

Voluntary Bailiff

Role Description and Information Sheet



PLEASE READ THE INFORMATION BELOW BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

What is a Volunteer Bailiff? Volunteer Bailiffs contribute by being ‘eyes and ears’, which means reporting what they see and hear to a high evidential standard, driving the all-important ‘intelligence-led’ system. The VBS exists to support both the EA and police in protecting fish and fisheries.

Day to day, your role will involve patrolling local watercourses (to which you must have legal access) and logging the details on our secure website. A ‘patrol’ could include a fishing trip, simply walking a riverbank or as an angling club bailiff.

Please note that as ‘eyes and ears’ only, you have NO powers whatsoever, to approach suspects or demand licences.

It is important to note that most of the time you probably won’t see anything unusual, but these patrols MUST be logged as they are just as important as when you DO see something to report as an ‘incident.’ With each patrol carried out you will need to log the written details in your pocket notebook as well as logging the details on the secure website. It is therefore important that you can write clearly and accurately as you may need to rely on the evidence given in court for the prosecution of offenders.

What is the application process? You will be sent an application form to complete and return to us as soon as possible. Providing there is no further information required or you have not declared any unspent convictions which need referral, our local Regional Enforcement Manager will contact you to arrange a brief and informal interview by telephone or in person – this is to find out if the role is suitable for you and answer any questions you may have. If everyone is happy, you will then be asked to attend a mandatory VBS Induction and Training session either online or in your local area (reasonable travel expenses will be paid). You will also be asked to sign a Volunteer’s Agreement confirming our commitment to you as a volunteer and likewise our expectations of our Volunteer Bailiffs.

What skills or experience do I need? You must:

- 1) Be physically able to carry out patrols.
- 2) Be able to swim as you will be patrolling near watercourses.
- 3) Be computer literate to access our secure VBS website, log patrols and benefit from online training.

What training will I get? The mandatory training day should give you all the information you need to begin your role, and this will be supported by ongoing online and, where appropriate, face-to-face training in your region – all provided by law enforcement professionals of the Angling Trust, EA, and police. We will also arrange for a local VB to act as ‘mentor’ to guide you through your first patrols. The secure VBS website includes further helpful training resources and immediate access means you can start logging patrols straight away.

What equipment do I need? Upon completion of your training, you will receive your personal pocketbook and VBS ID card. Your VBS kit of AT branded jacket, polo shirt and baseball cap will be provided after an initial settling in period of 3 months.

What support will I get? Please be aware that most of the time this role involves carrying out 'patrols' alone and therefore providing your support individually and remotely. You can keep in touch with what is going on in your region and with other VBs via the secure VBS website. VBs frequently have the opportunity to undertake joint patrols with the EA and police and are invited to attend local AT and VBS events where appropriate.

You will be allocated an Area Coordinator who is there to support you, keep you updated about what's going on and answer any questions you might have. Please remember though that they are also volunteers with other commitments so will come back to you as soon as possible.

You will also be in contact with your Regional Enforcement Manager whose details will be given to you.

How much time will I need to give? You can contribute as many or as few hours as you wish, and you will not be tasked to patrol specific areas. A 'patrol', therefore, could include a fishing trip or an angling club bailiff patrolling his or her club water.

Will it cost me anything? No. Volunteers should not be out of pocket when they work with us, and we will reimburse reasonable agreed expenses, such as travelling to attend a pre-scheduled joint patrol with the EA and/or police, and training.

Do I need personal insurance? No. The Angling Trust has insurance cover for legal liability claims, either by or against volunteers working for the Trust, resulting from damage to property or personal injury.

Are there any age or other restrictions? Providing you are over 18, physically able to carry out patrols and can swim, there is no upper age limit.

I have a criminal record. Can I still volunteer? It is accepted that people make mistakes, often in their youth, but go on to lead law-abiding and productive lives. Having a criminal record, therefore, is not an automatic bar to joining the VBS, but this would typically depend on a) what the offence and sentence was, b) how recent it was, i.e., whether 'spent' under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, 1974 (and updates). The VBS is governed by a joint Angling Trust & Environment Agency Project Board, which carefully considers all applications involving previous convictions.

If I live outside UK? It is your responsibility to make sure you can volunteer while in the UK. If you have any doubts or questions you should contact UK Visas and Immigration.

As a refugee / asylum seeker can I volunteer? If you have refugee status or have exceptional leave to remain, then you are very welcome to volunteer with us.

If you are an Asylum Seeker, then you can also volunteer with us. If your final appeal is refused and you are denied leave to remain then you will have to stop volunteering with us.

If you have any further questions not answered here, please contact our National Volunteers Manager, karen.hinson@anglingtrust.net.