

Volunteer Task Outline



Task title: Livestock Monitor

Location: Penn Wood, Buckinghamshire

Time: Approximately 1-2 hours per week, as per Cattle Watchers Rota. Ongoing.

Volunteer Manager: Sam Manning

<p>Task summary</p>	<p>The Woodland Trust is one of the UK’s leading conservation charities. We have over 500,000 members and supporters and more than 1,000 sites all over the UK. We believe life’s better with trees. We protect and campaign on behalf of the UK’s woods, plant more trees, and restore ancient woodland, for the benefit of wildlife and people.</p> <p>Penn Wood is one of the largest ancient woodlands in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and lies in the heart of this area. It has a long history and was once part of a very large common called Wycombe Heath. A herd of cows is still used to manage part of the site today as “wood pasture” and this continues the traditional management carried out in the past. The wood is an important place in the county for wildlife, where many important conservation activities are taking place, such as dormice monitoring and ancient woodland restoration.</p> <p>In 2014 we launched a 3 year project funded by HLF, Veolia and the local community. The project is designed to improve community involvement in the woods, and make relevant to visitors the wood’s deep history and conservation importance. As part of our conservation work at Penn Wood we have a herd of cows grazing the site. The cattle are a rare breed, the Dexter Blue, and are perfect for conservation grazing owing to their grass based grazing characteristic and browsing ability. They are also a small and docile breed, easily managed and hardy, suitable for sites with public grazing. In general, cattle make excellent grazers for conservation as rather than nibbling or chomping the vegetation they wrap their tongues around the grass and pull it into their mouths. This is why a field grazed by cows has a tussocky appearance whereas a field grazed by sheep or horses tends to be flat. The varying height provides micro-habitats for invertebrates and exposes pockets of bare earth that enable seeds to set.</p> <p>With a team of other Volunteer Cattle Watchers, we need volunteers to regularly walk the site, account for the whereabouts and general health of the cattle, reporting updates, concerns or problems to the Site Manager – or in an emergency – the grazier.</p> <p>As with all volunteer roles you will be required to attend an induction to your volunteering role at the Woodland Trust. This is approximately 90 minutes long and is organised by your volunteering development officer.</p>
<p>Role purpose</p>	<p>To support the woodland operations team with monitoring conservation grazing,</p>

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	<p>which supports our aims of achieving:</p> <p>“A UK Rich in Native Woods and Trees for People and Wildlife.”</p>
Key activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To walk the site as per the Volunteer Cattle Watching rota, count and check health of cattle and report back findings promptly and accurately to the rest of the team and staff members as required. You may also be asked to check boundaries of enclosures and troughs as agreed with rest of cattle watching team. • Always act in accordance with the agreed role risk assessment and health and safety procedures. • Report any issues you come across on the site(s) to your volunteer manager. • Adherence to the Volunteer Charter and Woodland Trust policies, procedures and guidelines.
Experience / knowledge required including personal qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of Penn Woods would be advantageous, but can be developed. • Knowledge of basic signs of animal well-being. • Map reading skills. • Skills for recording basic data. • Good communication skills. • A sensible regard for health and safety and willingness to communicate any concerns to your volunteer manager. • Understanding and support of the Woodland Trust’s principles of woodland management. • As this is a physical role, volunteers will need to be willing and able to walk in a variety of weather and ground conditions, and be comfortable volunteering on their own. • Interest in and affinity with the values of the Woodland Trust.
Equipment required	<p>Woodland Trust will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polo shirt and name badge. <p>Volunteer provides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate clothing and footwear. • Access to mobile phone and an email address.
Expenses	<p>Expenses are available for return journeys from home based on public transport cost, or mileage at standard rates for the Woodland Trust. Other expenses must be agreed in advance with your volunteer manager.</p>
Health & Safety	<p>The Trust has a health and safety policy supported by guidance and rules. The Trust provides risk assessments for each volunteering role. You will have a responsibility to flag up any risks the task may pose to you or others and discuss it with your volunteer manager.</p> <p>This role will entail a considerable amount of lone working therefore you will need to feel comfortable working in this situation, and act in accordance with the Woodland Trust’s Lone Working procedure. A ‘buddy system’ should be set up for safety reasons with someone knowing where you are and when you are likely to return. Any concerns regarding safety should be discussed immediately with a member of the volunteering team or the Estate Ranger.</p>

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Hours	Please keep a record of the hours you are involved with the task and send them to your volunteer manager each month. This allows us to promote and celebrate the impact and value that volunteering has on the work of the organisation.
Event support	As a Woodland Trust volunteer you may have the opportunity to support the Trust at events in your area. We will contact you when these occasions arise to see if you are available to help.

A note about Conflict of Interest

It is important that volunteers avoid situations that give rise to a personal or business conflict of interest while undertaking their volunteer role. If a volunteer is in a situation where they may end up gaining financially or where their own self-interest and the interests of the organisation might be in conflict, it is important that the volunteer speaks to their volunteer manager as soon as possible.

Office Use Only

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Reference number for role			
Viva Level	US	S	P
Commitment Level	LT	F	O
References required	Yes		No
Expenses Codes	CC	TR	WO