

A Wild Day Out



Conservation volunteering for work teams at Thirlmere, in the Lake District

Help protect a vital water supply and enhance biodiversity while giving your team a meaningful day in nature.

Thirlmere is home to **ancient woodland remnants**, recovering peatlands, and the reservoir that supplies drinking water to over 80,000 homes and businesses across northwest England. This is a landscape under increasing pressure from climate change, flash floods, and invasive species - but also one of exciting transformation. And **we need your help**.



As part of the Thirlmere Resilience Partnership, the John Muir Trust is working to restore this landscape to a more natural state, including the planting and care of **rare montane scrub species** such as downy willow. Corporate volunteering days offer your team a meaningful way to get involved in practical conservation activities - helping to boost biodiversity and protect a vital water source for tens of thousands of people.

Your team's efforts will **leave a legacy** - reviving an ecologically vital landscape and securing the supply of one of Britain's most important water supplies for generations to come.

Conservation Activities



Tree planting or tree nursery work (September to April)

Your team can help plant montane scrub seeds and young trees at Thirlmere. From sowing seeds in our sheltered polytunnel to hiking up to 600m to reach planting sites, there are options to suit a range of abilities.

Tree maintenance (all year round)

Learn about the maintenance of specific trees and check them for signs of health, retube, re-stake, and undertake other nurturing activities that will strengthen the trees.

Non-native conifer removal (September to April)

Cutting back invasive conifers to encourage the regeneration of native woodland, which strengthens biodiversity and improves the landscape's ability to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Bracken bashing (May - August)

Bashing and cutting down bracken to prevent it from overwhelming native plants. This allows wildflowers, young trees, and other species to thrive, and improves soil health.

A typical conservation volunteering day schedule

10:00am – Meet in the car park at the tree nursery

10:15am to 11:00am – Welcome talk at the tree nursery

Enjoy an introductory talk about the rare species of montane scrub and learn about 'ledge veg'.

11:00am to 1:00pm – Conservation activity

Join us for a hands-on activity such as tree planting or a ranger-led walk.

1:00pm to 2:00pm – Lunch

Take a well-earned break and enjoy your lunch in the heart of nature.

2:00pm to 3:00pm – Additional conservation work

Continue supporting our efforts with another round of meaningful activity.

3:00pm to 4:00pm – Tool collection and reflection

Return tools and reflect on the day. We'll also have a short discussion about the lasting impact of your contribution to biodiversity and the habitats you have encountered.

4:00pm – Departure

We'll provide a full kit list, logistical information, risk assessments, and a tailored plan for your visit.



What's included

- ✓ PPE, hand cleaning, and composting toilet facilities
- ✓ Tools and equipment for the conservation work
- ✓ Hot drinks and cake

What to bring

- ✓ Outdoor clothing and footwear suitable for variable conditions
- ✓ Sturdy, waterproof boots
- ✓ Warm layers – the weather can change quickly
- ✓ Waterproof jacket and trousers
- ✓ Sun hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses
- ✓ Drinking water – at least 1 litre per person
- ✓ Lunch – please bring your own food for the day
- ✓ Chargers or power banks – the site is off-grid
- ✓ Bottled water – there is no running water on-site

Transport

- ✓ Please consider carpooling where possible to reduce carbon emissions.
- ✓ Parking is limited to 10 medium-sized vehicles.



Get in touch to find out how to join us at Thirlmere for a truly rewarding team volunteering experience that benefits both your team and the environment. To find out more and book your bespoke volunteering day contact us at fundraising@johnmuirtrust.org