

Hello I'm Liz and have worked as a conservation volunteer at Burnham Beeches for nearly 4 years, so I'm still a newbie.

Contrary to popular opinion, I don't do it for the tea and biscuits...although they are always welcome.

When I retired, I was looking for volunteering opportunities, preferably outside, having worked inside all my working life. Burnham Beeches fitted that perfectly and for me, it is a way of giving back to an important green space that I have visited and enjoyed for over 20 years. Being able to contribute to the maintenance and running of an essential habitat is extremely important and fulfilling for me. So, for me, it is a way to give back, stay active, meet people and learn more about the environment and management of the Beeches and the biodiversity that it supports.

I am in awe of the Rangers with their breadth of knowledge and skills and have learned so much from them. Working alongside a team of knowledgeable volunteers has also increased my learning.

The range of tasks we are involved with as volunteers, are many and varied from cleaning out cattle grids, building and repairing fences, building paths, preparing for and supporting reptile surveys, rounding up cows, supporting Ranger led walks and events, to cutting back shrubs and small trees to encourage flora and fauna and help protect the ancient trees. Helping with the Ancient Tree Forum conference last year was enjoyable, rewarding and very informative. There is never a dull moment. I always look forward to my volunteering.

The Burnham Beeches staff and volunteers are a friendly and supportive team to work with, which enhances the volunteering experience. As a volunteer, I feel valued by both the Burnham Beeches team and the City of London and appreciate the events they organise to acknowledge and thank all the volunteers for their work.

I am proud to be making my contribution in supporting this environment for the present and for the future.

Thank you to the Burnham Beeches team and thank you to the City of London.