



Northumberland County Council

Volunteer Role Description

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| Role Title: | Tree Warden |
| Time Commitment: | Ad hoc |
| Location: | Local Council land areas identified by the Tree Officer. Private land can only be accessed by prior agreement between the Tree Officer and the landowner. |
| Specific tasks and activities: | <p>Champion trees in your local community, through engagement activities such as handing out information, holding stalls or giving talks.</p> <p>Take part in planting and nursery activities.</p> <p>Provide low level care for trees, such as watering over hot periods.</p> <p>Survey trees and gather information about them.</p> <p>Provide the Tree Officer with early warning of threats, disease, decay, or vandalism. Ensuring you report these with accompanying photos to allow the team to prioritise work.</p> <p>Work with local groups and schools.</p> <p>Suggest trees for protection under Tree Preservation Orders to your local authority.</p> <p>Private land must only be accessed with the express permission of the landowner. This will be arranged by the Tree Officer, and they will arrange for you an appropriate time to visit.</p> <p>You must not advise on the safety of a tree; you will not be covered by insurance for this, and you will leave yourself liable should it fall.</p> <p>You must not undertake any work, use machinery or chemical weed control you have not received appropriate training for.</p> |

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| | <p>This training must be organised by the Tree Officer should they feel it is appropriate to your role.</p> <p>You must not become involved in tree disputes. These should be passed on to staff in all cases.</p> <p>You must not carry out work that could result in the disturbance or destruction of wildlife.</p> <p>Your actions must not bring your Tree Warden Network, The Tree Council or Northumberland County Council into disrepute.</p> <p>Always remember: Whilst all Tree Wardens are valued volunteers, Tree Wardens are not qualified tree experts, and you do not have any special powers or authority.</p> |
| Training: | <p>An understanding of the ethos of the Council will be provided.</p> <p>All volunteers must take part in an induction which includes relevant policies and procedures from the Council.</p> <p>Training will be given to all tree wardens including an introductory one-day course for all new Tree Wardens.</p> <p>Where appropriate, the Tree Officer will arrange training for equipment, chemical weeding and tree maintenance.</p> |
| Expenses/equipment provided: | No expenses given for this role. |
| Skills and qualities required: | <p>An interest in the care and preservation of trees.</p> <p>Ability to work in partnership with Northumberland County Council to ensure safe and appropriate practices.</p> <p>Able to attend ongoing training.</p> <p>Be available for catch-up sessions with the team at agreed times.</p> |
| Age requirements: | 16+ |
| Benefits to volunteer: | <p>You will be part of a team conserving and caring for trees in your local area.</p> <p>You will have the opportunity to meet people with similar interests.</p> <p>You will support the work of Northumberland County Council and the NEAT team.</p> <p>Your efforts will support the Council in reaching environmental targets.</p> |

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| DBS check: | None required for this role. |
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