



CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS GRAMPIAN GROUP

SUMMER PROGRAMME
JUNE - NOVEMBER 2019

www.nts.org.uk/Volunteering/Outdoor



About Conservation Volunteers

Conservation Volunteers (CVs) are a diverse group of people who carry out practical conservation work for The National Trust for Scotland, throughout Scotland. Becoming a CV gives you the opportunity to:

- Learn new skills such as drystone dyking, footpath construction and woodland management;
- Work in beautiful gardens and stunning countryside throughout Scotland;
- Meet new people, enjoy some fresh air and exercise, and become actively involved in conservation and the Trust;
- Attend training courses and lectures to enhance your understanding of countryside skills and conservation issues.

How to Register

You will need to complete a Registration Form (details on how to obtain this form can be found at the end of this programme). Once you have completed the Registration Form, please return it to Julie Bond at Central Office. Thereafter, you will receive a Conservation Volunteer New Member Information Pack. You will remain on the register providing you attend at least one project every three years.

Presentations/Social

Presentations will be held in the Zoology Building, University of Aberdeen, Tillydrone Avenue, AB24 2TZ. They begin at 7.30pm and provide an opportunity for new members to meet the Group and discuss up-coming projects. Free parking is available in the evenings in the Zoology Building car park on Tillydrone Avenue.

How to Join a Project

If you would like to participate in any of the following projects, please contact Kenny Bain at ntsgrampiancvs@gmail.com **New volunteers must be registered prior to attending a project!**

Meeting Places: Day Projects: you should make your own way to the property, unless you have arranged transport with the Project Leader in advance. Normally we meet at the car park of the property concerned. Please let Kenny know if you require transport. **Weekend Projects:** please meet outside Morrison's, King Street in Aberdeen where lifts will be available in cars or a minibus. **IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND A PROJECT, PLEASE LET KENNY OR THE PROJECT LEADER KNOW, SO THAT NO-ONE IS LEFT WAITING FOR YOU.**

NB: Sturdy footwear essential, unless otherwise stated.

June 2019	
Saturday 1	Leith Hall one day project with the Rangers. Meet at property 9.30am
Saturday 15	Leith Hall one day project with the Gardeners. Meet at property 9.30am
Saturday 29	Drum one day project with the Rangers. Meet at property 9.30am
July	
Saturday 13	Crathes Castle one-day project with the Rangers. Meet at property 9.30am
Saturday 27	Drum one day project with the Rangers. Meet at property 9.30am
August	
Sat 10 and Sun 11	Pitmedden two day project with the Gardeners. Meet at property 9.30am
Sunday 25	Castle Fraser one day project with the Rangers. Meet at property 9.30am
September	
Saturday 7	Fyvie one day project with the Gardeners. Meet at property 9.30am
Saturday 21	Drum one day project with the Gardeners. Meet at property 9.30am
October	
Friday 11 – Sunday 13	Inverewe weekend project. Details TBC.
Saturday 19	Crathes Castle one day project with the Rangers. Meet at property 9.30am
November	
Saturday 2 & Sunday 3	Haddo two day dyking project. Meet at property 9.30am
Saturday 16	Leith Hall one day project with the Gardeners. Meet at property 9.30am
Saturday 30	CV Christmas Ceilidh Ballinluig Village Hall, Perthshire 8.00pm

Project Information		Accommodation & Working Grading
Leith Hall	1 June: The area around Leith Hall is known for wildcats. During this one day project you will be using your drystone dyking skills to create artificial wildcat dens to help protect these endangered animals. There will also be an opportunity to cut back gorse and clear drainage ditches. Steel toe capped boots required.	WG 3
	15 June: The garden pond has a good population of newts. Your assistance with carrying out some important pond maintenance to help conserve the habitat would be greatly appreciated. Other gardening tasks may also feature.	WG 1-2
	November: A key task in the gardens each year is to disinfect the greenhouses and manure the vegetable beds. It's a daunting job for a small team of gardeners, so your help with this would be welcome.	WG 1-2
Drum	June: We're trialling different methods for suppressing bracken in the Old Wood of Drum to aid the regeneration of the woodland, including the use of a horse and bracken bruiser. This is the first of two projects this summer using bracken boards and other methods.	WG 2
	July: The second of the two bracken control projects - see above.	WG 2
	September: During this one day project you will be helping the gardeners with farmland trail maintenance.	WG 2/3

Crathes	July: Come along for the day and help the rangers with some footpath repairs on the wider estate. Steel toe capped boots may be required. Please check with your CV Leader beforehand.	WG 2/3
	October: Near the Ley Pond there is a natural area of heather and Scots pine developing. We'd like to give it a helping hand by removing some of the spruce regeneration that could easily take over.	WG 2
Pitmedden	This is a two day project with the gardeners to assist with clearing gullies and streams to help drainage. There will also be some car park and picnic area tasks. Details TBC nearer the time.	WG 2
Castle Fraser	The Flight Pond is a nationally recognised site for damselflies and dragonflies. This annual project to cut rushes by the pond helps to improve the habitat for these amazing insects.	WG 2
Fyvie	Fyvie is a magnificent fortress in the heart of Aberdeenshire and a sterling example of Scottish Baronial architecture. You will be assisting the gardeners to help remove trees along the lochside to open up some vistas along the waymarked trail.	WG 2/3
Inverewe	During this weekend project you will be working with the forester to improve an area of birch woodland, including <i>Rhododendron</i> control and converting it into a saleable product with a charcoal burn. In the evening there may be an opportunity to continue with an owl survey to help identify how they are using the landscape.	WG 2/3
Haddo	Put your drystone dyking skills to good use by helping to repair a retaining wall in Haddo gardens. Steel toe capped boots required.	WG 3
Christmas Ceilidh The more the merrier!	The Conservation Volunteer Christmas Ceilidh Mulled wine and nibbles will be available on arrival and a two course meal will be served at 9.00pm. Tickets are priced at £14.00 and partygoers will be able to stay overnight in the village hall at no extra cost - a simple breakfast will be provided. Tickets can be purchased from the CV Co-ordinator, Julie. Do remember to bring along a small raffle prize & your own special beverage! Transport available.	Ballinluig Village Hall, Perthshire (indoor camping)

NB: work descriptions can sometimes change nearer the time.

Work Grading:

WG1. Low-level work, not too physical

WG2. Medium, tasks slightly more physical

WG3. Demanding work (eg footpath repairs/dyking) and could also involve a long walk to the worksite

Additional Events & Information

Leader Training Course: Friday 22 – Sunday 24 November 2019

Venue: Pitlochry Youth Hostel, Knockard Road, PH16 5HJ

This weekend leader training course is free and open to all five Groups and is aimed at those who would like to lead weekend or day projects. For further information, please contact Julie Bond; email

conservationvolunteers@nts.org.uk

Leaders and Drivers Wanted! If you're interested in becoming a CV Project Leader or Minibus Driver then we'd love to hear from you. Leaders need to be trained in First Aid, which we will arrange for you, and if you're interested in driving a minibus you will need to take a MiDAS minibus driving test. This certificated course covers all aspects of safe and defensive minibus driving and is recognised nationally. The course is free to CVs who are over 21 with two years' driving experience (you must also have D1 on your driver's licence). If you have any queries in relation to MiDAS, please contact Julie Bond by email jbond@nts.org.uk or by phoning 0131 458 0315.

Paramo - www.paramo.co.uk The National Trust for Scotland has negotiated a substantial discount with the outdoor clothing company Paramo. For further information, please contact the Grampian Group Paramo Representative: Ranger, Toni Watt E-mail: twatt@nts.org.uk. This discount is only available to active CVs.

Regatta Great Outdoors - www.regatta.com offer active CVs a 20% on-line discount. At checkout use code **STAFF20NTS**.

Holiday Discount Active CVs are also eligible for a **50% discount on one-week stays and 25% off short breaks** in selected Trust accommodation! (Conditions apply – discount on full price only, when booked within two weeks of stay, excludes non-Trust accommodation). Check availability on www.nts.org.uk/holidays, then email holidays@nts.org.uk or phone 0131 458 0398 to book.

Evaluation Forms It's always good to get feedback. If you'd like to draw our attention to anything or you'd just like to let us know how much you've enjoyed your weekend, please ask the Project Leader for a Conservation Volunteer Evaluation Form.



What to bring with you

Tough old clothes to work in/full change of clothes. Hat, scarf & gloves.
Personal medication, torch, lunch box/water bottle.
Sunscreen F30+/insect repellent, wide brimmed sun hat; wellies and/or boots, warm sleeping bag (if required), waterproofs and toilet kit/towel.



NB: Sturdy footwear is ESSENTIAL! Any volunteer wishing to participate in drystone dyking is required to wear boots or Wellingtons with steel toecaps. For newcomers to the Group, there will be a limited supply of Wellingtons with steel toecaps available for use. Please ask in advance of a project if you need to borrow footwear.

Remember to clean your boots before and after a project, and between work sites. Please refer to our Biosecurity instructions – [Mind your feet!](#)

What we provide

Food (weekend projects only) and refreshments on day projects, crockery, cutlery, tools, work gloves, insurance and first aid kits. If you have any dietary requirements, please let your project leader know in advance.

Health and Safety The Trust is committed to a safe and healthy working environment for all, and as part of this aim, considers all volunteers as staff for the purposes of health and safety management and legal compliance. In practical terms this means that:

Volunteers should be aware of their general responsibilities to look after their own safety and that of anyone else around them, and to cooperate with the Trust fully in adopting their safe working practices. The normal arrangements in relation to footwear, clothing, preventative steps and sensible working practices apply equally to staff and volunteers.

The Trust Staff Member co-ordinating the activity should carry out a specific risk assessment of the activity before it takes place, to identify the significant risks and their control measures and provide the volunteers with the information prior to the activity starting. Property staff should familiarise all volunteers with:

- the summary of the risk assessment
- any relevant emergency procedures
- detailed instructions for specific equipment
- detailed instructions for specific techniques, as required.

Further support can be obtained from:

- The current NTS Health, Safety and Environmental Manual - particularly the model risk assessments
- Property staff involved in the activity
- The NTS SHE Team
- The Property's Safe System of Work

If at any time you have any questions, or feel uneasy about the level of risk being faced, please let the Leader of the Group know immediately. Please note that Health and Safety Legislation requires that items such as aspirin are not included in our First Aid Kits. If you suffer from migraine or require any form of medication, you must provide this yourself. Volunteers are strongly urged to have an anti-tetanus injection, or booster, if required.

Other Conservation Volunteer Groups Please visit our website www.nts.org.uk/Volunteering/Outdoor to see what other CV Groups are up to this season. Grampian CVs are very welcome to attend projects advertised in other programmes, providing there is space available and you can arrange your own transport to the site or pick-up point.

REGISTRATION FORMS can be obtained from Julie Bond. Alternatively you can download a registration form from our website: www.nts.org.uk/Volunteering/Outdoor

ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST COMPLETE A REGISTRATION FORM PRIOR TO WORKING WITH THE GROUP.

**Temporary Conservation Volunteer Regional Co-ordinator –
Grampian Group:**

Toni Watt - Rangers' Office
Crathes Castle
BANCHORY
Kincardineshire
AB31 5QJ

Tel: 01330 844 810

Email: twatt@nts.org.uk

For General information - Central Office:

Julie Bond (Mon, Weds & Thurs)
Conservation Volunteer Co-ordinator
the National Trust for Scotland
Hermiston Quay
5 Cultins Road
Edinburgh
EH11 4DF

Tel: 0131 458 0315

Email: conservationvolunteers@nts.org.uk

Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/NTSVolunteering / www.facebook.com/GrampianConservationVolunteers

**The National Trust for Scotland for Places of Historic Interest and Natural Beauty is a charity registered in Scotland,
Charity Number SC 007410**

