



**National
Trust**

Volunteer Ranger Ashridge Estate

Volunteer Role Description

About the National Trust

As Europe's largest conservation charity, we protect and open to the public over 300 historic houses, 160 gardens, 28 castles and industrial monuments. We also look after forests, woods, fens, farmland, downs, moorland, islands, coastline, archaeological remains, nature reserves and villages – for places, for ever, for everyone.

About the Ashridge Estate

The 5,000-acre Ashridge Estate lies on the borders of Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire on the northern tip of the Chiltern Hills. The estate comprises woodlands, commons and chalk downland and supports a rich diversity of wildlife. The focal point of the estate is the Bridgewater Monument; this is also the location of our visitor centre, cafe, shop, bookshop and education facilities. The estate includes well-known landmarks such as Ivinghoe Beacon, at the end of the ridgeway, and the 17th century Pitstone windmill.

What is a Volunteer Ranger?

You will be out and about on the estate and available to talk to visitors, sharing your knowledge and passion about Ashridge with anyone who wants to know more. By promoting the work of the National Trust at Ashridge you will help visitors to develop a deeper understanding of what we do here and why the estate is so special.

Your role is also to report back on issues that you come across whilst out on the estate. With Ashridge covering 2,000 hectares of publicly accessible countryside, issues can be many and varied. The role includes regular inspections of gates, fences, the rights of way network, car parks, and much more.

The hours you choose to work are flexible as are the areas of the estate that you choose to cover. It would be preferable for you to take responsibility for covering a designated area and to be available on some weekends, however this is not essential.

What's involved?

- Wearing branded National Trust clothing, you will be out and about across the estate and be a welcoming, friendly and informative member of the estate team.
- Carrying out monitoring tasks as agreed which will include:
 - Rights of Way assessments
 - Gate and fence checking
- Carrying out light clearance on paths and around waymarkers, limited to material that can be cut with secateurs.
- Acting as the eyes and ears of the ranger team, consider how Ashridge is presented to visitors and report back on issues of concern.
- Helping to keep car parks and tracks tidy by litter picking where necessary.

Pre-requisites

- You will be required to have some existing knowledge about Ashridge, the National Trust and/or countryside issues before taking on this role. It's helpful to have volunteered in another role at Ashridge for around six months or so before taking on this role.

This role will suit people who have...

- A friendly and approachable manner – good communication skills are essential.
- The ability to welcome and talk to people from all ages and backgrounds.
- An ability to deal with difficult situations.
- A willingness to keep well informed.
- An enthusiasm for ensuring visitors respect and enjoy the estate environment and facilities.
- An enjoyment of walking or getting around in the countryside.
- First aid training and map reading skills (beneficial but not essential).
- Enjoy and feel comfortable working alone

What's in it for you?

- Becoming part of a friendly group of volunteers who have regular meetings and social events
- Learning new skills
- Working in a beautiful setting

When it happens Monday to Sunday (seven days a week)

Clothing Smart/casual or National Trust branded clothing.

Training/Resources On the job training is provided

Expenses Out-of-pocket travel costs between home and volunteering place are offered.

Getting there

See Google Maps and key in our post code HP4 1LT.

The Ashridge Estate lies north of Berkhamsted on the B4506.

Applying for a volunteer placement

Please complete a registration form and return to: Volunteering, Estate Office, Ringshall, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 1LT or email it to helping.ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk

You will be invited for an informal interview to discuss a role with you.

Important

This role is purely voluntary and this arrangement is not meant to be a legally binding one or an employment contract