

Archaeology Volunteer Supervisor Role Profile

Key tasks

Tasks will vary, depending on the project, site and season of the year and may include bracken clearing, strimming, survey and monitoring, archaeological and conservation work; supervising and mentoring less experienced volunteers and helping with the organisation of projects.

After a probation period, which includes appropriate training, you will be able to run the projects with a minimal supervision from the LDNPA archaeologists.

Projects time-scale and commitment

It depends on the site, the project and the season. It will vary from a few days to a few weeks, and may include seasonal work, once-a-month tasks and one offs.

Due to the training offered we are looking for volunteers who can commit to at least 10 volunteering days across the year for 3 years.

Where and when

You can be based in various locations but, where appropriate, we will ensure that your projects are located in the area of the park you are closest to.

The working day will normally begin at 10am on site and you may need to allow travelling time beforehand (though this can be varied depending on the project). Please ensure that you arrive at the work site at least 15 minutes before this time so that we can meet everyone and outline the programme of work for the day. We recommend breaks mid-morning, lunchtime and mid-afternoon and will normally stop working at 4pm.

Experience

We will provide additional training; however it is essential that the supervisors have:

- knowledge of the historic environment and conservation issues;
- knowledge of the National Park and the National Park Authority;
- awareness of Health and Safety (training and relevant resources provided);
- experience of archaeological practical fieldwork and conservation;
- completed appropriate equipment training, such as e.g. strimmer (we can provide if needed);
- first aid training (we can provide if needed);
- interest in working with other volunteers;
- access to a computer and internet;
- ability to undertake physical work for a period of time.

Skills and abilities

You will have

- excellent communication and team working skills;
- flexibility and a willingness to keep up to date with developments in archaeology;
- an analytical and enquiring mind, with a keen interest in heritage;
- willingness to attend appropriate training and develop your skills;
- ability to understand other volunteers.

You will be

- reliable in attendance;
- a champion of the Lake District National Park;
- flexible and enthusiastic.

Suitable for

Due to the Park Authority's policy volunteers must be over 18. There is no upper age limit; however, a reasonable level of fitness is essential.

We recommend that our Supervisors live in or near the National Park, though can accept those who live further away if they can prove their commitment to the required working days.

Training and Support offered

Training will be task specific. For the office-based work it may include GIS (Geographical Information System), HER (Historic Environment Record) and software packages. For the site-based work it may include training in archaeological sites recognition, survey techniques, photography, dry stone walling, strimming, conservation practices, first aid, dealing with the public and team leading. We will also show you how we build and manage our 'Volunteer Activity Log' database.

Professional archaeologists will always be present at the beginning and the end of the project; they will also be available for regular consultation during the projects.

Support will also be provided through regular briefings; informal feedbacks and regular meetings with professionals.

Transport and Expenses

Transport to the events is not provided; however, we would be happy to help in setting up a 'car-share' system.

We are asking volunteer Supervisors to commit to at least 10 days across the year, for 3 years. In return for this commitment you will be able to claim travel expenses and will be supplied with PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and uniform.

Benefits of the role

By volunteering with us you will work in the National Park in the landscape; develop an understanding of archaeology and historic environment; develop survey and archaeological practice skills; gain knowledge of conservation practices; develop leadership skills and gain knowledge and experience to help with achieving accredited qualifications if you so desire.

Benefits for the Park Authority

Your involvement will extend the ability of the LDNPA archaeologists and other professionals to manage and conserve the historical environment of the Park.

What to do next

If you are interested, please fill in the Archaeology Volunteer Application Form available from archvol@lakedistrict.gov.uk.