



**Yorkshire**  
Wildlife Trust

Spring/ Summer 2025

# Volunteer Training Programme

SARA TELLING OUR STORIES VOLUNTEER

Lots of  
FREE courses  
inside!



Leadership  
skills



ID Skills



Surveying



Learning

For further information or to enquire about booking a course, please email [volunteering@ywt.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@ywt.org.uk) or call **01904 659570**

[ywt.org.uk](http://ywt.org.uk)



**Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is the only charity entirely dedicated to conserving, protecting and enhancing Yorkshire's wildlife and wild places**



## YEAR-ROUND

### **Writing CVs and Impactful Personal Statements**

1:1 sessions on request

**Venue:** St George's Place York, or via Teams

Receive invaluable support with creating or updating your CV and personal statement! Designed to give you the edge when applying for conservation jobs, these bespoke workshops last between 1–1.5 hours and can be tailored to your needs. Just email us to book your slot!

## JANUARY

### **Winter Tree ID** Saturday 11th January

10.00am to 1.00pm

**Venue:** Potteric Carr

Tree species are most often identified by their leaves, but what about when there are no leaves? In this session we'll have a mixture of indoor and outdoor learning on how to

identify tree species native to the British Isles throughout the winter months, as well as opportunities to learn more on tree planting best practice.

### **Task Day Leader** Wednesday 15th January

10.00am to 4.30pm

**Venue:** Potteric Carr

If you are new to running practical conservation task days, or need to refresh your skills, this course is for you. You'll learn all the essentials of running practical tasks, including what biohazards might exist, problem solving scenarios and the paperwork and H&S elements to complete.

## FEBRUARY

### **Willow Tit ID and Surveying**

Wednesday 7th February

10.00am to 3.00pm

**Venue:** Potteric Carr

Learn how to identify the UK's most threatened resident bird

species and how to survey in the field. Indoor in the morning with presentation and field survey in the afternoon.

### **Get Your Career Started**

Wednesday 12th February

10.00am to 3.00pm

**Venue:** St George's Place York

The conservation sector is a competitive place. Get ahead of the competition by attending our Get your Career Started training. You'll look at writing good applications, interview techniques, how to sell yourself and stand out from the crowd. Open to all.

## MARCH

### **Membership Awareness**

Wednesday 12th March

6.30pm to 7.30pm

**Venue:** Online

Why does Yorkshire Wildlife Trust run a membership scheme? Join Lauren Perthen, our Head of Supporter Engagement, to find out and to pick up some simple, gentle-yet-effective techniques for converting more people to our cause. Please note that this session is NOT a sneaky sales pitch; members and non-members alike will gain a real insight into how the Trust operates and build their advocacy skills and conversational confidence by joining in!



Volunteers fencing at Askham Bog

DAVE HOWELL

## **Managing Volunteers**

**Monday 17th March**  
**10.00am to 4.30pm**

**Venue: Potteric Carr**

This course is essential for all staff, and for volunteers who lead other volunteers, and is highly recommended to those who work closely with volunteers and want to ensure best practice. Join us to discover what motivates volunteers and drives volunteer retention, learn how the law applies to volunteering (especially with regard to H&S) and get some essential administrative advice.

## **Intertidal ID**

**Sunday 30th March**  
**10am to 1pm**  
**Venue: South Landing, Flamborough**

Join us as we explore and identify the weird and wonderful plants and animals that live in Yorkshire's rockpools. We will be going out on the

rocky shore at South Landing in Flamborough so dress for the weather, bring sturdy shoes and meet some of our marine team!

## **APRIL**

### **Basic Tool Use**

**Monday 7th April**  
**10.00am to 3.00pm**

**Venue: Stirley**

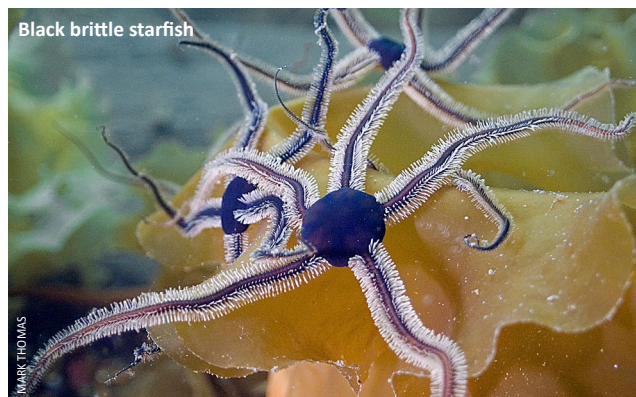
For anyone who is new to practical conservation volunteering or would like to feel more confident using tools for common conservation tasks. This hands-on session will provide plenty of guidance in a

### **An Introduction to Small Mammals**

**Wednesday 23rd April**  
**10.00am to 12.30pm**

**Venue: Kiplingcotes Chalk Pit near Market Weighton**

Join small mammal expert Jon Traill for a chance to learn more about a wide variety of our small mammals, the ecology of the area and their habitats, including a demonstration of how small mammal traps work.



Black brittle starfish

MARK THOMAS

Water vole



TOM MARSHALL

## An introduction to Water Voles and Water Shrews – Ecology and Survey Techniques

**Monday 28th April**

**10.00am to 1.00pm**

**Venue: Skerne Wetlands**

Another opportunity to join our expert Jon Traill, to discover more about the ecology and the habitats of both water voles and water shrew. The session will be field based and include examining water vole rafts to check for field signs, as well as water shrew bait tubes and potentially some microscope time, depending on field findings.

**MAY**



## Basic Brushcutter

**Wednesday 7th May**

**10.00am to 3.00pm**

**Venue: Stirley**

This is a course for use of brushcutters on YWT reserves and is for volunteers who are

required to use a brushcutter as part of their role. Limited numbers and expert guidance on this session will give you the confidence to use a brushcutter safely and effectively.



## Nature play

**Monday 12th May**

**11.00am to 3.30pm**

**Venue: Stirley**

Aimed at community engagement volunteers or anyone who'd like to learn more about engaging children with nature – simple low resource and low impact activities to engage people in the natural world.



## Dry Stone Walling

**Thursday 8th & 15th May**

**10.00am to 4.00pm**

**Venue: Chafer Wood**

Drystone walling is part of our heritage and culture as well as being a fun skill to learn. Join us for this two day training. Please note, you must be able to attend on both days to register for this course.



## Task Day Leader

**Thursday 22nd May**

**10.00am to 4.30pm**

**Venue: Stirley**

If you are new to running practical conservation task days, or need to refresh your

Making fire



HELEN WALSH

skills, this course is for you. You'll learn all the essentials of running practical tasks, including what biohazards might exist, problem solving scenarios and the paperwork and H&S elements to complete.

## JUNE



### Guided Seabird Walk

**Wednesday 4th June**

**11.00am to 12.30pm**

**Venue: Living Seas Centre, Flamborough**

Join us for a guided walk along the Flamborough cliffs for a fascinating insight into the lives of our feathered summer visitors, and take the chance to brush up on your ID skills!



### Habitat Creation and Restoration

**Friday 13th June**

**10.00am to 4.00pm**

**Venue: Potteric Carr**

The morning will be spent learning the theory of habitat



creation focusing on grassland creation and woodland improvement, but touching on many habitats. You will head outdoors for hands on practical work.



### Creating Collaborative Community Projects

**Monday 16th June**

**10.30am to 1.00pm**

**Venue: Stirley**

A workshop to explore effective ways to involve people in every stage of your project or activity from creating the idea, through

planning and troubleshooting to delivery. This interactive session will explore a variety of practical tools and techniques to develop shared ownership and understanding within communities.

## JULY



### Introduction to Scything

**Wednesday 2nd July**

**1.30pm to 3.30pm**

**Venue: Stirley**

For all those who are interested to learn the traditional way to mow a meadow! There will be lots of hands-on practice with the Austrian scythe, led by our expert guide.



### Introduction to Wildflower ID

**Wednesday 9th July**

**10.30am to 3.00pm**

**Venue: Stirley**

Join our wildflower expert for a fascinating day of learning. The first half will be a presentation



Community Champion Volunteers



## **Managing Volunteers**

**Wednesday 23rd July**

**9.30am to 4.00pm**

**Venue: York**

This course is essential for all staff, and for volunteers who lead other volunteers, and is highly recommended to those who work closely with volunteers and want to ensure best practice. Join us to discover what motivates volunteers and drives volunteer retention, learn how the law applies to volunteering (especially with regard to H&S) and get some essential administrative advice.

## **Intertidal ID**

**Saturday 26th July**

**10am to 1pm**

**Venue: Runswick Bay**

Join us as we explore and identify the weird and wonderful plants and animals that live in Yorkshire rockpools. We will be going out on the rocky shore at Runswick Bay, so dress for the weather, bring sturdy shoes and meet some of our marine team!

## **Outdoor Incident First Aid**

If you need First Aid training, please speak to your Volunteer Manager about booking this.

packed with useful info, before going out into the gardens and fields nearby for some hands-on identification.

## **Butterfly ID**

**Wednesday 16th July**

**2.00pm to 4.00pm**

**Venue: Barlow Common**

For beginners, or anyone looking to polish up on their butterfly ID skills, you're all welcome to join us for a walk on the common to spot and identify our native butterflies. Also there will be guidance on how to carry out official surveys of these delicate indicator species. (Please note this is weather dependent and may need to be rescheduled if conditions are not suitable.)



## **Upland Vegetation ID with Yorkshire Peat Partnership**

**Tuesday 22nd July**

**10.30am to 3.30pm**

**Venue: Near Skipton, with lifts available from Skipton town centre**

Join the Peat Team for a fascinating day of learning and identifying the plants of this unique habitat.

