



Volunteer Information Pack



Thank you for your interest in volunteering

There are lots of different ways you can get involved in protecting and enhancing Bromley's biodiversity and countryside. As a volunteer you can participate in a wide range of practical conservation activities, wildlife surveying and more. It is a great way to meet people, get active and learn more about your local area and its wildlife.

This pack aims to give you an overview of all the volunteering opportunities available to you. To get started, read through the booklet and return the reply slip provided. On receipt of this we will contact you with information about your chosen volunteer activity.

Contact Details

Bromley Countryside Office

High Elms Country Park

Shire Lane, Farnborough

Kent BR6 7JH

Tel: 01689 862815,

Fax: 01689 861347

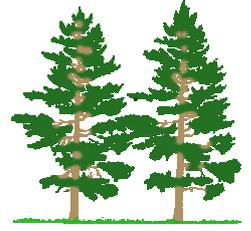
Email: countrysideandparks@bromley.gov.uk

What we do...

The London Borough of Bromley is responsible for the management of country parks, commons and woodlands in Bromley, including 200 hectares of special scientific interest (SSSI) and five local nature reserves (LNRs).

Practical Conservation Volunteer Opportunities

There are many local nature reserves and sites of special conservation value around the borough. Those with regular volunteer days run by Bromley staff are listed below.



- Bromley Countryside Volunteer Service** This roving group undertakes conservation tasks at a variety of sites around the Borough, including woodlands, wetlands, grassland and council owned farmland. Wednesday and Thursday work days take place year-round.
- High Elms Country Park** Practical conservation days with the Friends of High Elms take place on Wednesdays and certain Saturdays throughout the year at High Elms Country Park. The site contains hazel coppice woodlands, chalk grassland, ponds and the conservation garden at BEECHE.
- Keston Common, Ravensbourne Open Space and Padmall Wood** Practical work mornings take place every Friday with the Friends of Keston Common. The three sites contain a wide variety of habitats from lowland heath to coppiced woodland.
- Hayes Common** Practical work days take place on certain Sundays throughout the year. The site contains examples of heathland and acid grassland habitats.
- Jubilee Country Park** Practical work days take place every Monday with the Friends of Jubilee Park. This site features neutral grassland meadows and woodland.
- Darrick and Newstead Woods** Practical work mornings take place every Thursday morning with the Friends of Darrick & Newstead Woods.

Practical Conservation Volunteering FAQ



What will I be doing?

Conservation work is very varied and what you will be doing can change depending on the time of year, the weather conditions or the type of site you are working on. Common tasks for volunteers include clearing scrub to prevent loss of grassland or heathland habitat; clearing overhanging vegetation from footpaths and access ways; repairing or installing footpaths, fencing or posts; woodland work such as coppicing and hedgelaying. Woodland work and scrub clearance is typically done in the winter months when there are fewer nesting birds and the trees have dropped their leaves. Access and maintenance jobs such as footpath work and fencing are more likely in the spring and summer. Most of our conservation groups take a break in mid summer.

How long do you work for?

Start times vary and each volunteer group has its own arrangements so make sure you have been given the details beforehand. Work days usually last from 3 to 6 hours. Volunteers are encouraged to work at their own pace and are usually able to leave earlier in the day if they choose.

Do I need to have done this sort of thing before?

No, no experience is necessary. You will be shown how to approach conservation work appropriately and safely, and by attending regularly you will build up a wide range of practical skills. All tools and protective equipment are provided and you will be advised on how to use them. Conservation volunteering is also a great way find out more about the natural world. You will learn how the practical work we do benefits wildlife and in time you will be able to see the results for yourself.

What should I wear?

You need to wear comfortable clothes (including waterproofs) that are suitable for outdoors. Wear layers as you will get warm whilst you work. Sturdy footwear with good grip and ankle support is a must, and should be steel toe-capped if possible.

What should I bring with me?

A packed lunch or snack and a drink. Please bring along any medication you might require, such as an asthma inhaler.

Other Ways to Get Involved...

There are further opportunities to become involved in your local park by joining a Friends group. Friends groups get involved in all sorts of activities, from practical conservation work, litter picking, leading health walks, to fundraising activities. See the list below to see if your local park or greenspace has a Friends group working there.

Existing Friends Groups in Bromley

- Alexander Recreation Ground
- Betts Park
- Biggin Hill Recreation Ground
- Bromley Field Studies Centre
- Bromley Town Parks and Gardens
- Cator Park
- Chislehurst and St Paul's Cray Commons
- Coney Hall Recreation Ground
- Cray Valley Parks
- Croydon Road Recreation Ground
- Crystal Palace Park
- Jubilee Country Park
- Kelsey Park
- Keston Common
- Mottingham Woods
- Penge Recreation Ground
- Poverest and Covet Wood
- Priory Gardens
- Richmal Crompton Fields
- Royston Field
- St George's Churchyard
- St Paul's Cray Hill Country Park
- Scadbury Country Park
- Tugmutton Common (incorporating Farnborough Recreation Ground)

Wildlife Surveying

If you are able to identify local species of wild flowers, invertebrates, birds or mammals, your skills could be very useful to us as a wildlife surveyor. Or perhaps you have kept informal records of your own sightings. Please let us know if you can help us build up our local records.

What to do now...

If any of these volunteer opportunities interest you, please let us know by filling in the Volunteer Reply Slip and sending it back to us. Someone will contact you with details about your chosen activity.

