



**PRESS  
RELEASE**  
for immediate release

## GO WILD IN THE WYRE

Three conservation organisations in the Wyre have joined forces to launch a new volunteer programme to help protect important habitats for wildlife in the Wyre Forest. Butterfly Conservation, Natural England and the Forestry Commission are launching Forest Guardians on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January with a conservation task in the heart of the Forest. Those interested are asked to meet at the Earnwood Copse car park on the Bewdley-Kinlet road for 10 am. The new programme will offer regular opportunities for volunteers to get involved in practical conservation tasks both midweek and at weekends and also the chance to become involved in survey work on butterflies, birds and other wildlife.

Alice James, Reserve Manager for Natural England, said “There is a long tradition of volunteering within the Wyre Forest which has contributed hugely to our knowledge of its wildlife and to the rich mosaic of habitats which is the Forest today. We are keen to recruit new volunteers to continue this really important work and to make sure that the Forest is well managed and our knowledge of the wildlife it contains is kept up to date. The Wyre Forest is one of the most important areas of woodland in the country and has retained important populations of butterflies and birds which have been lost elsewhere. We want to ensure that this wealth of wildlife continues into the future.

Jenny Joy, Senior Regional Officer for Butterfly Conservation, said “The Wyre is particularly renowned for its Fritillary butterflies. These include the iconic Pearl-bordered Fritillary which has declined by over 70% nationally but, thanks to great work carried out by Butterfly Conservation, the Forestry Commission and Natural England working in partnership, is now widespread across the Forest. Volunteers play a huge role both in maintaining good quality habitat and carrying out vital monitoring and survey work. We hope that the new Forest Guardians programme will attract new volunteers and allow this fantastic work to continue.”

All tools plus drinks will be provided on the day but please bring a packed lunch. For further information about the new programme and how to get involved contact Alice James on [alice.james@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:alice.james@naturalengland.org.uk) or telephone 01299 400686.

### NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. **Butterfly Conservation** is the largest insect conservation charity in Europe with over 30,000 members in the UK. Its aim is the conservation of butterflies, moths and their habitats. It runs conservation programmes on over 60 threatened species of butterfly and moth and manages over 30 nature reserves. Further information [www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org) Much work is delivered through the charity's regional branches and the West Midlands branch holds an annual programme of events aimed at raising awareness of the region's butterflies and moths ([www.westmidlands-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.westmidlands-butterflies.org.uk))

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Mike Williams (Publicity & Marketing Officer – West Midlands Butterfly Conservation) on 07802 274552 or email [mike@stagborough.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:mike@stagborough.fsnet.co.uk)