**Opportunity:** Volunteers are for an essential task required in the running of a community tree nursery at Heathfield Farm, Broadclyst for the Saving Devon’s Treescapes project. The trees grown in this nursery will provide stock for our county-wide Free Tree Scheme.

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| **Purpose:** |
| Ash dieback is a serious and imminent threat to the ecology and distinctive appearance of the Devon landscape. The disease is expected to kill at least 90% of ash, which is our county’s second most numerous tree. Dieback cannot be stopped but if we join together to take immediate action, we can all help to mitigate the damage it will do to our natural and cultural heritage.Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) is leading the Saving Devon's Treescapes project on behalf of Devon’s Ash Dieback Resilience Forum. It’s a partnership project which is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project will focus on mitigating the impact of dieback on trees *outside* woods. It is estimated that there are around 1.9 million mature and near-mature ash trees in Devon’s parks, gardens, small copses and wood pastures, and (perhaps most critically) along the 53,000 km of hedgerow that connect all of these features together. The project will champion a 3-2-1 ash replacement formula, with at least three new trees of other species planted (or otherwise encouraged) for every large ash lost, two for every medium-sized ash, and one for every small ash. You can find out more about the project here - <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/what-we-do/our-projects/saving-devons-treescapes> |
| **What the task involves:** |
| Volunteer tasks will involve watering of plants and cells outside of normal nursery volunteer days.  |
| **Skills and attributes** |
| Skills and attributes that will be useful include:* A keen interest in wildlife and growing and nurturing plants.
* A keen interest in working practically outside.
* Availability to volunteer on a regular basis at appropriate times of year. During April/May/June/July/August we are looking for a minimum of one hour a week.
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| **Where:** |
| The nursery is at Heathfield Farm, Station Road, Broadclyst, Exeter. EX5 3AR.There is free parking on site. |
| **When and how often:** |
| A weekly watering rota will be created by the project team. Broadly, watering will need to take place three or four times a week in the morning and early evening during the spring and summer months, with potentially more regular watering in the warmer months. The role is largely solitary.We will be looking for local volunteers that are able to commit to volunteer regularly – at least an hour every week during the spring and summer months.  |
| **Supervision and training** |
| You will receive all necessary training and information from the project team, along with background notes and links to other resources. Ongoing support will be provided. |
| **Expenses/equipment:** |
| Reasonable travel expenses can be reimbursed. Ideally, we will be looking for volunteers who live locally to keep car-use to a minimum to help our environment. The nursery does however have free parking available.Equipment required is minimal. You will be required to provide:* Appropriate shoes/boots – the nursery is flat and grassy, but we advise that they should have good ankle support, a good grip and be reasonably waterproof as the grass can be wet and is long in places.
* Weather-appropriate clothes and supplies (including sun cream, sun hat and water bottle in summer).

Other resources and equipment necessary to carry out your duties can be provided by the project team, including protective gloves if required. |
| **Health and Safety/ Risk Assessment** |
| You will be committed to your own Health and Safety and the Health and Safety of those you work with and abide by the DWT Health and Safety Policy and risk assessment covering your role to include our lone working procedure. As a condition of access to the site, you will be required to get a Basic DBS check for which you will be fully reimbursed. All details will be explained to you as part of your initial training and induction, including appropriate location specific /event specific risks. |
| **What’s in it for the volunteer?** |
| As a volunteer you will have the opportunity to ensure the health and wellbeing of our young trees in the nursery. Watering is an essential component of growing trees! You will be a key part of the Saving Devon's Treescapes team, spreading the word about ash dieback, and encouraging people to get actively involved in limiting its impacts on our wildlife and landscapes. This volunteer opportunity will also give you the chance to work outside carrying out an essential task with the benefit of it being relaxing and non-strenuous.  |
| **How to apply** |
| If you are interested in the role, please contact Sarah Augbaya, Saving Devon's Treescapes Community Engagement Officer at saugbaya@devonwildlifetrust.org for an informal discussion. In your email please briefly outline your background, what time you can commit to volunteering and why you’d like to volunteer.  |