

## What happens next?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this application form. We would like to meet you face to face to discuss the opportunities available. Please can you suggest suitable days and times when you would be available to do this and a member of staff from Countryside Services will get in touch.

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**Please return your completed form to one of the addresses below:**

### For St Neots and St Ives sites contact:

Paxton Pits Nature Reserve  
High Street  
Little Paxton  
St Neots  
PE19 6ET  
Tel: 01480 406795  
Email: [paxtonpits@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:paxtonpits@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

### For Huntingdon sites contact:

Hinchingbrooke Country Park  
Brampton Road  
Huntingdon  
PE29 6DB  
Tel: 01480 388666  
Fax: 01480 451568  
Email: [hinchingbrookecountrypark@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:hinchingbrookecountrypark@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)



## Thinking of Volunteering for Countryside Services?



## What do our volunteers do?

### Habitat Management

- Scrub removal
- Hedge planting and laying
- Coppicing and tree planting
- Strimming and grass cutting
- Pond maintenance
- Log splitting

### Health and Safety

- Tree surveys and safety work
- Site checks and litter picking

### Estate Work

- Fencing and gate installation
- Footpath creation and maintenance
- Bridges and boardwalk repairs
- Bench/seat making and maintenance

### Horticulture

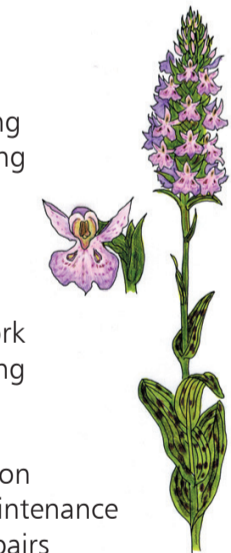
- Growing plants from seed
- Growing and tending vegetables and fruit
- Potting, weeding, pruning etc
- Harvesting, packaging and selling produce
- Maintaining wildlife gardens

### Wildlife Surveying

- Breeding and wetland bird surveys
- Site surveys – flora, invertebrates etc
- Assisting with bird box schemes

### Visitor Services

- Leading guided walks
- Working in the café
- Manning the Visitor Centre



### Environmental Education

- Helping with school groups
- Helping with events

### Become Involved in Friends Groups

- Raising funds to support sites
- Joining Friends group committees
- Helping with membership recruitment
- Helping with events and publicity

**Volunteers are an important and valued part of Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) and Countryside Services relies heavily on volunteers to help them manage many sites across the district.**

## We aim to provide:

- A safe and enjoyable volunteering experience where volunteers are respected, treated fairly and are covered by HDC's employers liability insurance
- An opportunity to meet and work alongside like minded people
- The opportunity to acquire and improve practical skills whilst carrying out a wide range of tasks
- A comprehensive induction to the volunteer role, to the team and to HDC's Countryside Service
- A named member of staff for support
- Appropriate training and development opportunities
- Corporate clothing to wear while volunteering
- Personal protective equipment when required
- Free hot drinks whilst working as a volunteer
- Social events



## In return we ask our volunteers:

- To work reliably and to the best of their ability
- To give us as much warning as possible whenever they cannot work when expected
- To have enthusiasm and a sense of humour
- To adhere to Countryside Services health and safety procedures
- To respect all other volunteers, members of the public and Rangers
- To act professionally at all times and comply with the spirit of HDC's code of conduct
- To be open and honest in their dealings with HDC and Countryside Services
- Not to make representations or speak on behalf of HDC
- To join in with daily tasks
- To undertake appropriate training
- To undertake a probationary period of four volunteer sessions
- To promote HDC's Countryside Service and help to create a positive image
- To supervise vulnerable people as required
- To undergo a DBS check if necessary
- To provide 2 written or oral references
- To undergo checks of their eligibility to work in the UK
- To return clothing / safety footwear on completion of volunteering



We aim to follow up all volunteering enquiries as soon as possible after receiving these details. We like to meet face to face to discuss volunteering opportunities but if you can give us further information about your interests and skills, we will be able to find the best person to contact you directly. The more information you can give us at this stage the more prepared we can be when we meet you, but please don't let this form put you off. We would love to hear from you.

**Your Details**

Please complete this form and return it to us.

Today's Date (day/month/year): .....

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Other: .....

Full Name: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Home Tel: .....

Mobile Tel: .....

Email: .....

Preferred method of contact: (Please tick)

- Home No.
- Mobile
- Email

Date of Birth: .....

Age: .....

**Which site(s) would you prefer to volunteer at? (please tick)**

**St Ives sites**

- Holt Island
- The Thicket Woodland
- Wilhorn Meadow



**Huntingdon sites**

- Hinchingsbrooke Country Park
- Huntingdonshire Community Plant and Tree Nursery
- Stukeley Meadows Local Nature Reserve
- Spring Common
- Views Common

**St Neots sites**

- Paxton Pits Nature Reserve
- Barford Road Pocket Park
- St Neots Common
- Sudbury Meadow

If you are mainly based at one site then transport will often be provided if the group is working at an alternative site for the day.

**Which volunteering opportunities are you interested in? (please tick)**

- Practical conservation work
- Horticulture
- Assisting with site checks
- Leading guided walks
- Helping with school groups or events
- Assisting with wildlife surveys
- Working in the café at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park
- Manning the Visitor Centre and serving refreshments at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve
- Marketing
- Fundraising

**Please give details of any medical conditions we should be aware of that require support or details of any medication that may affect your ability to carry out the volunteer role**

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**Do you have any special requirements that we need to consider to help you carry out your role as a volunteer for Countryside Services? e.g. Communication and/or mobility**

Yes  No

If Yes, please specify: .....

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Do you hold a full driving licence?  Yes  No

Do you have use of a vehicle?  Yes  No

**Why do you want to volunteer?**

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**What skills would you like to develop while volunteering with us?**

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**During your working/academic life you will have gained many skills. What skills, knowledge and experience can you now offer Countryside Services?**

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**Your availability to volunteer**

Date you are available to start volunteering:

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Please indicate the approximate number of hours you may be willing to work in each session. If you are flexible about days / hours please tell us.

Day	AM	PM
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		
Totally Flexible		

What is the maximum number of hours you can offer Countryside Services each week? .....

Please add any further information about your availability you feel might be useful e.g. Are you only available in school holidays?

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**References**

Before you start volunteering we will need 2 references, written or oral, from people (such as a previous employer or family friend) who have known you for at least 12 months. These people should not be related to you or living with you. To help us speed up your volunteer application, please provide their contact details below:

**Reference 1**

Name: .....

Email: .....

Tel: .....

Address: .....

Occupation: .....

Relationship to you: .....

**Reference 2**



Name: .....

Email: .....

Tel: .....

Address: .....

Occupation: .....

Relationship to you: .....