



## Volunteer FAQs – Land Management

### **What work do the Land Management work parties do?**

The Land Management work parties support our team of rangers who look after over 500 hectares of woodland, wetland and farmland habitats as well as seven community reserves around South Oxfordshire.

You can expect to help with a variety of hands-on tasks from coppicing in woodland to fixing infrastructure like pathways and fencing across our green spaces, to log splitting or meadow scything. There is always a variety of tasks, and you don't need any previous experience as all training is provided. You just need a sturdy pair of boots, a flask and packed lunch and bags of enthusiasm, rain or shine!

### **How many people come on your work parties?**

The size of the work parties ranges from approx. 5-20 volunteers at each session.

### **Do the work parties see jobs through start to finish?**

This varies from job to job. We try to assign specific tasks to a group where possible but we have a tight work schedule to keep to and it is not uncommon for one team to start a job and another to finish it.

### **How do you plan the tasks involved in the work parties, to ensure there is enough for everyone to do?**

We have a variety of work parties from small, specialised groups to larger teams. When planning out our work schedule we assign jobs to the teams best suited to make the most of everyone's time. We will always aim to have extra jobs to move onto if the planned tasks are completed but when that isn't possible, we may finish a group early.

**How will I know what to do at a work party?**

These work parties are led by our experienced and knowledgeable ranger team. At the beginning of each session, they give a verbal risk assessment and explain what the task is and why we are doing it. They will spend more time with new volunteers, making sure they are happy with the task and providing training on the tools that we will be using. Our staff and experienced volunteers are happy to help guide and advise newbies throughout the day.

**How do you manage the size of work party groups?**

We ask that volunteers let us know if they will be attending the week's work parties, so that we can ensure we have the right group size and the right amount of tools. We are looking at ways to improve this to make the best use of everyone's time.

**Is there an opportunity for farm volunteering?**

All land management work relates to our diverse farm which includes our grassland and woodland areas. The direct farming operations at Earth Trust are undertaken by our farm contractors but the Land Management Team and volunteers are involved in some aspects including fencing and hedgerow management.

If you have any additional questions, please do speak to your session leader, Staff Lead or the volunteer team.

**More Information**

You can find out lots of interesting and informative information about volunteering with us on our website at [earthtrust.org.uk/get-involved](http://earthtrust.org.uk/get-involved) and we have a dedicated digital resources space for our active volunteers at [earthtrust.org.uk/volunteer-portal](http://earthtrust.org.uk/volunteer-portal)

**Contact Details**

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