



Role Description: Woodlands & Water Volunteer

As members of the Woodlands & Water Team, you'll be helping to manage our woodlands, our off-grid water and sanitation systems and make improvements around site using our natural resources.

This includes:

- Fence and gate building and installing
- Maintaining and improving CAT's off grid water and sanitation systems (e.g. replacing and installing pipes, changing filters, maintaining the reed beds)
- Biodiversity monitoring and surveys
- Tree inspections and maintenance (e.g. side pruning)
- Building and installing bird boxes
- Making charcoal
- Meadow maintenance (e.g. scything, removing bracken)
- Path maintenance
- Cutting firewood & kindling
- Invasive species control (e.g. rhododendron removal)
- Small tree felling
- Assisting with larger tree felling (e.g. snedding)
- Coppicing
- Processing coppice & other woodland products
- Tree planting

Woodlands

Our woodlands are managed sustainably using Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) techniques, which you will have the opportunity to learn about in addition to the practical skills required. This method allows to balance the competing demands for biodiversity, woodland products (including firewood and building material), and leisure/educational use.

Water

CAT is entirely off grid for all of our water and sanitation requirements, and as part of maintaining our systems you will learn about how we filter drinking water from our reservoir using sand filters and UV filters, and how we process our grey and black water using compost toilets and 2 separate reed bed systems.

Please note that this role is quite different between summer and winter.

Summer volunteers tend to work considerably more on infrastructure maintenance and improvements (building benches, installing or repairing fences, footpath management etc) and biodiversity enhancement (surveying, building and installing bird/bat/dormouse etc boxes, habitat improvement such as meadow scything and rhododendron removal etc).

Winter volunteers tend to work in more forestry related work, mostly assisting with tree felling and processing of woodland products, coppicing, tree planting, and hedge laying.

Who are we looking for?

We're looking for people who:

- Want to make a regular commitment to volunteering at CAT.
- Have experience or are comfortable:
 - o Working outdoors (whatever the weather)
 - o Living with others
- Are enthusiastic and keen to get stuck-in with tasks.
- Are friendly, polite and amenable to others.
- Are reliable and trustworthy
- Will follow their Supervisors instructions and CAT's policies and procedures.
- Have knowledge, interest or a willingness to learn about sustainability and CAT's work.
- Some prior knowledge of site management or conservation would be advantageous, but isn't required as all training can be provided.

You will also need the following up to date vaccinations and boosters:

- Diphtheria
- Polio
- Tetanus
- Hepatitis A

If you can't or don't wish to get any of these, you will be required to sign a disclaimer.

Please see the information pages on the type of volunteering (long term, short term, or day) for details of how to apply.