

# Corporate Work Parties

## Why volunteer with Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust?

Taking part in a corporate work party with Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) is a fantastic way to contribute to local wildlife. The activity can be part of an ongoing partnership with the Trust, or as a one-off event, but the benefits are mutual:

### Benefits to wildlife

- Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust receives practical help on our nature reserves from highly motivated groups of people;
- Organisations and individuals, often not directly involved in wildlife conservation, learn the importance of local wildlife.

### Benefits to your organisation

- A practical contribution towards local wildlife and your organisation's Corporate Social Responsibility;
- The opportunity to improve team building, communication and learn new skills – outside the everyday working environment. An enjoyable and rewarding day in an inspirational setting.

## Working in the Community

Not only are our nature reserves valuable for the wildlife they contain, they are essential for engaging the community with their natural environment.

### Locations

Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust has 44 nature reserves throughout the two counties. However, the Trust has a number of 'key sites' where we can more easily support larger groups of volunteers.

### Time of year

The wildlife breeding and plant growth season generally lasts between May and September. Therefore most 'heavy' conservation work like undergrowth clearance and coppicing takes place between October and March. However, summer tasks may be available, such as hay raking or footpath clearance and we will do our best to accommodate you.

We can't always promise a task on a nature reserve in high summer!

### Work tasks

We will provide tasks designed so that volunteers of all levels of experience can participate. Any training or demonstration necessary will be given on the day. No mechanical equipment is used and a full Health & Safety briefing will be given prior to the task. Each work task will be managed by a trained member of staff. The number of staff allocated will be dependent on group sizes.



## Cost

Each work party is subject to a £50 (+VAT) per head charge for non-Corporate Members, with a reduced rate of £40 (+VAT) per head charge for our members.

This cost includes:

- Materials needed for the task (e.g. tools, materials, protective equipment etc)
- Staff time for preparation and management on the day
- Refreshments on the day (tea, coffee etc)

The cost does not include:

- Transport to and from the site (the Trust may be able to provide if required)
- Lunch – most groups bring their own or purchase locally (notify the Trust if you would like us to contact local caterers)

*Please note, upon booking your work party we request that final participant numbers are confirmed up to two weeks before the event. You will be invoiced on this confirmed number.*



## FAQs

**Q: How many people can you accommodate on your reserves?**

A: This varies considerably by reserve but generally five people minimum, and generally around 10 people maximum. Projects for larger groups can be specially organised. Please contact us for further information.

**Q: What should I wear on the day?**

A: Old clothes and sturdy footwear – something you don't mind getting dirty. If you are working in rivers, we will provide waders.

**Q: What if I have no practical experience?**

A: All our tasks are designed for individuals without previous experience. A reasonable level of physical fitness may be required depending upon the activity.

**Q: What if the weather is bad?**

A: If sustained bad weather is forecast we can reschedule. However, we fully appreciate that organising a group activity for one day is difficult so will do our best to continue arrangements or provide an alternative.

**Q: Why do we charge for corporate work parties?**

A: HMWT is a charity and we receive no central government funding, as such we need to charge to cover the costs of running volunteering activities. The charge covers the materials needed for the task, it also includes tools and equipment, as well as protective equipment you may need like gloves etc, which with continued usage need to be regularly maintained and replaced when necessary. The other main aspect of a work party is staff time for preparation and management on the day. As unskilled volunteers, our corporate work parties require more supervision and this has to be accounted for in the charges we ask for.

## Contact

For more information about organising a Corporate Work Party or if you would like to discuss other corporate partnership opportunities please contact our Fundraising Officer Sarah Mee on 01727 858901 ext. 242 or email [sarah.mee@hmwt.org](mailto:sarah.mee@hmwt.org). Alternatively, please visit our website to download copies of our Work Party Schedule and booking form.

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