



**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Tirwedd
Cenedlaethol

**Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley**
National
Landscape



A Guide to Volunteering

within the Clwydian Range &
Dee Valley National Landscape



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Clwydian Range & Dee Valley



Introduction



I am delighted to welcome you to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley National Landscape, and I would like to thank you for volunteering with us or thinking about it. I have had the pleasure of leading the National Landscape since 1994 and in that time, I have found that every single volunteer brings an astonishing level of passion and dedication. Volunteers are vital to

our operation, and we could not operate without you. The team you have joined is made up of people from a diverse range of backgrounds, but all are united in their empathy for, and commitment to conserving and enhancing this wonderful area.

You are joining a community of fantastic people who have lots of experience to share with you. They are a friendly bunch too, so I am sure they will give you a great welcome! This handbook will help you get off to the best start on your volunteering journey and act as a handy guide during your time with us.

You should find all the information you need in this leaflet, but please call Loggerheads Visitor Centre if you have any questions now or in the future.

I hope that you enjoy your time with us, and I look forward to meeting you soon.

Howard Sutcliffe

Clwydian Range & Dee Valley National Landscape Officer



The Clwydian Range & Dee Valley National Landscape

A National Landscape is an area that is so precious that it is safeguarded for the nation. Such areas are legally protected. Their designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. There are 46 National Landscapes in the UK; and the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley is one of five in Wales.

Designation of the Clwydian Range occurred in 1985. Then, in 2011, it was extended to include much of the Dee Valley from Corwen to Chirk. The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape (NL) covers 390 square kilometres of some of our most wonderful landscapes. From the coastal slopes of Prestatyn Hillside in the north to the remote Berwyn Mountains and the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal in the south, the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape is a landscape of contrasts.

To the north, the Clwydian Range is a remarkable chain of heather-clad peaks crowned with Iron Age

hillforts. To the south, the rolling Llandegla Moors give way to the expansive Ruabon Mountain and the spectacular limestone cliffs of the Eglwyseg escarpment.



Purpose of this Booklet

The aim of this booklet is to provide you with some general information about the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley National Landscape, the process of becoming a volunteer and the volunteer opportunities we offer. We also suggest some other organisations you can work with who also support the area.

Caring for the National Landscape



We Need your Help!

Quite simply, we would never be able to do all the work that is constantly required in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape without the help of our dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers.

Each year our volunteers put many thousands of hours into improving and maintaining the National Landscape. They get to do everything from dry stone walling, hedge laying and heather burning to counting natterjack toads or listening for black grouse.

Not only is volunteering fun, but it also gets you into the fresh air, teaches you new skills, introduces you to new people and gives back into the environment.

In recent times, due to a greater appreciation of the beauty of the area and increasing numbers of visitors, our management strategy has included a programme to balance increasing visitor numbers with protection of the very landscape they have come to see. We want people to enjoy the National Landscape, but we also want to make sure that everyone benefits, from our communities and local businesses to conservation projects and environmental initiatives, and of course visitors themselves.

We can offer help and advice to anyone who lives or works within the National Landscape, and the protected areas around it, on planning, management, and funding opportunities for any project that protects or enhances the area.





Volunteering in the National Landscape

The National Landscape has been running a successful volunteer programme for a number of years. Volunteers range in age from 16 upwards with our oldest volunteer aged 94!

Our volunteers come from all different walks of life: students who want to develop a career in the countryside sector; unemployed people looking to develop skills; and many retired people who want to keep active, 'give something back' and enjoy the camaraderie and social aspects of volunteering. Quite simply, we would never be able to do all the work required in the National Landscape without the help of our dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers.

Not only is volunteering fun, but it also gets you into the fresh air, teaches you new skills, puts something back into the environment and lets you meet new people.

There is a wide range of volunteering opportunities available to you with the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley. The information below provides you with an idea of the roles available, and what is involved. However, we are always pleased to hear of other ways in which you feel you could support us.

If this is something that interests you then take a look at our volunteer programme and see if there's anything that takes your fancy.



"On the occasions I've volunteered it's created headspace and a real sense of wellbeing"

Our commitment to our volunteers



We welcome the opportunity to work with volunteers. The Clwydian Range & Dee Valley National Landscape is an equal opportunities organisation, and we wish it to be representative of the diversity in our local communities. We

welcome applications from people of all ages and backgrounds.

We make every effort to ensure that you receive the appropriate support and feel valued, so that you can realise your full potential as a volunteer.

You can expect:

- To be valued and respected as a volunteer
- To be provided with training relevant to your role
- Respect from the National Landscape team and fellow volunteers
- Appropriate steps to be taken to ensure your health and safety and you will be covered by our public liability insurance when engaging in approved activities
- Continuous support and advice
- To benefit the local community
- Your experience of volunteering with us to be as enjoyable as possible
- To promote the Welsh culture and economy
- To make new contacts and new friends
- To experience amazing wildlife and landscape
- To develop your skills and learn new ones
- To boost your health and wellbeing
- To play your part



What we expect from our volunteers

What we expect:

- Be polite, professional, reliable, confidential and respectful of members, staff, fellow volunteers and any members of the public you may interact with as a Clwydian Range and Dee Valley volunteer
- Read and comply with our policies, practices, procedures and management decisions
- Be reliable and honest in all your voluntary work
- Be responsible for all your own actions and to reflect the aims and values of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Partnership
- Carry out your voluntary role within the professional boundaries that will be set out for you in your training
- Attend volunteer training if it is required as part of your induction, and any further training for your chosen role



Opportunities to Volunteer



National Landscape Partnership Member

We are looking for enthusiastic and knowledgeable individuals who are prepared to get thoroughly involved in helping us deliver our vision and strategic objectives. We would particularly welcome members with knowledge and experience in tourism, agriculture, access and recreation, heritage, culture and the Welsh language. Three Partnership Member meetings are held annually.



Community Champion

Community Champions are members of a community or town council that work in partnership with the National Landscape team. They are a link between the National Landscape officers and their community. The Champions are passionate about protecting the area's landscape and support our work by helping to raise awareness of the National Landscape and engaging with our projects and events.



Practical Volunteers

We offer a range of activities for volunteers to get involved in practical conservation, important site maintenance and countryside skills, such as dry-stone walling, coppicing and hedge laying.

"The practical experiences of being a Young Ranger are also very social, it's an opportunity to have a laugh and help out"

"I feel really good about contributing to such a wonderful community space, and being so welcomed by the Team"



Young Rangers / Youth +

Young Rangers for young people aged between 11 and 18 and Youth + group for young adults aged 18-25. These groups are for anyone who want to learn more about the amazing landscape on their doorstep, get involved in practical conservation work, wildlife surveying, and experience fun recreational activities in the outdoors.



Plas Newydd Historic House & Gardens

Plas Newydd has a special place in the hearts of locals, and volunteering in its gardens is a great opportunity to become part of its long history. You can learn new skills, make new friends, stay active and engage with nature at a unique location. We can also cater for work experience, Duke of Edinburgh, or team building.



Volunteer Walk Leader

If practical tasks are not for you, why not join one of the walking or Nordic walking groups; find new routes to explore and meet new people? Or you could even start your own walking group and train to become a volunteer walk leader with us.



Volunteer Ranger

In this volunteer role, you can become an ambassador for the National Landscape, share your love and knowledge of the area, inspire local people and visitors alike and help take care of this special place. Volunteer Rangers will be uniformed and can expect to start out by being based within busier areas of the National Landscape such as Loggerheads and Moel Famau Country Parks or Horseshoe Falls. If you are 18 and over, able to travel and interested in joining us please get in touch.



Denbighshire Countryside Service

There are a range of opportunities for you to get involved in the work of Denbighshire Countryside Service and we need your help! From Rhyl & Prestatyn in the north along the Clwydian Range to Hiraethog and the Dee Valley in the south. You can join in every once in a while, or every week the choice is yours.



Nature for Health Programme

Nature for Health is a collaborative project that engages with individuals and communities to promote the role that access to nature can play in improving health and wellbeing. It enables participants to increase the amount of time spent outdoors, meet people, improve health and fitness, engage in conservation-based activities for all abilities To find out more contact natureforhealth@denbighshire.gov.uk



Curlew Connections Wales Project

The Curlew is one of Wales most endangered birds. Local community members can get in touch with our Curlew & People Officer, for information about how volunteers can help to champion one of our most iconic birds.



What you can do as a Visitor to the National Landscape

- Report your wildlife sightings via Cofnod <https://www.cofnod.org.uk/Recording>
- Take your litter home with you
- Keep your dog on a lead
- Always close gates

"I really enjoy learning about the Curlew & monitoring local species of bats & birds"



Partner Organisations



Friends of the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley

The charity, Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley was set up in 2015 with support from the National Landscape Team to help current and future generations discover and enjoy the special features of the National Landscape.

It now has over 200 members and supports the team with events and projects while also offering their own event programme and publishing a regular newsletter.

Find out more: <https://friends.cymru/>



Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW) the Welsh Countryside

CPRW cares about our countryside and wants people to enjoy and discover its beauty and bounty and its local members work hard to make this happen. The Clwyd Branch covers Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham. Clwyd is rich in heritage, scenic landscapes, ancient hillforts, heather-clad hills and historic towns and villages.

To learn more visit <https://cprw.org.uk/about-us/>



Corwen & Dee Valley Archaeological Society (CADVAS)



CADVAS aims to promote and foster interest in the study of archaeology in Corwen and Dee Valley. The Society runs a programme of events for its members and the general public are invited. info@cadvas.uk



Clwydian Range Archaeology Group (CRAG)

The Clwydian Range Archaeology Group (CRAG) is an independent voluntary association comprised of individuals who wish to research, share and disseminate information about the history of the Clwydian Range info@cragnorthwales.co.uk



How do I become a Volunteer?



For further information on all of the volunteering opportunities within the National Landscape, please pop in or contact us:

Visitor Centre

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We look forward to hearing from you!

 @ClwydDeeAONB

 @Clwyd_Deer_AONB

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