



Volunteering Opportunities in Heritage

Historic Routes & Past Pathways



Are you interested in the history and stories behind some of the old footpaths and byways (rights of way) in the New Forest?

Are you interested in old maps, walking, are you a good listener? Do you enjoy delving into historic documents or being out and about in the New Forest? Why not join our Historic Routes team.

As part of this team you will be researching old maps looking for the past routes that are now rights of way, while out in the Park you will be identifying and recording interesting flora and fauna, archaeological sites and features visible along these historic routes. You will also be assessing the condition of the rights of way. All this work will contribute to establishing five new trails in the Park.

No experience needed just a keen eye for detail and the desire and ability to visit the records office in Winchester and be out walking in the forest, all training and equipment is provided.

Role Description

Volunteers will be researching old and historic maps and documents looking for past evidence of current rights of way within the Park and recording your findings. Following this research phase selected rights of way will be walked to record such things as interesting flora and fauna, archaeological sites and features and route condition. Following this phase research will focus on collecting stories and memories about selected routes. All these findings will be used to select those routes to form five new trails.

Volunteers will be allocated an area to research and given the details of the rights of way within that area. This role involves traveling to the Hampshire records office in Winchester to conduct the documentary research as well as researching available online historic mapping. After this phase volunteers will travel to selected areas to conduct the field work on specific rights of way and/or additional research.

Responsibilities

The volunteer will be:

- Responsible for themselves
- Work with the project team to meet our objectives
- Will not discuss or pass on confidential information
- Assess features and information for inclusion into the projects databases
- Use digital recording equipment to identify, survey and record agreed features for

inclusion into the projects databases

- Will follow the applicable New Forest National Park Authority Policies e.g. Health and Safety (Risk Assessments) and Best Practice at all time.
- Work professionally and considerately across various locations in the New Forest National Park.

Essential Information

Single/Shared Role	These tasks will be shared between a number of volunteers and field work will be conducted in groups of no less than two. There will be opportunities to work alone in local and national archives..
Estimated preferred hours per week	Flexible. Some visits will require a certain amount of time, and be tied to specific appointments, but volunteers will also be able to undertake their own research in their own time.
Location	Local, regional and national archives. Local history group facilities, New Forest Centre and in some cases private homes. Field work will be across the Park.
Training	Induction session and all training provided
Expenses	Agreed travel expenses reimbursed
Dress code	We aim to have a friendly and “relaxed” office and thus do not have a strict dress code. Please dress appropriately for a busy working office environment. If joining us at a public event branded clothing may be provided (e.g. T-shirt and/or Jacket).
Other Information	The majority of this role is conducted in or around the New Forest National Park. We are seeking volunteers who are able to travel easily: e.g. in their own vehicle or via public transport. However some of the research can be done at home or in the office (Lymington) so no need to be physically active.

Key Words / Tags

e.g. friendly, good communicator, interest in archives, enthusiastic, dependable, inquisitive, problem solver, researcher

How to find out more or register your interest

www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/landscape-partnership
volunteering@newforestnpa.gov.uk

There will also be opportunities to volunteer on other tasks as part of the Our Past, Our future Landscape Partnership Scheme.



For general enquiries contact the New Forest National Park Authority as the lead partner on 01590 546604 or email ourpast.ourfuture@newforestnpa.gov.uk.

