

Biodiversity Survey Volunteers, Knighton Community Woodlands Group

We are seeking volunteers who can help, post lockdown, with wildlife surveys in local woodlands. One of our key aims is to benefit wildlife. So, we need to carry out regular surveys of the woods that we work in to make sure that our activities are having a positive effect. We are looking for volunteers from the Powys, Shropshire and Herefordshire borderlands to help with surveys of wildlife such as birds, plants, moths, bats and other species.

The Woodlanders is local people coming together to enjoy, conserve and enrich our environment. We learn and share woodland skills, and use those skills to improve habitats for wildlife and to allow our members access to affordable woodland products. We are looking for new volunteers to allow us to expand our work and would like your help with this.

We ideally would like volunteers who already have some identification skills that they are keen to develop. You would work with us to research and learn survey methodology, and techniques for reporting findings, with the idea that you would then act as the lead on one area of wildlife, e.g. plants. As an entirely voluntary organisation we would be learning together and supporting each other, possibly with the assistance of other local wildlife organisations.

Neglected woods become dark places, without variation, reducing the wildlife that can live in them. The traditional management practices, such as coppicing, used by the Woodlanders make woodlands more open and varied and so should benefit a range of species.

We know that there are a lot of enthusiastic amateurs and professional people in the area with good knowledge and we are hoping that you might use that knowledge to help us. There are also a lot of new smartphone-based technologies that may be useful with identification and recording. We'd really like to work with you, possibly using new technologies, to build up a detailed picture of the woodlands that we work in and the effects of our management on those woods. You would be using your skills to inform and influence our work.

Our volunteer programme allows people to directly benefit local habitats and reduce their carbon footprint by growing a sustainable source of wood-fuel, timber and other woodland products. The good company of fellow volunteers and the inclusivity of the group also helps to develop our local community. All volunteers gain knowledge and skills with many also getting fresh air and exercise on our weekly woodland Task Days.

Skills required: - we would like the successful volunteer to have some identification skills and be self-motivated. They will be supported by an experienced and knowledgeable group who have been running for the past 10 years.

Benefits and Perks of the role: - Using your skills and experience to help support local wildlife, the local community and making a positive contribution to the ecological and climate crisis. Volunteering alongside a wonderful established group therefore allowing you to socialise and enhance your knowledge. The opportunity to apply for expenses is available if you desire.

For more information please email: woodland@tveg.org.uk or telephone 01547 520374. To learn more about KCWG, please go to <http://tveg.org.uk/wordpress/what-we-do/woodland-project>

