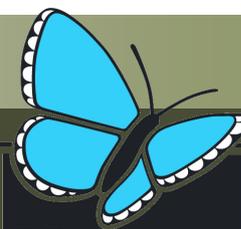


Volunteering with...

The Larches Team

Detling



**Kent
wildlife
Trust**



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.

8th July – Path cutting

Help us ensure that the reserve is still accessible for all the people who visit here and enjoy the countryside in this special place.

5th August – Weeding and repairs

Each year its gets a bit better as the site recovers from many years of under management. Today is time for a roving patrol to seek out any aggressive species that still aren't quite in balance and keep them in check before they set seed and make any repairs as necessary

13th May (Late one due to Bank Hol) – The New Glade

Our newest piece of chalk grassland is evolving but still needs a little bit of help to ensure it isn't over run by fast growing weed species making the most of the high nutrient levels remaining. A little bit of hand clearing will have it ready to go for the summer.

3rd June – Vegetation survey

Help us understand the reserve better by undertaking standardized surveys which help us compare the progress of this reserve against others across the county. No experience necessary.



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