

Volunteer Role Description

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| Role title: |
| Wildlife Trainee: Conservation (North Bucks) |
| Based at location: |
| Meadow Farm nr. Bicester, OX25 1TW. |
| Purpose of the role: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist the North Bucks team with the management of 20 local nature reserves. |
| Type of activities you will be involved in: |
| <p>The North Bucks team manages 20 nature reserves which host a range of species including rare wading birds, butterflies, ancient woodland indicator plants and small mammals. In this post you will learn about and complete tasks for the practical management of ancient woodland, hedgerows, species rich hay meadows and pasture as well as wetland and lake sites. This will predominantly include practical habitat maintenance/restoration, developing volunteer teams and leading groups, as well as some assisting with surveying and livestock handling. Daily tasks include installing and repairing fences, gates and paths, brushcutter operation, scrub clearance and tree felling using chainsaws (12 month placement only), basic tool maintenance and assisting with surveys such as deer impact surveys and rapid assessment habitat surveys. Training and guidance will be provided for all tasks as needed.</p> |
| Experience &/or qualifications needed: |
| <p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong desire to work in UK wildlife conservation. A good level of physical fitness & strength. Willingness to learn about and use power tools including brushcutters/chainsaws (training will be provided). Willingness to supervise and lead others. Ability to engage with a range of people from different age groups & backgrounds. Strong desire to develop skills and standards of workmanship required in wildlife management. A proactive, 'can do' approach to learning and completing tasks. Valid manual driving licence and a willingness to drive Wildlife Trust vehicles. |

Desirable:

- Experience of practical conservation work.
- Mechanical aptitude.
- Experience of interacting with volunteers.
- Relevant education and /or experience.

Times/days we would like you to be available:

A commitment to three days a week (Tues, Wed & Thurs 8:30am to 4:30pm) for 6 or 12 months is required. You will need to be prompt in the mornings so please make sure you have reliable travel arrangements.

Benefits to volunteer & possible training opportunities:

A substantial amount of training and experience is provided. Trust staff will teach practical nature reserve management skills and provide the theory and rationale behind what we do. A training budget is available which includes externally certified training in NPTC Chainsaw operations (12 month placement only) and outdoor First Aid, as well as access to a suite of in-house courses ranging from Conservation Livestock Management to Botany Skills. The programme is intended to facilitate the Trainee's progression to a paid job in wildlife conservation.

You will be responsible to:

Reserves Officer (North Bucks)

Expenses payable:

Limited travel expenses are available.