

What's Involved in Being a Volunteer Surveyor of Orchards

in the National Orchard Inventory for Scotland project

prepared by CW Hayes on behalf of the project partners

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The National Orchard Inventory for Scotland project aims to research and record orchards across Scotland as a foundation for the wider aim of an orchard revival. We believe local and community based organisations will be the key drivers of an orchard revival and we have designed the project to empower these organisations, and build their capacity. Please have a look at the project website for more details www.ScotlandtheFruit.org.uk

In this Phase of the project, volunteers will be carrying out 'Field Verification' of orchards, that is field survey work visiting orchards and recording details about them.

Organisation

The project is carried out at a local level by a project partner that we call a 'Collaborating Organisation'. You are volunteering with the Collaborating Organisation, and their Local Facilitator is the person who runs the project in the area.

Typically the geographical area covered by a Collaborating Organisation is same as the local authority area (eg. East Ayrshire), but this is not always the case.

Key Skills

As a volunteer:

- You enjoy talking to people about their orchards
- You are happy using a computer to fill in a web form
- You are happy using an OS style map to locate an orchard site
- You are able to follow written survey methods, and adhere to health & safety aspects
- You have a friendly and positive 'behaviour & attitude'

Key Requirements

The main requirements as a volunteer are:

- You have access to a computer with internet access, and a printer
- You have access to a digital camera, which you can take out on field work
- You have access to a mobile phone, which you can take out on field work
- You have outdoor clothing & footwear
- You are happy to commit to at least 3 days or 15 hours over the autumn fruiting season

Don't worry if you don't have all of the above. Ask a friend to join you or we can pair you up with another volunteer so that together you have all the skills & requirements as a team.

Training, Resources and Support

Training will be provided by your Local Facilitator, who will also be your main point of contact & support in terms of the fieldwork. The local Collaborating Organisation with whom you are volunteering will also provide a contact for other aspects and secondary support.

Survey methods and instructions including survey forms, and guides are provided.

We want volunteers to find this a really positive experience. Feedback from the pilot we ran in the Scottish Borders showed that volunteers found it enjoyable and worthwhile.