

Bentley Priory Nature Reserve

Role Description: Volunteer Deputy Warden for Outreach

Harrow's nature reserves are maintained in a semi-natural state with public amenity encouraged where compatible with nature conservation objectives. As landowner, Harrow Council has overall responsibility for the sites.

At Bentley Priory Nature Reserve, a management committee oversees delivery of the site management plan. The plan has been approved by Natural England, the Government's nature conservation agency for England, as most of the site is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Current funding in support of management comes from the Council (e.g. via Section 106 arrangements) and from the Higher Level Stewardship scheme. The site has previously received Heritage Lottery Funding for grassland restoration works.

Volunteer wardens act in the interest of nature conservation. The wardens operate under the umbrella of the Harrow Nature Conservation Forum (HNCF) which provides support, advice and insurance for work carried out at the site.

The roles of the deputy warden for outreach include

- To organize events for the public and volunteers such as
 - Guided walks
 - Talks
 - Short courses on aspects of natural history and ecological management
- To talk to the public on the site about aspects of natural history and conservation, and explain when behavior is damaging to the site (such as picking flowers or allowing dogs to run free or swim in water bodies)
- To check that the information on the nature trail leaflet and web site are up to date and arrange updates as necessary
- Depending on their level of expertise in social media the deputy warden might:
 - Be responsible for editing and updating the Bentley Priory page on the Harrow Nature Conservation Forum web site
 - Interact with the public via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.

HNCF has formal meetings three times a year and monthly social meet ups in The Duck in the Pond pub, Kenton Lane (last Tuesday of the month).

It is worth noting that wardens are not responsible for the maintenance of public order on their site. Ongoing vandalism or vagrancy may be reported to the relevant police Safer Neighbourhoods team (101 or Stanmore 020 8721 2996). Except for the immediate effects of ongoing working parties (such as using tools), and dangers immediately generated by the actions of wardens (for example, leaving a half cut tree limb hanging above a path), wardens are also not responsible for the safety of visitors to the sites – this remains the responsibility of the Council and the individual visitors.

Policies and risk assessments for volunteering with HNCF can be found here http://www.harrownfc.org/HNCF_documents.html. Please read these.

Useful contacts:

Chief Volunteer Warden: Peter Peretti tel 077 02 274397 or 020 8954 2918

Harrow Council biodiversity officer: Steve Whitbread <Steve.Whitbread@harrow.gov.uk>

Harrow Nature Conservation Forum: Chair Steve Bolsover
40 Walton Drive, Harrow, HA1 4XA tel. 020 8933 2823 or 07794 837302