



## **About London Wildlife Trust**

- London Wildlife Trust is dedicated to protecting, conserving, and enhancing the capital's wildlife and wild spaces. Our vision is of a London alive with nature, where everyone can experience and enjoy wildlife.
- Founded in 1981, the Trust manages 36 free-to-access nature reserves across the capital and engages with London's diverse communities through practical land management, campaigning, volunteering, and education to give London's wildlife a voice.
- We work with many partners to advocate for a city richer in biodiversity and ecological resilience, through policy, planning and best practice.

# About our Wild Work Days



Our Wild Work Days are practical, hands on, nature conservation activities that take place on a number of our nature reserves across London. The days are typically suitable for groups of up to 12 people which enables us to provide adequate tools, training, and supervision on the day. However, we can host groups of up to 24 people during autumn/winter on selected nature reserves.



To help fund your day and the wider work we do, our Wild Work Days cost £1,000 plus VAT per team (typically 12 people). For groups of up to 24 people the cost will be £2000 plus VAT. These are flat rates and do not vary with the team size.



Your Wild Work Day will be <u>hosted by a first-aid trained member of staff</u> who will provide a H&S briefing on the day specific to the activities the team will be doing. <u>We provide all PPE</u>, tools and <u>materials</u> needed. We do however ask that you <u>wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for the weather</u>. Personal possessions can be stored in the van if needed.



Our Wild Work Days are typically from 10:00 - 15:00. Please note that timings can vary on the day and there is some flexibility on start and finish times if needed.

#### Example programme of events

10:00 – 10:30: Introductions, health and safety talks, collection of tools and walking to working area

10:30 – 12:30: Practical habitat management

12:30 -13:30: Lunch (not provided)

13:30 – 14:30: Practical habitat management / survey

14:30 – 15:00: Guided walk around reserve

## Benefits for your team

By working together, we can achieve more to help transform the capital's natural environment for people and wildlife to enjoy

- There is increasing evidence on the positive benefits of spending time in nature and our volunteering programmes are proven to enhance the health and wellbeing of participants.
- The opportunity to engage with and visibly contribute to the local environment.
- A unique team bonding experience in a beautiful landscape. This is particularly useful for teams that do considerable remote working.
- The opportunity to demonstrate your CSR values to your stakeholders.



### **Benefits for nature**

The benefits of our Wild Work Days are mutual for both your team and nature.

- Wild Work Days provide a great shared team experience in practical conservation in acting for wildlife and supporting the long-term biodiversity aims for London.
- Organisations and individuals, often without experience of wildlife or conservation, learn about the importance of conserving nature in an urban context.
- London Wildlife Trust is a driving force for nature conservation across the capital. Funding from Wild Work Days supports us on the delivery of our <u>strategy</u> and to achieve our vision of a London alive with nature, where everyone can experience and enjoy wildlife.







# Terms and conditions for companies



We appreciate you may need to cancel or re-schedule. The charge incurred varies depending on the amount of notice given from the date of your Wild Work Day:

- 0-4 weeks' notice = no refund or reschedule.
- 4-8 weeks' notice = 50% refund or free reschedule.
- More than 8 weeks' notice = free refund or reschedule.



We can only hold dates for a limited time and varies with demand. We recommend you confirm dates as soon as possible for us to raise an invoice and send you your booking details.

In the unlikely event we must cancel your Wild Work Day, we will reschedule free of charge. This may be due to adverse weather conditions making it unsafe for participants.

## Terms and conditions for individuals



Please wear weather appropriate clothes including waterproofs, and sturdy outdoor footwear that you don't mind getting wet and muddy. Participants with inappropriate clothing may not be allowed to join the Wild Work Day for health and safety reasons.



Non-prescribed drugs and alcohol should not be consumed on the Wild Work Day. Any participant seen to have consumed such will be asked to leave.



No dogs are allowed on site unless they are guide dogs or assistance dogs.



Please let us know if any of the team has access needs, a health condition or allergies we need to be aware of.



## Typical activities: spring / summer

(April – September)

Activities may be limited due to bird nesting season. This means all tree and scrub work must be paused.

#### Hay cut and clear

Groups typically use scythes to cut the grass and then rakes and hay forks to remove it from the site. This promotes the growth of valuable wildflowers.

### Removing invasive species

Invasive species are species that can dominate a landscape, shading out other plants, and significantly reducing biodiversity.

#### Path maintenance

Cutting back the vegetation along the paths and/or laying new material. Keeping the paths open is not only beneficial for visitors but also for wildlife as visitors are less likely to stray into the reserve, reducing wildlife disturbance.

#### Wildlife surveying

Spring and summer are the best times to conduct wildlife surveys as species are easier to identify. Monitoring species we have on site helps inform us on our practical management. It also feeds into a wider citizen science program where individuals can submit sightings.



## Typical activities: autumn / winter

(October – February)

Teams find these seasons to be more hands on and engaging and a greater impact can be seen at the end of the day!

#### Reed cutting + Pond Work

Reedbeds are vital habitats, for birds that need to be cut every couple of years on rotation, this prevents them from drying out, becoming too dense and creates a variety in the structure. Similarly, ponds may need to have plants manually removed to encourage biodiversity.

#### Planting and seeding

We try to limit what we plant with the aim of encouraging natural growth through our management practices. However, on rare occasions where we need to plant and seed, it is a great way to leave a legacy on your Wild Work Day.

#### Dead hedging

To save resources we create dead hedges from cut material. Pointed stakes are made and driven into the ground. Then long thin branches are weaved in between the stakes to create a natural barrier beneficial for birds, voles and insects by providing refuge and food.



### Typical activities: autumn / winter

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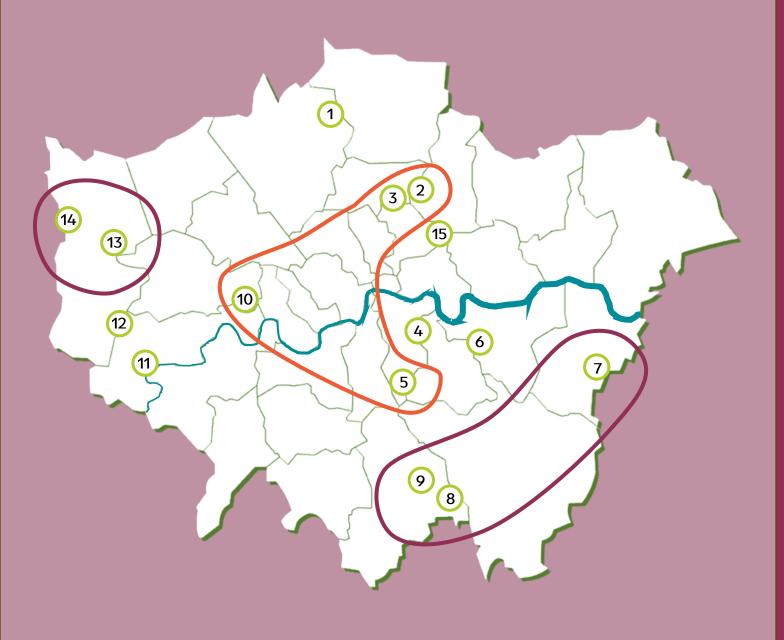
#### Hedge laying

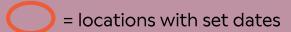
Hedge laying is a traditional management practice where you cut part way into a young tree in order to bend it over to create a living barrier. The tree will still be rooted and continue to grow. This provides cover for birds and insects.

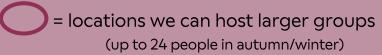
#### Woodland and Scrub

Most woodland management must be done outside of bird nesting season. There is a lot to do in woodlands such as coppicing trees, which does not kill the tree but allows it to start new growth from the cut. Similarly, maintaining the open areas of the woodland (rides and glades) allows for sunlight to come through enabling smaller plants to grow and species to thrive. Cut material can also be used for creating dead wood habitat for invertebrates. Other tasks include pushing back scrub, rhododendron, and bramble. These are all essential management practices for a woodland, enabling a mosaic of habitats.









## Our Wild Work Day nature reserves

- 1. Oak Hill Wood
- 2. Walthamstow Wetlands
- 3. <u>Woodberry Wetlands</u>
- 4. New Cross Gate Cutting, and One Tree Hill
- 5. Sydenham Hill and Cox's Walk
- 6. <u>Birdbrook Nature Reserve</u>
- 7. Braeburn Park
- 8. <u>Hutchinsons Bank, Chapel Bank, and</u> Threecorner Grove
- 9. <u>Bramley Bank</u>
- 10. Gunnersbury Triangle
- 11. Crane Park Island
- 12. <u>Huckerby's Meadows</u>
- 13. Ickenham Marshes, and Gutteridge Wood
- 14. <u>Denham Lock Wood</u>, and <u>Frays Farm</u> <u>Meadows</u>
- 15. Various Locations in Hackney



## Frequently asked questions



#### Why is there a cost to volunteer?

As a charity, we need to work in ways that make us sustainable. The cost of your Wild Work Day funds staff costs to plan and deliver your day, the purchase of PPE and tools as well as supporting our conservation work on our 36 nature reserves.



#### How many people can attend?

A maximum of 12 people can attend a Wild Work Day. This is due to our H&S policy, the level of supervision we can provide and to ensure we have sufficient tools for the activities. On occasions in Autumn and Winter, we can host groups of up to 24 people on our nature reserves towards the edge of London (see map).



#### Can I choose the reserve for my Wild Work Day?

You can choose the reserve for the above list; however, the more central sites typically get booked quickly and may not offer such diverse work.



#### How will I know what activity I will be doing?

The activity will vary depending on the time of year and the reserve/habitat you choose for your Wild Work Day. Examples are listed above and you can email asking for more information.

## Frequently asked questions



#### How long is the day?

Wild Work Days are typically form 10:00 - 15:00 with a one-hour lunch. We can however be somewhat flexible on this, please ask in your enquiry.



#### What should I wear?

You must wear sturdy footwear (preferably boots) and clothing suitable for the weather that you don't mind getting wet and muddy. We recommend bringing a waterproof coat and wearing a long sleeve top and trousers as you may be working in tall vegetation which could sting or cut you.



#### What do I need to bring?

We recommend bringing a packed lunch and plenty of water as you may be some distance from a café or shop. We will supply all the tools, PPE and first aid supplies.



## Continuing to support us

#### Your organisation can work with us through:

- Bespoke partnerships
- Making a donation
- Making us your charity of the year partner
- In-kind support through skills sharing
- Hiring one of our unique venues / meeting rooms

#### Individuals can engage with our work and support us by:

- Nominating us to become your company's charity partner
- Visiting our nature reserves
- Taking parting in citizen science surveys
- Attending our events
- Becoming a member of London Wildlife Trust
- Signing up to our newsletter
- Following us on social media
- Leaving a gift in your will





# Book your Wild Work Day

To book your Wild Work Day please email Aaron on:

ahart@wildlondon.org.uk

To find out more about how you can support us please visit: <a href="https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/support-us/become-corporate-supporter">https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/support-us/become-corporate-supporter</a>