

Llanymynech Limeworks Volunteer Description



Who We Are

The “LLIMEYS” as we are commonly known, is a group of people who have come together with the common interest of preserving Llanymynech Limeworks for future generations.

The Limeworks ceased operations in 1914, about the time of the outbreak of WWI and lay derelict for decades before being purchased from the Earl of Bradford’s estate by Shropshire Council in 1970. The limestone quarries were leased by the Earl of Bradfords estate to the Shropshire Wildlife Trust (English quarry) and the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust (Welsh quarry).

The Hoffmann kiln and Chimney and the two Draw kilns next to it were given Grade II listed building status on 21 October 1987 and the Limeworks was declared a Scheduled Monument on 14 July 2006. On 28 September 2020 the Limeworks was awarded Local Nature Reserve status.

2006 to 2009 saw large scale conservation works carried out with a grant from the Lottery Heritage fund and English Heritage. Since then, the site has been largely maintained by the efforts of our volunteers.

Aim

Because of the diverse nature of the Llanymynech Limeworks, it needs people with a variety of skills to realise its full potential. This document aims to bring together the types of skills needed and demonstrate just how diverse a skill set it takes to manage the Llanymynech Limeworks.

All volunteers are expected to work closely with the committee to ensure that our efforts are carried out in a co-ordinated and effective manner.

Skill Sets

In addition to the regular maintenance of the Heritage Area, there are many other skills needed within the Heritage Area, including:

- Monitoring and recording of a wide and varied range of flora
- Monitoring and recording of our fauna and liaising with:
 - Shropshire Wildlife Trust
 - Small Mammals groups
 - Moth and Butterfly groups
 - Bat Groups etc.
- Liaison with Disabled Groups
 - Work with groups to promote the benefits of open-air access
 - Work with Shropshire Council to provide access for all
- Organising Open Days and developing fund raising opportunities such as:
 - Art events
 - Photography events
 - Fungal forays

- Wildflower identification
- Bird box and bug hotel building
- Pond dipping etc.
- Publicity and links with organisations such as:
 - Women's Institutes
 - U3A's
 - History groups
 - Youth groups
 - Geology groups
 - Art and Photography groups
 - Canal groups
 - Schools etc.
- Lime burning demonstrations using our purpose-built mini kiln

Work Parties

The aim of this section of the document is to give volunteers at the Llanymynech Limeworks Heritage Area a view of the work carried out during the normal maintenance of the site. What they can expect and what will be expected of them.

When: – Saturdays

Where: – Meet at the Limeworks, Stables Education Block

Time: - 09:30 for as long as you feel able to stay

Training

Mandatory Induction Training

All volunteers are expected to undergo Induction Training before working in the Heritage Area. This will include an assessment of the types of work an individual is able to, or may be expected to carry out, including the types of supervision required. The remainder of the induction training will then be tailored to that individual's needs.

No volunteer will be expected to carry out tasks unsupervised until they are confident and skilled in those tasks.

This induction training will cover the following areas:

- Protective clothing
- The commonly used tools
- Common work hazards
- Fires on site
- Working on roadsides
- Accident Form
- Shropshire Council specific requirements

Once completed the Induction Training is to be logged in the Training Register held by the Equipment Officer.

Further Training

All volunteers will have access to further training appropriate to their role so that they are able to build on their skills and confidence to fulfil their role. This training will be logged in the Training Register held by the Equipment Officer.

Skills

A certain degree of physical fitness is needed, with the work being done outdoors, sometimes in cold and inclement conditions.

All volunteers work as part of a team, with the more experienced team members acting as supervisors.

All volunteers will be supported by their assigned supervisor and their skills and contribution to the team will be reviewed with them on a regular basis.

All volunteers are expected to be reliable, trustworthy and good time keepers.

Clothing

In general, you should wear clothing suitable for the prevailing weather conditions. Wear old clothes that you don't mind being ripped/torn or becoming dirty/muddy. A pair of sturdy overalls would be ideal.

- Safety work boots are a must due to the nature of the work carried out.
- Strong gloves to protect the hands.
- A cap or hat to protect the head.
- If you are kneeling for long periods of time, then knee protectors or a kneeling pad.
- Ear defenders* (where needed)
- Goggles/face shield* (where needed)
- Hard hat* (where needed)

* A limited supply of these items are available, but if you are using specialist equipment, these items would normally be supplied by the volunteer.

Types of Tools Used

The work will mostly be of a physical nature, so volunteers must be able to use the general hand tools normally found in a tool box or in the garden:

- Spade or Shovel
- Rake
- Loppers and secateurs
- Hand saw
- Wheel barrow
- Pick axe

Specialist tools will require the user to hold a certificate of training, either locally or from a recognised training institute. This training must have been logged in our Training Register before the specialist tools may be used on site. Such tools are:

- Strimmer
- Leaf blower
- Chainsaw
- Ladder and step ladder

Where identified during induction training, appropriate supervision will be given for those volunteers needing it.

Types of Work Carried Out

The tasks within the Limeworks Heritage Area are varied due to the nature of the site. The lime kilns and chimney are Grade II listed buildings and therefore require specialist skills for any work carried out. The Limeworks are also designated a Heritage Area. This means that any work which potentially affects the archaeology of the site must be authorised by the relevant authority and carried out by specialists in that particular area.

The remainder of the area consists of scrub, grassland, wetland and woods and was designated as a Local Nature Reserve in September 2020. The types of work carried out by the volunteers can be any of the following:

- General maintenance tasks
- Felling and scrub clearance
- Fencing and furniture installation/repair
- Footpath construction/repair
- Wetland work
- Tree planting
- Hedge laying
- Litter picking

Responsibilities

The Heritage Area is owned by Shropshire Council and administered by the Countryside Heritage Sites Manager, based at Swan Hill, Ellesmere. All volunteers should:

- Understand the importance of Shropshire Councils Health and Safety Procedures
- Understand the importance of confidentiality, including safeguarding vulnerable children and/or adults
- Be aware of the standards set by Shropshire Council and the need to work to these standards at all times.

Additional Information

All volunteers are covered by Shropshire Councils public liability and personal accident insurance while working at the Limeworks.

Volunteers must be aged 16 or over with no upper age limit.

Under 16's on site must be supervised by their parent/guardian. They will not be permitted to use any of the tools or carry out tasks.

Where a volunteer is required to work with vulnerable children or adults, an Enhanced DBS with list check, is a mandatory requirement.

Due to limited funding, we are unable to pay personal expenses at this time. However, this policy is subject to review by the committee should funding become available.