



Providing young people with the opportunity  
to 'Do' rather than 'Look'



## Information for new volunteers

Thank you for your interest in volunteering on site. We hope you will find it a rewarding and exciting time both in the experiences you give to visitors and the opportunities you take up for your own development. Our group is friendly and supportive with members coming from a wide variety of backgrounds. Most importantly they enjoy what they do and are keen to see the site develop. We hope you will feel the same once you get involved.

As one of our volunteers said. 'This site has changed the way I see the world'

### Background to the project

In April of 2009 a partnership between Suffolk CC Archaeological Service, The Forestry Commission and The Extended Schools Service received Lottery Funding to work with groups of young people to build an experimental archaeology centre in Tunstall Forest near Snape.

Over the Easter and summer holidays, some 60 young people worked alongside specialists to build a camp including an Iron Age roundhouse, a Roman pottery kiln and a kitchen,. The young people completed all the work themselves, cooked their own food and spent a night in the woods sleeping in their own shelters.

Encouraged by the success of the project, volunteers have continued to develop the site and now have a permanent area used to benefit schools, youth groups and public organisations. HOTT is now a registered charity. The site also serves as a haven for volunteers to develop their own interests, supported by members of the group.



### What you give

As a volunteer you would be expected to help support our March – October season, running workshops for visiting school groups. Depending on your experience you would spend time shadowing other volunteers and once confident, begin to lead the workshops . Group size for these is usually around 5 students. The majority of visiting schools are from the primary sector, although we are increasingly providing days for high school groups. We ask that you give at least 12 days each year to our school visits. These are all scheduled on weekdays

In addition to this we usually have holiday programmes running. You would be expected to contribute some time to these. They are great fun and very rewarding indeed. Our latest holiday project involved a group of young people providing composting toilets for the site. It may not sound very exciting but wait until you see the buildings they are housed in....

unless there are school bookings we also have a maintenance/play day for volunteers each Tuesday through the year.

### Up and coming projects

- Coracle building – working with holiday groups ,such as young carers charities, to build and float coracles. Training provided for interested volunteers.
- Woodland management – we have recently taken over a redundant coppice area that we intend to bring back into production over the next few years. This will provide resources for our site work.
- Building an oak framed weaving house with an oak shingled roof. Our most ambitious project to date work has started on a new building to replace our ageing weaving shed. The work will allow for the development of timber framing skills both for volunteers and for young people with an interest in carpentry and heritage.

### What you get

- Rewards in offering young people unique experiences in heritage education.
- The support and friendship of a diverse and supportive group of volunteers.
- Opportunities to develop skills you never knew you had.
- Training courses to further develop your skills
- A place to retreat from the noise and bustle of modern life.



The work on site will require a degree of expertise in craft and woodland skills and knowledge of safe practice in working with sharp tools and equipment. If you don't have these skills then this will not be a problem as we aim to provide training.

### Opportunities Programme

All volunteers will need to apply to the Disclosure and Barring Service through our organisation (This is required by law if you are to work with young people)

Training will be free to volunteers.

Training will take place on site where possible.

Volunteers will be able to gain experience in a range of practical skills that will meet their interests and the needs of the site.

These will include:

- Prehistoric cooking
- Green woodworking and basic joinery
- Working with willow
- Working with textiles (including spinning and weaving)
- Thatching
- Clay daub
- Pottery and kiln firing
- Flint knapping
- Whittling
- Forge work

We are very keen to recruit people with an interest in working in our Roman kitchen. You'll learn all about cooking outdoors, including using a bread oven. Although our on site catering has been scaled back lately, until such time as we can redevelop the on and off site resources.

There will be opportunities to develop personal interests if these can add quality to the site

What to do next

If, having read this information you would still like to be involved please let us know. We will then arrange a meeting where you can find out more about what is expected, and receive information on the necessary paperwork to register.

Thank you once again for your interest.

Please use the contact form on our website to express your interest in volunteering.

We look forward to welcoming you on site!



Hands on Heritage CIO Trustees  
Charity Number: 1157215