

Appendix D - Conservation Volunteering

Each Monday volunteers are invited to Parndon Wood Nature Reserve to assist staff with the day to day operations. On occasions this may be based at one of a number of sites across the town.

Parndon Wood's Wildspace volunteers are exclusively based at Parndon Wood Nature Reserve and meet every Tuesday from 10am-1pm throughout the year. They are mainly involved in keeping the reserve's trails, trees and ponds in a healthy state.

Greenteam volunteers are based across the town on a number of wildlife sites and nature reserves every Wednesday from 10 am to 3pm. Tasks are varied depending on the site and the time of year. This can vary from winter coppicing work at Parndon Wood Nature Reserve to pond clearance to fencing work to footpath maintenance and more.

Details of tasks are communicated via weekly updates emailed every Thursday. Training on the safe use of tools is given on all tasks and PPE such as gloves, hard hats and eye protection are provided along with tea, coffee and biscuits. Logo clothing is also provided.

Harlow Conservation Volunteers (HCV) is an independent volunteer group. They work out of Parndon Wood Nature Reserve and have their own tool shed. They undertake a wide range of planned activities both at Parndon Wood and on other Nature Reserves and wildlife sites in Harlow. The group meets once a fortnight on a Sunday.

Corporate team building volunteer days are hosted throughout the year, with around 5 sessions held each year. Examples being; Glaxo Smith Kline joins us each year over two sessions involving as many as 50 staff in October as part of their Orange Day programme, which gives all employees one paid day off each year to make a difference for their chosen local community project. Other companies we have hosted staff from Pitney Bowes, Astro Lighting, Pearson UK, Nationwide and more.

The work of our conservation volunteers in Harlow is essential for the continued upkeep of our open spaces and it is therefore essential that we maintain and support the volunteer groups undertaking this work. Investing in people with recruitment, staffing support, training, providing logo clothing, PPE and the right tools and equipment to facilitate volunteering is paramount.