

Helping **Hampshire's** environment



Supporting parish and town councils to manage community greenspaces



Pond dipping platform built by TCV and Horndean Parish Council

Join in, feel good!

Through our own environmental projects and network of community groups, we see people – every day, and all across the UK – taking responsibility for their own, local environments.

Owning no land, The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) works in partnership with town and parish councils, local authorities and other landowners in Hampshire, to help them care for their greenspaces and engage with local people. We have found that our expertise and resources can be extremely useful to town and parish councils, especially as they take on responsibility for more and more public land. This booklet outlines the services we can offer.

Contents

1. BIODIVERSITY ACTION TEAM

Working with volunteers to make practical improvements on the ground – from habitat management to access improvement.

2. TRAINING

Tailored courses for countryside staff and volunteers, to improve practical skills, work with local people and manage safety.

3. COMMUNITY BUILDER

TCV works with communities and landowners to encourage people to take an active role in the creation and care of local, outdoor spaces.

4. SITE MANAGEMENT ADVICE

Helping local councils plan site management to benefit both wildlife and local communities.

5. PLANNING AND FUNDRAISING

TCV can help you to plan, fundraise and deliver projects in your area.

Please contact us to discuss how we might be able to help you:

hampshire-projects@tcv.org.uk

02380 402 593

The Conservation Volunteers
Rangers Depot
Manor Farm Country Park
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Biodiversity Action Team



TCV organises conservation sessions with volunteers, to make physical improvements on the ground, through our Hampshire Biodiversity Action Team.

Our team can help with the regular management of your sites, or the delivery of one-off projects, in a professional and cost-effective way. Its sessions are open to all and local people are encouraged to join in too.

We provide trained leaders, tools and equipment, and refreshments for the volunteers, who we usually recruit from the local area. Risk assessments are carried out for all projects and we provide public liability and personal accident insurance that covers volunteers while they're working with us.

All projects have a qualified first aider in attendance. Our leaders provide on-site training and supervision to ensure that work is carried out safely and to a high standard. We are an accredited contractor with the Contractors Health & Safety Assessment Scheme (CHAS)



and registered with the Gangmasters Licensing Authority.

We carry out a wide variety of work including, but not limited to:

HABITAT MANAGEMENT

scrub clearance, coppicing, removing invasive species, pond management and hedge-laying

ACCESS IMPROVEMENT

footpath resurfacing, gate installation, step or boardwalk construction and pond dipping platforms

FENCING

CREATION OF COMMUNITY GARDENS

WILDLIFE GARDENING

FOOD GROWING PROJECTS

Costs: To meet our operating costs TCV makes a charge of £350 per session. For larger projects this rate is negotiable. This includes all the work involved in planning and delivering them, including a site visit beforehand. If required, TCV can sometimes seek third party funding to meet most or part of the cost of your project on your behalf.

CASE STUDY **CATHERINGTON DOWN**

In 2013 The Conservation Volunteers organised and delivered seven Biodiversity Action Team sessions to clear scrub from chalk downland at Catherington Down, Horndean, to maintain this precious habitat.

Over the seven sessions 21 volunteers carried out 58 workdays, clearing 50% of the northern section of the site of unwanted blackthorn, which was

threatening to shade out and kill the wildflowers growing there.

Horndean Parish Council had asked TCV to carry out this work in line with their plans to improve habitat conditions on the site. TCV successfully applied for grants from East Hampshire District Council and Hampshire County Council to cover the majority of the cost of the project.



Photo: Natalie Bowers

Training

The Conservation Volunteers runs a wide range of short courses and workshops every year. Many local authorities find our training courses really useful for their staff and volunteers, both as a way of increasing core knowledge and skills, and for rewarding hard work.

We can deliver bespoke training courses on request, for both local councils and local conservation groups.

Learning is informal and fun with our experienced instructors. We provide training in practical skills, habitat management, working with volunteers and running safe and effective projects.

Everyone completing any of our training will receive an Attendance Certificate from The Conservation Volunteers.

Examples of courses we offer include:

- Leadership of practical projects for local conservation groups
- Risk assessment for local conservation groups
- Introduction to conservation
- Hand tools: use and maintenance
- Hedge-laying (2 day course)
- Coppicing
- Fencing
- Boardwalk construction (2 day course)

Costs: One day courses usually cost £66 per delegate, or £660 for a full course for up to 12 people.



Community Builder

Every day TCV works across the UK to create healthier and happier communities for everyone - communities where our activities have a lasting impact on people's health, prospects and outdoor places.

We can help you connect people to their local green spaces more effectively.

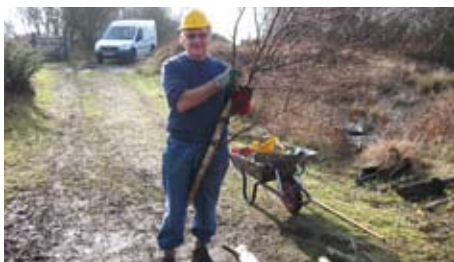
Local communities can be an invaluable resource for land managers. TCV works with communities and landowners to encourage people to take an active role in the creation and care of local, outdoor spaces.

We can tailor our support to meet your needs, which could involve:

- Setting up a new 'Friends Of' group to look after a site or group of sites
- Support for existing community groups including a group 'healthcheck', networking and group forums, and problem solving for groups
- Help setting up systems and procedures to ensure that volunteers are well managed and safe, and that local councils are fulfilling their duty of care towards them with respect to health & safety and safeguarding.

- Training for volunteers and staff
- Support for local tree warden networks
- Running community events, such as family days or pond dipping sessions

Costs: Costs for community engagement work will depend on the type and amount required. Please contact us for advice and to discuss your requirements with no obligation.



CASE STUDY **HAMBLE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS**



In 2009-2010 TCV undertook a project to set up a conservation group at Hamble Common in Hamble-le-Rice, in partnership with Eastleigh Borough Council, with funding from The Veolia Environmental Trust. We recruited local people and carried out practical conservation sessions with them on the Common. We also provided training, support and guidance to help the volunteers set themselves up as an independent community group. The Hamble Conservation Volunteers was formed and the group continues to carry out monthly conservation sessions and fortnightly beach clean litter picks. It carries out habitat management and looks after the historic Bofors gun on the site. The Hamble Conservation Volunteers has about 20 regular members, and work with local businesses. They contribute around 600 hours of volunteer time per year, and

also raise funds for site improvements, such as bird boxes and new seating.

The group works with the landowner (Eastleigh Borough Council) to plan their activities, but run their own conservation sessions and hold their own insurance, accounts, and supply of tools and equipment.

“We really enjoy our conservation tasks which has brought together our village and we have all made new friends.”

PHIL RAWLINSON, HAMBLE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

Site management advice

Many local councils are responsible for nature reserves and other areas that support wildlife and which local people use for informal recreation. Many of the local councils and council staff we work with have told us that the ground staff responsible for these sites don't always have the specialist knowledge needed to plan the management of them for conservation as well as they would like.

TCV can help local councils plan their management of greenspaces in a way that benefits both wildlife and local communities. Using our conservation knowledge and experience, alongside your local knowledge and aspirations for your sites, we can give informal advice, or write maintenance plans that are easy to follow and understand.

Costs for preparing a site maintenance plan start at £350. Please contact us for details.



CASE STUDY **SWANMORE PARISH COUNCIL**



Swanmore Parish Council commissioned The Conservation Volunteers in September 2014 to write maintenance plans for six sites within the parish, including ponds, meadows and woodlands.

The maintenance plans are designed to be documents that can be easily read and followed by the parish council, grounds maintenance staff and volunteer conservation groups.

“The information proved most helpful and has allowed us to use maintenance schedules to the best advantage.”

YVONNE WHEADON, ASSISTANT CLERK,
SWANMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Project development and fundraising



Whether you're looking for a couple of volunteer days to clear scrub, or a two year project to develop a new community garden or set up a 'Friends of' group, TCV's experience and skills in planning projects and raising funds can help you.

We will discuss your project ideas with you, help you come up with a plan to complete your project and bring in the

funds required. We work with a wide variety of funders and have a good track record of writing successful bids for partnership projects. We have been a member of the Fundraising Standards Board since 2008.

Costs: We will make our fundraising and planning services available free of charge for projects that include a significant proportion of funding for work to be carried out by TCV.

CASE STUDY **HORNDEAN PARISH COUNCIL**



In 2015 Horndean Parish Council approached TCV for help building a new dipping platform to replace the decaying one in place at the Catherington Pond in Horndean.

TCV applied for and secured grants of £3950 from the IGas Energy Community Fund and £500 from

the East Hampshire District Council Community Project Fund. We then worked with local volunteers, school children and staff from the Parish Council to build two new dipping platforms, complete with rails and access steps, and to carry out management work to the pond itself.

“The Countryside Team staff thoroughly enjoyed working with TCV on this fantastic project. I think we can safely say we all learnt a great deal and the new pond dipping platform looks fantastic, many thanks for TCV and all their effort it’s been great for the local community.”

CAROLE BURNETT, HORNDEAN PARISH COUNCIL



WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

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[facebook.com/TCVHampshire](https://www.facebook.com/TCVHampshire)

www.tcv.org.uk

The community volunteering charity

The Conservation Volunteers is a national charity that was formed in 1959.

Our purpose is to work together with people, communities and partners to deliver practical actions that have a lasting impact on people's health, prospects and outdoor places.

In 2015 we worked with 10,500 registered volunteers, who amazingly provided over 150,000 days of work, taking part in 15,752 projects that took place on 1,825 sites.

This publication is supported by:



Hampshire
County Council

