

Ecology Intern - Job Description



Role: Ecology Intern

Hours: Part-time - minimum two days a week

Contract: 1 year starting January/February 2024

Salary: Unpaid but with a stipend of £3000pa, paid in quarterly instalments

Based: Andover, Hampshire - remote working from home and outdoor work at Harmony Woods

Reports to: The Trustees and Operations Manager of Andover Trees United

Applications close: 9am Monday 18th December 2023

ABOUT ANDOVER TREES UNITED

ATU was set up in 2011 by a group of local residents committed to engaging with their local community, especially young people, to better connect to the natural world and take practical action to address current environmental crises. The organisation set up by the founding group of friends has attracted the support of 25 local schools, countless members of the local community, local businesses, local government, nationally recognised organisations and a regular volunteer team of over 50. As the charity has grown, its leadership team has worked hard to retain a friendly, family-like atmosphere and now invites you to join them as our next resident Ecology Intern.

Andover Trees United (ATU) is a volunteer-led charity working in partnership with schools, local authorities, businesses, specialist environmental organisations, artists and other creative practitioners to promote conservation and improve responsible access to natural wild spaces. National collaborators currently include The Woodland Trust and Dr Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots. The charity's main site 'Harmony Woods' represents a 10-year planting project, giving all the children and young people in our community the chance to turn 12 acres of farmland to the north of Andover into an urban woodland, increasing biodiversity and providing a wealth of opportunities for learning about the environment. In 2022 ATU secured the lease to manage the entire 44-acre Diamond Jubilee Woodland in which Harmony Woods sits.

Our Objectives:

- 1) The conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment for the public benefit by the establishment and maintenance of woodland in Andover.
- 2) The advancement of education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in Andover and the Test Valley area, including by promoting the woodland as a means for the community to learn about wider environmental issues such as: sustainability, climate change, ecology, and the mitigating need for trees.

Community and Values:

At ATU we put the environment at the heart of everything we do, and we live by our core values:

- **Welcoming:** We are respectful, down to earth people, born out of the community, with a deep respect for all living things within the natural environment. We work together closely and care about each other's personal development.
- **Inclusive:** The health & wellbeing of our volunteers and service users are our highest priority. We strive to create a diverse, supportive and safe space for all. We're humans, doing our best. When we don't get things right, we learn from it.

- **Passionate:** We are active, enthusiastic 'doers'. We bring people together to learn from the natural world and empower them to get stuck in and make real change happen.
- **Creative:** We are creative problem solvers. We move fast, think far and believe the future is bright. We provide exciting nature and arts-based opportunities to connect, educate and communicate environmental issues to our local community.

ABOUT THE INTERNSHIP

This internship will run for 12 months from Jan/Feb 2024. We welcome applicants who have received, within the last 5 years, a degree or a vocational diploma in a relevant subject (e.g. ecology, biology, environmental science, conservation, land and wildlife management, etc). Experience of surveying and a good knowledge of native wildflowers, birds, butterflies, and other pollinators - or a willingness to learn - is a must.

As our intern, you will gain a valuable insight into the runnings of a grass-roots, community-led environmental education and conservation charity. Your main area of focus will be on the ecology, wildlife monitoring, and management of our community woodland and calcareous grassland, Harmony Woods. However, you will also have the opportunity to gain experience in other aspects of the charity's work, and there is scope for you to steer your internship into areas that are of interest to you (e.g. fundraising, PR & publicity, education, event planning, and more).

A love of nature is essential, as is a keen desire to share your environmental passion and knowledge with the local community.

The intern is responsible for running our 'Nature in Harmony' programme, which has three aspects:

- planning and leading biodiversity surveying (wildflowers, birds, pollinators, butterflies) between April and September and writing a report on the findings,
- planning and leading citizen science events over the spring and summer,
- being a co-leader for our youth group, the Nature in Harmony Exchange Project, year-round.

You'll be supported by our Trustees and volunteer Management Team, made up of experienced professionals from a wide range of backgrounds, and collaborate with our Nature & Community Officers, Admin Officer, and Operations Manager - so teamwork and good communication will be vital in this role.

You will get to help to plan and deliver interesting and exciting nature- and arts-based community projects, and you'll be doing a mixture of desk-based and outdoor work. Be prepared to get stuck in!

This is a part-time role, minimum two days a week, and you will be expected to work some evenings and weekends - in particular the second Saturday of each month when the youth group meets. This is not a salaried role, but you will receive a stipend of £3000 per year, paid in quarterly instalments, and there may be opportunities to write new projects that can include dedicated funding for you, the applicant, as a project officer.

We see the internship as a 2-way beneficial arrangement. It's a flexible role with flexible hours, we want to support you to gain the kind of experiences that you will most benefit from, and in return we would benefit from a hard-working valuable member of our team.

Key Responsibilities:

- To set up and lead spring and summer wildlife surveys in Harmony Woods, including the training of volunteers in species ID and survey techniques. These surveys must be conducted weekly between the start of April and end of September.
- To carry out statistical analysis of data collected through wildlife surveys, and write up your findings in a report.
- To devise and deliver a programme of citizen science events.
- To lead our youth group, which includes running a monthly session with them in Harmony Woods (second Saturday of each month), communicating with them via email, and supporting them with their own mini research projects and exchange link to Costa Rica.
- To monitor and evaluate projects that you work on.
- To maintain the Nature in Harmony database.
- To collaborate with other staff members, trustees and the volunteer management team in your work.
- To assist the rest of the team with any requests related to your project work or theirs.
- To take responsibility for communications with volunteers who participate in citizen science and fieldwork activities.
- Create project resources, such as posters, information guides, activity sheets, *etc.*
- Create project outputs, including presentations and reports, with support from the rest of the team.
- To represent ATU at any events and conferences.
- To take part in any training courses as requested by the Trustees - for example, health and safety, safeguarding, or practical woodland management skills.
- To promote ATU and support in the recruitment of volunteers.

PERSON SPECIFICATION - Required Subject Matter Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Undergraduate degree or vocational diploma in an environmental or life science subject (e.g. ecology, botany, zoology, geography, wildlife conservation, land management, or something similar). Gained within the last 5 years.
- Knowledge of British deciduous woodland and calcareous grassland habitats or willingness to learn.
- Knowledge of flora and fauna species that live in deciduous woodland and calcareous grassland habitats (you will not be expected to be able to identify everything, we understand that you will learn this on the job).
- Demonstration of proficiency in fieldwork skills, species identification, data handling, and scientific report writing.
- Familiarity with qualitative and quantitative project evaluation methods.
- Ability to work both independently and with a team.
- Proficiency with office applications such as PPT, Word, Excel. As well as Google Drive, Sheets, Docs, Slides.
- Ability to speak to large groups and in public.
- A creative approach to help bridge the gap between academic environmental knowledge and community understanding.
- Strong communication skills, verbally and written, that can be adapted to different audiences as needed.

- Autonomy – whilst this is a team role there is an expectation that you can work independently within the remit of the scope of your role.
- Ability to work across multiple, different projects simultaneously.
- Ability to take the initiative to solve problems.
- An empathy for and interest in working with people.
- Reliable, with a flexible approach and sense of humour.
- A love of nature.

NATURE SUPPORTING COMMUNITY, COMMUNITY SUPPORTING NATURE.

We appreciate the fact that all living things, plants, animals, people and their physical environment are interconnected, that they impact and depend on one another to survive. We are always conscious of how our work impacts the environment, whether that be directly through the creation and management of wild spaces, or indirectly, through the education and communication of environmental issues to our local schools and community.

In a nutshell, we are working to increase biodiversity, sustainably manage the woodland, create more wild spaces, educate the public in conservation of the natural environment and provide opportunities for the community to learn about wider environmental issues such as: sustainability, climate change, ecology and the mitigating need for trees.

For more information or to return a completed application form, please email
laura.morrell@andovertrees.org.uk