

Volunteering with...

The Larches Team

Detling



We are a small team looking to expand. We have a wide range of interests which perfectly suits the variety of tasks at 6 very different zones within the 40 acre site.

The team is lead by Area Warden Alison Ruyter who is often accompanied by her dog Ida.

The Larches is spectacular all year round, with a fantastic display of fungi and leaf colour in the autumn, jewel bright wildflowers in the spring and summer and silhouettes of birds of prey gliding across the winter sky.

With 6 very different zones within the 40 acre site, tasks are varied and there is plenty to learn with each change in season.



Task Info

Summer

Path repair, weed control, fencing or young tree care and wildlife surveys.

Winter

Clearing scrub from chalk downland, hazel coppicing, clearing excess vegetation from the grassland and checking on our Highland Cattle.

Why is it important?

Although relatively small, the site is nationally protected for the rare grassland and internationally protected for the Yew woodland. Without all the different jobs we do on the site we could not maintain and increase the wildlife value and the community enjoyment of the site. There is lots to do which we can only do with your help.

Commitment

First Monday of every month, join us, monthly or ad-hoc, or combine with other locations for weekly activity.

Training

Full training is given and you'll only be asked to do work you are comfortable with. There is the option to do further training in machinery use or team leading too.

Join us for a taster session or apply:

01622 662012 | volunteering@kentwildlife.org.uk | www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/get-involved



Head Office: Kent Wildlife Trust, Tyland Barn, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3BD
Tel: 01622 662012
info@kentwildlife.org.uk | kentwildlifetrust.org.uk

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Before you go:

Task locations can change at short notice so it is important to check in with the warden in advance. Wear old clothes, waterproofs and strong shoes (wellies may be needed). Bring a drink and a packed lunch if you plan to stay all day.

Contact:

Alison on 07808 085031 / 01622 662012

Getting Here:

The Larches, Detling, ME14 3HW
OS Map Reference TQ789586
Parking is limited to roadside parking at the Eastern end of the site near Detling.

Access:

Please contact the Volunteer team to discuss any access requirements.

Additional tasks run in the winter months, please contact the warden for more details

3rd December – Clearing the Buddleia glade

Mainly strimming the regrowth but we will also be doing a little coppicing of the old hawthorn round the edges.

17th December – Christmas task

We will be continuing in the Buddleia glade but with the addition of hot minced pies and mulled wine. All welcome.

07th January – Bottom field clearance

Guaranteed to work off the mince pies! The cows have done a fabulous job of clearing most of the vegetation. It's time to tackle the scrub regrowth they couldn't and reset it for the spring flowers

Extra task: 21st January

04th February – Round the Quarry

Cutting back the hawthorn and other scrubby plants to increase the sunshine and encourage more grassland to form on either side of the path. Also helping to get the new fencing installed at the top of the Quarry.

Extra task: 18th February (Bottom field)

04th March – Top field clearance

Climbing gear ready as we tackle the ascent and get the scrub cleared that the cattle didn't manage.

Extra task: 18th March

05th April – Repairs to the site

Fixing all the infrastructure ready for the summer, probably with a bit of fly tipping clearance thrown in for good measure.



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