supporting partner volunteer groups with practical nature conservation tasks.

Surveys and monitoring

- Assisting the OCND team set up of the Year of Hedgerows campaign
- Leasing with landowners on securing access for surveys.
- Generate maps to support the projects aims using QGIS.
- Leading on fixpoint photography for capital works monitoring.
- Recording volunteer times.
- Inputting recorded survey data.

Publicity and promotion of the Project and its work

- Promoting the work of the OCND project by assisting with events, social media posts and training.
- Raise the projects profile through Instagram.
- Updating OCND website content.

Practical conservation management

- Assisting partner organisations with practical conservation tasks.

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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
- Available for a minimum of 2.5 days per week

Desirable

- Experience of practical habitat management work
- Experience of working with volunteer groups
- Working knowledge of QGIS or Arc GIS
- Experience working with schools and the general public

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

Traineeship Placement Package

The role is unsalaried but there is a budget of £2,500 for training, travelling and other work-related expenses.

This role is for a minimum of 3 days a week (between Monday - Friday). Normal office hours are 9.00 until 5.00 (including a lunch break). However, the timing is flexible, and some weekend work is expected and will be arrange 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:



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Pre-set training

- First Aid
- Hedge laying
- Introduction to QGIS (if not already familiar)

Application Process

Please send your CV and a 500-word supporting letter to 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