

Volunteering with Restoring Hardknott Forest



Since 2003, groups of volunteers have been coming to Hardknott Forest to help restore a conifer plantation to a native broadleaf woodland of oak, birch, rowan, willow and holly. Thanks for being a part of this unique opportunity to create one of the largest native forests in England.

Restoring Hardknott Forest: information for residentials and work days

Whatever time of year, be prepared for all weathers. Please bring...

For work days:

- Waterproof coat
- Waterproof trousers (some tasks involve kneeling or sitting)
- Hat, gloves, scarf/buff
- Work/gardening gloves if you have them (but we have a supply)
- Sun tan lotion/insect repellent/sun hat
- Plenty of warm layers & fleeces – long trousers and sleeves are recommended (all year round)
- Wellington boots (better than walking boots in wet conditions)
- Enough food and drink (flask for tea/coffee) for the day



For residentials (*i.e. if staying with us at [High Wallabarrow camping barn](#) – directions at the bottom of their webpage).*



- Torch/head torch for in the accommodation and for the walk to the pub
- A warm sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Toiletries & towel (the shower takes 20p or £1 coins)
- A change of clothing for evenings
- Earplugs may be useful – but we do have a supply
- Breakfasts, lunches and other food and drink. We usually eat out on Saturday evening.

What about the work?

Much of our work involves the removal of invasive non-native trees such as Sitka spruce. These are regenerating from the seed produced by the mature conifers on the site. Using long-handled loppers and pruning saws we can remove this regrowth creating better conditions for re-establishing the native trees.

Most native tree species are regenerating naturally, but we occasionally plant some native species on certain parts of the site.

We give full training in the techniques needed and provide all tools and equipment. We will brief you on health and safety and there will always be a qualified first aider present.

We can usually drive on the forest roads to get nearer the work sites, but there will be some walking on uneven terrain (typically about 20 minutes).

Aside from the work, we want you to enjoy your time at Hardknott. Take some time to appreciate the views and the wildlife (and tell someone if you spot anything interesting).

If you have any feedback or questions during the day please let us know.

John Hodgson, Restoring Hardknott Forest Project Officer

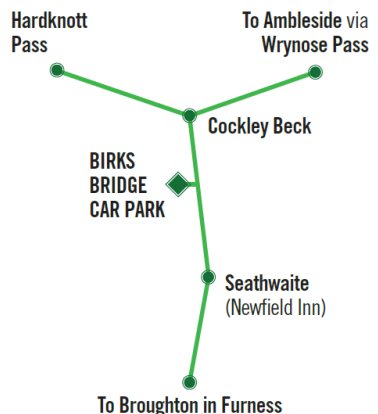
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@HardknottForest

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NB: There is no mobile signal throughout much of the Duddon Valley. There is call box at the Newfield Inn at Seathwaite.



Volunteer days start at 9.30am at Birks Bridge Car Park (free)