

What is a Poole Farm Volunteer?

Role Profile

Outline:

Poole Farm is part of the developing Derriford Community Park in Plymouth, run by a small team of Natural Infrastructure Officers & Assistants at Plymouth City Council. Volunteers are a key part of this project, bringing together the local community, helping us with nature conservation and making the farm a wonderful place to visit.

Location:

Poole Farm, plus occasional visits to Local Nature Reserves, such as Forder Valley and Bircham Valley.

Volunteering times:

Our volunteer days take place every Tuesday, 10:30am - 4pm. Occasionally there are opportunities to help with weekend and family events, as well as school visits - we let everyone know when these are happening and how to get involved.

Activities:

Most volunteer days involve hands-on conservation in the meadows and woodland around Poole Farm. Activities are often season dependent and quite physical, taking place outdoors in all weathers. Usually you'll be working as a group alongside one of the Poole Farm team - see our FAQs for more details.

Support and questions:

If you have any questions or need to talk to one of the team while volunteering at Poole Farm, call our duty mobile on 07500 075719 or email us at derrifordcp@plymouth.gov.uk



What we look for in our volunteers:

At Poole Farm, we look for dedicated people who'll have a positive impact on our volunteer team and share our passion towards conserving nature, environmental education and caring for animals. No experience is necessary, but we ask that you're comfortable trying something new and can work well independently, as well as in a team. We ask that you make your own way to/from the farm in the most sustainable way possible (eg. by using public transport, car sharing, cycling or walking).

Our FAQs tell you more about what to expect as a Poole Farm Volunteer, as well as what we expect from you. Follow the link to find the Nature Plymouth Volunteer Policy on our website:

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/poolefarm>

How to become a Poole Farm Volunteer:

If you would like to join our wonderful volunteer team, check out the 'Steps to become a Poole Farm Volunteer'. This will guide you through the simple steps to take and give you the link to fill out our quick & easy Volunteer Enquiry Form.

Poole Farm Volunteering FAQs

Take a look at these FAQs to find out if Poole Farm volunteering is suitable for you, then follow the 'Steps to become a Poole Farm Volunteer'.

Are you...

- Over 16 (or under 16 and accompanied by an adult)?
- Able to walk on uneven or sometimes steep terrain?
- Happy to work outside in all weathers?
- Happy to work with other volunteers of all abilities, backgrounds and ages?
- Ready to try new activities and have a go at hands-on practical conservation?
- Confident to work with the Poole Farm team around the farmyard, in the meadows or in the woodlands?
- Happy to work around farm animals and wildlife?
- Available most Tuesdays, 10:30am - 4pm?

What should I expect?

Our practical volunteer days take place every Tuesday, 10:30am - 4pm, led by Poole Farm staff. We email you with details of activities planned, but sometimes things change so be prepared for any task! Staff give an event briefing and tools talk at the start of the session and supervise the group all day. We have a list of hands-on practical conservation activities to choose from, but some tasks require the whole volunteer team to pitch in together on the day to get the job done.

What is expected of me?

There are many projects happening around Poole Farm, so we want you to be confident doing activities independently or as a group. We want volunteers who come prepared to work outdoors (you can borrow wellies/waterproofs if needed), listen to instructions and have a positive impact on the rest of the team. You'll meet a variety of people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities - be kind to others and treat everyone equally.

How physical is it?

While we try to accommodate all abilities, volunteering is often physical doing hands-on conservation which may not be suitable for everyone. You need to be comfortable using a variety of tools and tasks may involve lifting materials. Activities may involve a longer walk into the meadows and woodlands (often uphill or on uneven/steep terrain), crossing streams and getting muddy!

What activities are involved?

Activities are season dependent - our volunteer days can include scrub clearance, tree planting, log splitting, biodiversity surveys, gardening, coppicing, carpentry or working with farm animals.

Why should I volunteer here?

You'll join a friendly team of staff and volunteers dedicated to conserving nature, environmental education and good animal welfare. Help make a difference, learn new skills and have fun getting your hands dirty! Improve your physical and mental health by working outdoors. We are easily accessible by bus, bike, car or on foot. Our farmhouse meeting room can be used for breaks and shelter from the rain, plus you can help yourself to our supply of tea and biscuits!

What if this isn't for me?

There are other ways to get involved with conserving greenspaces across Plymouth - follow this link to find out about more volunteering opportunities in the city: www.plymouth.gov.uk/parksnatureandgreenspaces

How else can I can get involved?

Email or call us if you would like to find out about family events, educational visits, animal care, work experience/placements or citizen science surveys.

How do I become a volunteer?

If you feel ready to join the Poole Farm team, check out the 'Steps to become a Poole Farm Volunteer'.

Steps to become a Poole Farm Volunteer

Are you ready to become a Poole Farm Volunteer? Follow the steps below to find out how to join our volunteer team!

1. Check the Poole Farm Volunteer Role Profile & FAQs

Take a look at the Volunteer Role Profile and FAQs to see if volunteering here will suit you.

2. Fill out our Volunteer Enquiry Form

If you think you'd be a great addition to the team, scan the QR code or follow this link and take two minutes to fill out our super quick and easy Volunteer Enquiry Form: tinyurl.com/j6la8mt

3. The Poole Farm team will contact you

Within two weeks of submitting your Volunteer Enquiry Form, someone from the Poole Farm team will email or call you to talk about volunteering and what to do next.

4. Join us for a chat at Poole Farm

You'll be invited to Poole Farm for a cup of tea and a chat. You'll meet our friendly team and be given a tour of the farm where you can try some activities and see if volunteering will suit you.

5. Complete the Volunteer Registration Form

If you enjoyed your visit to Poole Farm and are ready to join the team, we'll send you the link to complete our quick and easy Volunteer Registration Form.

6. Join our Tuesday volunteer days!

Join us every Tuesday, 10:30am - 4pm, for our practical volunteer days. We'll be here to make sure you're getting on ok while settling in with our fantastic team of volunteers.



On your smartphone?
Scan this QR code to take you to the enquiry form.

If we've reached our volunteer capacity, you'll be put on our waiting list and can be contacted when there's an opportunity to volunteer with us.

If we feel you may not be suitable for volunteering on a working farm, we can let you know how you can still enjoy the wonderful greenspaces of Plymouth and talk about other opportunities to volunteer in the city.

Any questions?

If you require the forms in a different format or would like support with any of these steps, please contact the Poole Farm team via phone or email and we'll be here to guide you.

Group enquiries - If you're part of an organisation who would like to volunteer at Poole Farm as a group, please email us at derrifordcp@plymouth.gov.uk and tell us how you would like to get involved. We look at group enquiries on a case by case basis.