

# Lost Woods training, networking and activity survey for groups



Results from 12 individuals from 7 groups involved in conservation or sustainability

- Henfield Parish Council
- Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
- Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council.
- Henfield Conservation Volunteers
- Henfield Conservation Volunteers
- Scaynes hill sustainability group
- Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
- Woodland Trust
- Tottington Woodlanders
- Tottington Woodlanders
- Friends of Markstakes Common
- Friends of Ashenground & Bolnore Woods

What kind of skills would you or your group members like to learn?



Are there any training activities, from the above list, that you are able to offer?

**Tottington Woodlanders:** *Basic woodland management and coppicing.*

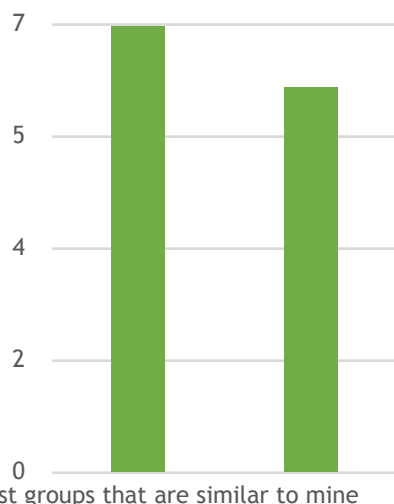
**Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish council:** *Depending on other time commitments and location, identifying wildlife walks.*

### Observations and Analysis

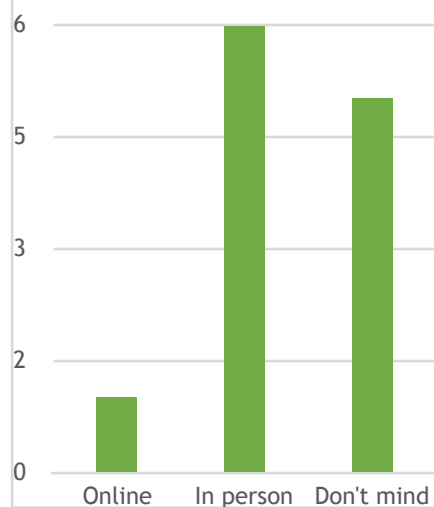
The most popular training is: Basics in woodland management and conservation, identifying flora and fauna, and managing volunteers.

Whilst there is interest in managing, retaining, and supporting volunteers, there is little interest in welcoming and working safely with children and vulnerable adults. This presents a challenge for us in terms of matching underserved groups, who will often have vulnerable members, with conservation groups. This is something we could explore further with groups, to understand the lack of interest or any reservations or barriers.

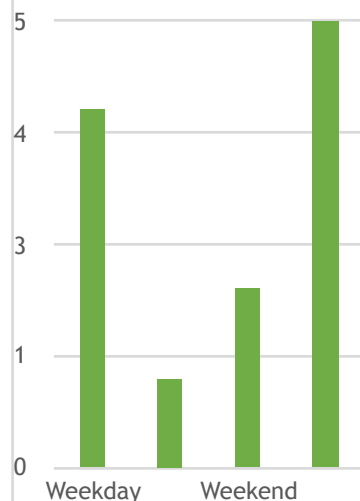
Would you find it useful to meet with other groups participating in the Lost Woods project, to share ideas and learning?



How would you like to get together



When would you like to get together



Please tell us about your ideas for themes for networking events, eg networking in nature

*Tree and hedge planting as a climate change reducing activity- several councils might be trying to plant more trees for the carbon reduction plans and we can share ideas?*

*Organised themed walks, birdwatching events (it's not for me, but I know people love it), tree planting.*

*Identification walks*

*It would be good to have an informal event where all of the groups/individuals involved in the Lost Woods Project could meet and discuss shared aims and views.*

*Small committed groups of volunteers to do working parties on a regular basis making a difference in areas which don't benefit from larger organisations help such as councils*

### Observations and Analysis

It is encouraging to see that people want to get together with similar groups and groups involved in woodland activities, people are flexible about how and when this might happen, but there is little appetite for online networking. There are also some good ideas for themes, which shows people are thinking about the potential of networking and the Lost Woods project in general.

**We aim to establish an interactive web page with a map of the Lost Woods Project area. What would you like to be included?**

Useful documents to download and share E.g: woodland wellbeing activity tool kit, example policies and pro

Training, funding

Advice & guidance E.g: setting up a Friends of woodlands group, planning events and visits to your woodland, including health and safety,

List and map of community groups who maintain, manage or campaign for woodland or green spaces, includin

List and

### Observations and Analysis

Almost all respondents would like an interactive webpage with useful documents to download, training, funding and tool share opportunities and a map showing where other groups are. This supports a desire for networking. There is less interest for advice and guidance re: setting up groups, this is understandable as most respondents are already well established

**We are considering developing a Lost Woods Award to support people's engagement and connection with woodlands. Please tick any of the following that might appeal to you, your clients, volunteers, or members**

An award to explore and get to know a particular woodland space

An award for encouraging others to come and enjoy the woodland, eg by sharing a photo, story or bringing a friend to an activity.

An award to recognise taking part in citizen science activities, such as butterfly or plant surveys.

An award to recognise taking part in conservation activities such as litter picking, coppicing, removal of invasive species.

An award to recognise identification skills e,g, being able to recognise certain number of trees, plants or animals or bugs.

Certificate of participation in training

None of the above.

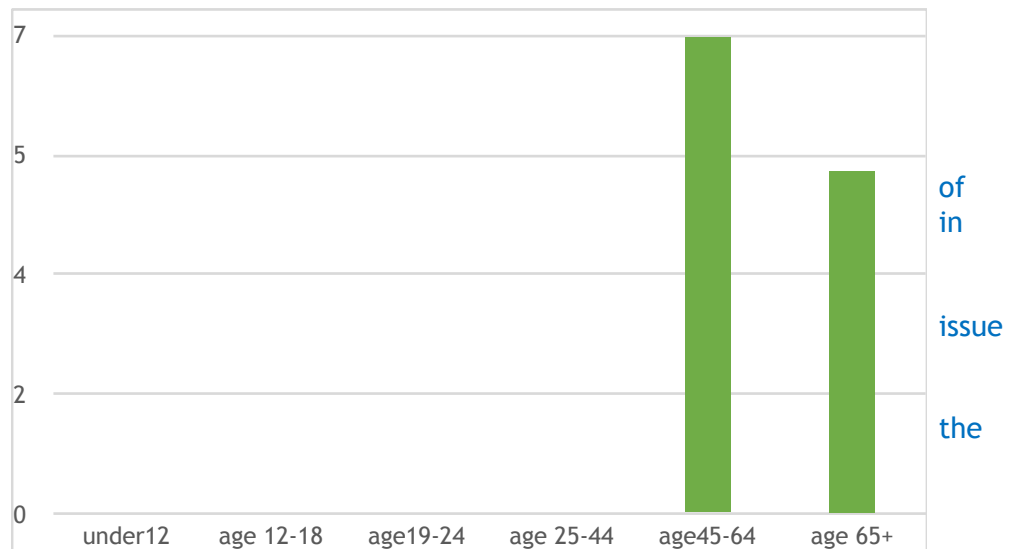
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### Observations and Analysis

These questions were based on aspects of the John Muir Award of discover, explore, conserve and share. Amongst conservation and sustainability groups whilst not all groups felt that their members would like an award, more than half would like an award that recognised their conservation activities. There is less interest an award recognising flora and fauna Id skills, or taking part in citizen science activities. An little or no interest in encouraging others into the woodland or getting to know a particular woodland space.

**What average age groups apply to your members**

Observations and Analysis  
 This clearly shows the lack younger volunteers involved conservation and sustainability. Conservation groups often site this as an and are concerned about a reduction of volunteers in general and especially in last 2 years.



**Other general comments from respondents**

“I am answering as a Parish Councillor ... we only have small amounts of woodland but ambition to plant lots of trees and to engage the pubic with this more”

“It’s a lovely project and I’m very happy to be a part of it.”

“I would have to ask the volunteers if they were interested in an award. It isn’t something I would want to report back to Lost Woods on myself with the volunteer group, but I will think about it and let Karen know if I have any ideas.”

“Conservation is a long term goal and commitment of volunteers and is key to the success of any venture or group activity. A sensitive approach is important to preserve the delicate ecology and habitat of any sites chosen for help and these can differ widely. Rare habitats need careful handling and attention so that they remain relatively undisturbed and not turned into open access. Long term success relies on a plan for the future and this would stem from those qualified to make such a plan and carry it through”

Observations and Analysis