NEVILL HALL NATURE SPACES

CC No. 1214695



VOLUNTEER INDUCTION INFORMATION

2026-7

nevillnature.org

Nevill Hall Nature Spaces
Volunteer Induction Information

1. Welcome

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at Nevill Hall Nature Spaces.

We all love gardens and some of us enjoy gardening. Working in the beautiful setting of Nevill Hall's grounds will be incredibly rewarding for you and more importantly for all those who use Nevill Hall Hospital. As a volunteer you may well be working alongside staff and past patients. Our natural environment is healing and we have a responsibility to care for it.

As a team, we're committed to bringing extra support to the gardens – the Nature Spaces – through fundraising, organising and hard work. This will create opportunities for people to connect with nature and thrive. We need your ideas and creative skills.

This is a truly worthwhile project and you'll be proud to contribute your help.

2. About Nevill Hall Nature Spaces CIO

https://nevillnature.org

The charity was set up in August 2025 to restore and enhance the Nature Spaces at Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny working with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB).

The site includes much of the original formal gardens of the old Nevill Hall, a new woodland planted in the Millennium, a productive orchard of thirty fruit trees, the original Victorian pond, a sensory garden and the Red Barn Meadow.

As detailed in the Nevill Hall Nature Spaces 'Green Infrastructure Proposals and Management Plan' (2026), created by Element Urbanism, the site is of historic importance surrounding the Grade II listed Nevill Hall Mansion. It has impressive views of the surrounding mountains and is only a field away from the River Usk (a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

The site is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), part of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, (LBAP), contains ecological diversity and a designation of Ancient Woodland.

The Nevill Hall Nature Spaces CIO recognises the importance and value of the landscape in which they work. Volunteers will often be working alongside the relevant environmental professionals to ensure the landscape and biodiversity are respected and interventions monitored.

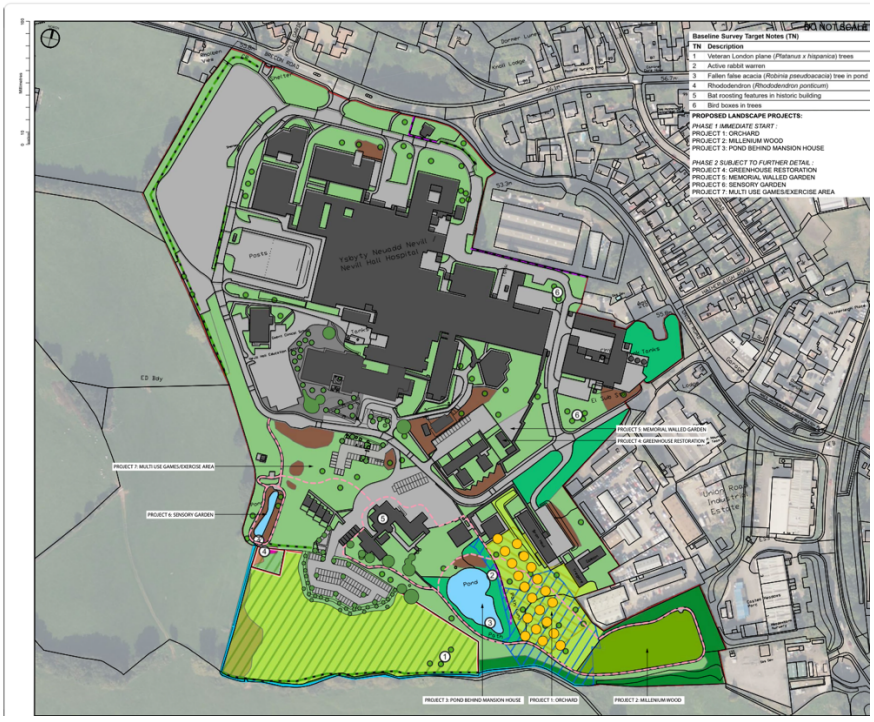
Our website includes information on the history of Nevill Hall, the hospital site and the previous Millennium Project.

3. Our Vision and Values

"To protect, enhance and consolidate the existing and varied Nature Spaces to create an accessible and multi-functional environment for healing, well-being and nature - which becomes a universally used and much-loved facility for the wider hospital community."

(Element Urbanism, Green Infrastructure Plan, 2026)

4. Site Map



Nevill Hall Nature Spaces

The Nature Spaces are situated in the southern part of the hospital site. On site there is also Mynydd Mawr, a children's memorial garden and the derelict 1970s greenhouse nearer the main hospital buildings.

The spaces are considered a 'secret garden' as many site visitors are unaware of their existence. We are aiming to change this with improved information and signage, while retaining the opportunities for wandering and quiet contemplation in the Nature Spaces.

There may at times be other work going on in the grounds/buildings of the hospital. Whenever a contractor is working on site, Volunteers will be briefed and remain away from any Contractors compounds/works. The ABUHB and the Contractor would also be made aware of Volunteers working on site.

5. Volunteering with Us

5.1 The importance of volunteers

One of our key ambitions is to recruit, manage and retain volunteers to help maintain the space over many years to come. Ensuring it is a safe welcoming space for all and looks cared for, whilst keeping the varied character of the many parts.

We also need volunteers to help run the charity, help with events, fundraising and all the other activities that make for a vibrant volunteering community.

We ask that you agree to our Volunteering Agreement, on the application form, and in return we will endeavour to support you to make the most of the volunteering opportunities with the charity.
https://nevillnature.org/contact/

We welcome volunteers with a wide range of skills and knowledge. There are no 'minimum requirements' as we aim to make volunteering a positive experience for all.

5.2 Time commitment

We have no minimum time commitment and will offer a range of different types of opportunities.

This will include seasonal work groups, one off ad hoc sessions, micro-volunteering, remote volunteering and potentially 'company away day' opportunities.

We welcome volunteers wishing to assist in helping to run the charity, help with events, fundraising and all the other activities; the time commitment will vary depending on the frequency of activities.
(See point 9 re volunteering and membership).

5.3 Volunteer expenses
At this time we are unable to re-imburse travelling expenses. Costs of materials and tools will be covered by the charity.

5.4 Volunteer Insurance
The charity will maintain appropriate insurance for volunteer work on site (2026-7 with Zurich Insurance).

5.4 Garden volunteers

- Garden volunteers and those doing practical work will be informed of the appropriate clothing and footwear to wear. Volunteers can provide their own gloves, if they wish.
- Clothing and sturdy footwear will be required, appropriate for the time of year. Activities will vary according to the season and requirements of the site.
- Time commitment and day(s) for undertaking tasks will vary. Tool use is limited by our insurance. Volunteers can only use hand and electric tools, unless specifically approved. All electric tools will need to be PAT tested.
- Chainsaws cannot be used by volunteers. Chainsaw work, such as coppicing, pollarding and felling will be done by approved contractors.
- No work above 2 metres is permitted by volunteers. Any work by volunteers with ladders will require a minimum of two people to be present (e.g. for apple picking).
- Some volunteering will be supervised by paid professionals such as arborist or ecologist. To ensure work is carried out safely and effectively, volunteers are required to abide by their instructions.
- A First Aid Kit will be available.
- On site toilet facilities will be available.



5.5 General volunteers
Volunteers assisting the Charity with various other activities will be informed of requirements determined by the specific activity.

6. Policies

6.1 Health and Safety Policy
https://nevillnature.org/about/policies/

Please read and abide by our Health and Safety policy. It is designed to ensure safe and effective working by all volunteers and others.

We are only able to work on site with the formal agreement of the ABUHB. Please respect other site users at all times.

All activities and work on site will be risk assessed by the relevant Event Controller. There will be a 'tool box talk' at the start of any volunteer activity, on site, by the Event Controller.

6.2. Other key policies
(For safeguarding policy, volunteering, privacy, complaints see: https://nevillnature.org/about/policies/ *)*



Please read and abide by the other key policies as these are to ensure that everyone understands their duties and responsibilities.

All policies will be regularly reviewed. If you have any suggestions on improvements please let us know.

6.3 Feedback, Concerns or Complaints
If you have any concerns, feedback or complaints. In the first instance, please contact your Event Controller. If this does not resolve matters please refer to our Complaints Procedure.
https://nevillnature.org/about/policies/
We welcome all feedback to help us improve how we work with volunteers and the wider hospital community.

7. Induction and Training
Volunteers will be given an induction to volunteering, the charity and the site and how we work together with ABUHB, the Health Board.

Relevant training opportunities will be offered to volunteers. Please discuss with the volunteer lead.

8. Membership
Volunteers are invited to join the charity as paying members, but do not have to do so.

If a volunteer regularly volunteers over a three-month period, to show our appreciation, the volunteer lead may be able to offer them free annual membership. Please discuss with your Event Controller, if applicable.

9. FAQs



How do I apply to volunteer?

Use application form on website.
https://nevillnature.org/contact/

How do I stop volunteering.

Please notify the volunteer lead if your circumstance change and you wish to alter how and when you volunteer or wish to stop volunteering.
This will assist us in planning for future activities.

Will I get to meet other volunteers?

An induction will take place. Plus we would aim to have some social and planning events.

There will also be an annual general meeting of members to which volunteers are welcome to attend (as non-voting observers).
First AGM October 8th 2026

I have other questions
Please contact info@nevillnature.org

This agreement is not binding in any way, nor is it a contract of employment.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering for
Nevill Hall Nature Spaces

Useful contacts

All events on site will have a nominated Event Controller.
Appropriate contact mobile numbers/What's App group information will be shared at the start of each activity, following Induction.

(Normally from list below).

Volunteer Lead:	Pat Smail	07977116876
Woodland Lead:	Tom Williams	07766706601
Orchard Lead:	Jeff Davies	07854777019
Pond Area Lead:	TBC	
Red Barn Meadow Lead:	Hamish Sandison	07711014363
Events Lead	TBC	

NHNS Trustees:	
Chair and Secretary:	Tom Williams - tom@nevillnature.org
Treasurer	Pat Smail - patsmail@nevillnature.org
Membership Secretary	Tom Williams - tom@nevillnature.org
Comms	Liz Davis davis.home@btopenworld.com 07779144092

Emergency	**999**
Nevill Hall Hospital Switchboard/ Minor Injuries Unit	01873 732732

Alternative formats

A wnewch chi roi gwybod i'ch arweinydd gwirfoddol os oes angen y ddogfen hon mewn fformat amgen er enghraifft yn Gymraeg neu mewn print bras.

Please let the volunteer lead know if you require this document in an alternative format e.g. In Welsh or large print.
