

# Volunteer Ranger Cragside Estate Rothbury Northumberland

# What is a Volunteer Ranger?

You will be supporting the estate Rangers in the conservation and maintenance of the manmade and natural landscape of Cragside Estate.

# What's in it for you?

- Being part of a friendly and dedicated team.
- Working in a Grade 1 registered landscape
- Undertaking a variety of practical tasks
- Keeping fit and active
- Enjoying new experiences and learning new skills
- Making a valuable contribution to the conservation of Cragside Estate

## What's involved?

You'll be working as part of a team of fellow volunteers, under the supervision of the Rangers.

- Path maintenance: there are some 45 miles of paths and drives to look after, controlling vegetation, exposing rock edges & repairing surfaces. The vegetation control includes dealing with and in places eradicating altogether woody non-native species like Rhododendron, Gaultheria & Salmonberry.
- Rocks & outcrops: there is a fantastic array of rocks, boulders & outcrops that put the crag
  into Cragside. These features may be natural or man-made and form a magnificent part of
  the state. Unfortunately over the years, many have been lost to the ever encroaching
  vegetation. Our aim is to restore these to become a significant part of the contemporary
  landscape.
- Drainage & water systems maintenance: there is a large network of drainage ditches and bodies of water across the estate, all in need constant attention. The Ranger team is responsible for controlling vegetation around the lake fringes and on the dams.
- There may be other activities where we could use your help, as the Rangers remit is wide ranging.
- The work can be physically demanding at times but is extremely rewarding and satisfying.

## This role will suit people who...

- Love being outdoors in all weathers and don't mind getting muddy.
- Are relatively physically fit and prepared to work outdoors on reasonably physically demanding tasks.
- Enjoy being an active part of an active team.

#### **Extra information**

Your place Cragside, Rothbury

**Time commitment** Every Wednesday, at 9.15am to 4.00pm

**Staff Contacts** Richard Smith, Asst. Head Ranger: 07785 528003

Richard.Smith1@nationaltrust.org.uk

Or

Sue Turnbull, Ranger: 0777 4435677 sue.turnbull@nationaltrust.org.uk

What you need to wear/ bring

Wear old clothes that can get muddy and take the odd burn hole.

Stout boots and waterproofs are essential.

Bring your packed lunch and drinks for the day, as we often eat on-

site and don't go back to base for lunch.

In summer: midge repellent, sun-screen, a hat & plenty of water to

drink.

### **About the National Trust**

As Europe's largest conservation charity, we help everyone across England, Wales and Northern Ireland to enjoy all sorts of very special places for ever, for everyone. Become part of our fascinating story, volunteer with us.

# **About Cragside**

Built on a rocky crag, Cragside House was a wonder of its age and was the first house in the world to be lit by hydro-electricity. The house towers above one of the largest rock gardens in Europe, leading down to the Iron Bridge. We have about 45 miles of paths & drives to care for which cover the 1000 acre estate. Children love our adventure play area & exploring Nelly's Labyrinth, a network of paths & tunnels cut out of a vast area of rhododendron forest.

Cragside was the home of Sir William George Armstrong, later Lord Armstrong. Through scientific innovation & entrepreneurial skill he achieved immense wealth in the manufacture of hydraulic machines & armaments. Many of Armstrong's innovations were tried at, or adapted for Cragside.

Cragside has some 60 staff & approximately 238 volunteers throughout the house, gardens & estate. We host a number of Working Holidays each year which supplements our volunteer force & enables us to complete many major projects.