

Alver Valley Conservation Days for Volunteers

We are extremely fortunate in Gosport and Lee on Solent that we are situated in such beautiful surroundings with wonderful green spaces and waterfront. We are surrounded by a wealth of wildlife and habitats ranging from reed beds to vegetated shingle and ancient woodland supporting both typical and rare species.



These wonderful areas are maintained by the Countryside Service areas and employing techniques such as scrub clearance, coppicing and planting and carry out the essential tasks to ensure our biodiversity is maintained. Much of this work is completed with the support of volunteers. There is a core group of conservation volunteers who work regularly with the Countryside Service and their input is extremely valuable to this area.

Groundwork Solent, an environmental, conservation charity in Gosport, are really pleased that they have been given the opportunity to work with the Countryside Service and support some of this really important conservation activities. We are seeking volunteers to support this. If you have some time on a Thursday or Friday, are interested in the surrounding environment and the conservation of our local spaces then we'd love for you to join us on one of the following activities:

Date	Activity and conservation benefit
Friday 20 January	Scrub clearance of willow. This will improve habitats for variety of birdlife including warblers, black cap and chiffchaff
Thursday 26 January	Reed cutting. This will improve habitats for reed warbler, sedge warbler and cuckoo
Friday 27 January	Reed cutting (habitat improvements as above)
Thursday 2 February	Grass control in wildgrounds. This will reduce dominant species to enable growth of other species which provide habitats for invertebrates and birds.
Friday 10 February	Grass control (as above)

What will it involve

- Volunteers will be involved in the practical activities at each of the sessions and will need to be comfortable and have suitable clothing for working in an outdoor environment.
- Demonstrations and direction of the use of any tools required to undertake activities will be provided at the start of the sessions and a supervisor will remain with the group at all times
- All sessions run from 9am until 3pm (weather permitting).
- Transport to site can be provided from Groundwork Solent office in Stoke Road Gosport
- Personal protective equipment must be worn. This can be provided on site but if you have access to safety boots you may wish to wear your own.

To find out more please contact Debbie Dawkins at Groundwork on 02392 617020 or Debbie.dawkins@groundwork.org.uk

This project is supported by the Lee on Solent Residents Association and the Valley Shift (a NIACE Adult learning Programme).