

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

Opportunity	Conservation Rangers – PROSPECTS Environment Centre
Where	Prospects Environment Centre, 54 Broadway, Accrington BB5 1EW
When	The PROSPECTS Environment Centre is open Monday to Thursdays from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and on some Fridays and Saturdays.
What We Do	The PROSPECTS Foundation is an environmental charity, established in 1998 by local people living in Hyndburn. It aims to be the key organisation in Hyndburn for environmental action and uses its collective knowledge, skills and experience to help to improve the quality of life for all Hyndburn communities. It achieves its aims by working in innovative ways with local communities and with a diverse range of organisations for environmental, social and economic benefits. We are a company limited by guarantee, a registered charity and most of our activities are grant funded by organisations such as the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). www.prospectsfoundation.org.uk
How you can help	With your help we can expand our activities into the local community and make a real difference. We have six themes and by volunteering with PROSPECTS you will help us to make a difference in Hyndburn and help people to enjoy their local environment. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BIODIVERSITY – protecting and enhancing local wildlife and plant life 2. ENERGY – promoting energy conservation and the use of renewables 3. SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT – encouraging cycling, walking and the greater use of public transport 4. WASTE & RECYCLING – reducing, reusing and recycling waste 5. LOCAL FOOD – encouraging the growing of local, organic and healthy food 6. ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS – raising awareness of environmental issues
What we expect	What we expect – Your Commitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will sign up to our Volunteer Agreement and promote the aims and values of PROSPECTS • A few hours volunteering a month • Occasional attendance at events and workshops and in the evening or at weekends • Involvement with the local community and users of the area • The ability to be flexible and fit the volunteering in with your normal working and family life • Conservation Rangers will volunteer flexibly to look after their local area
What you can expect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive a Volunteer Agreement, an Induction pack with useful information and FAQs <p>Once trained you will work independently with local support from PROSPECTS staff and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be part of a small team of Conservation Rangers • You will be covered by PROSPECTS public liability insurance • You will be covered by our volunteer Policies and Procedures • Your volunteer hours/days, training and tasks will be recorded • Fact finding trips to other nature reserves • Hours to fit around family life, work or college
What we will provide	We will provide details of the Heritage Lottery Funded Connecting People to Hyndburn’s Natural Heritage Project and the practical activities that will enable us to meet the requirements of our funding. You will receive support and training, role and volunteer guidance and advice, regular information about PROSPECTS and the HLF project, a website with a volunteers and project section, PPE where required, tools and the resources you need to perform your role.
Personal Qualities/ Skills	Enjoy working outdoors, Team working skills, Good communication skills, Practical skills, Be Observant, Good time-keeping You may already have specialist skills that you can use as a Conservation Ranger.

<p>Your Role</p>	<p>The Heritage Lottery Funded Conservation Rangers will operate in The Coppice/Peel Park area and/or at Woodnook Vale. The volunteer rangers will work alongside PROSPECTS Foundation staff, with other Conservation Rangers, partner organisations and Conservation Volunteers in small teams and will undertake Conservation tasks as directed by the PROSPECTS member of staff or partner organisations.</p> <p>Conservation volunteers need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an interest in the environment, plants, trees and seasonal tasks to maintain woodlands, nature reserves and other green spaces, • Develop an awareness of health and safety issues, • Have a genuine interest in conservation management and assist in a variety of tasks such as tree coppicing and thinning, hedge laying, tree planting, bulb and wildflower planting, invasive weed control, bird and bat box making and positioning and other tasks, • Assist in tool maintenance – cleaning, storage and preparation, • Undertake appropriate training, • Be willing to learn new skills.
<p>What you will do?</p>	<p>Through Heritage Lottery Funding we are building up a team of volunteer Conservation Rangers to look after the proposed local nature reserve areas. You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • look after your local area; • report problems so they can be fixed; • run activities and lead local walks; • undertake team building exercises; • develop your leadership and communication skills; • work with several organisations including PROSPECTS; • engage and support local people; • help expand our work so we reach more people; • learn conservation techniques; • undertake ID surveys and monitor wildlife; • work outdoors in a healthy environment; • meet new people; • help to educate other people.
<p>How</p>	<p>You will complete a Volunteer Application Form.</p> <p>Successful applicants will be contacted by telephone for an informal discussion before commencing training and undertaking Conservation Ranger activities.</p> <p>Conservation Rangers will be provided with full on-going training on a one-to-one or small group basis and will have the opportunity to work with an experienced member of PROSPECTS staff and partner organisations before they become a fully-fledged Conservation Ranger.</p>
<p>Training Opportunities could include:</p>	<p>Starter Training – e.g. the basics of being a volunteer ranger, walk leading, woodland management;</p> <p>Formal Training – e.g. Conducting Surveys including Seasonal Identification Surveys , First Aid, Health & Safety, Risk Assessment; Manual Handling, Tool Handling and Task Techniques</p> <p>Conservation Techniques- e.g. tree, wildlife and woodland flora identification, Conservation Tasks –</p> <p>Certification: AQA Unit Award Certificates in a range of subjects will be available and you will also be offered training through Lancashire County Council in a range of topics to include General health and safety (risk assessments etc.), The role of the ranger (history, purpose, duties and tasks), Visitor management (dealing with people, countryside law, incidents, enforcement) Emergency procedures (accidents , missing people, etc.).</p>
<p>Apply</p>	<p>If you are interested in this volunteering opportunity contact:</p> <p>Roger Plum, Connecting People to Hyndburn’s Natural Heritage Project, The PROSPECTS Foundation, Office Telephone: 01254 230348 Extension 207 Mobile: 07974 626835 Email: roger.plum@prospectsfoundation.org.uk</p>

