



## Volunteer Role Description

<b>Role title:</b>
Wildlife Trainee (Conservation) South Buckinghamshire
<b>Based at location</b> (please indicate if disabled access is available):
College Lake Nature Reserve, near Tring
<b>Purpose of the role:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To assist the reserves team with the management of nature reserves in South Buckinghamshire.</li></ul>
<b>Activities you will be involved in:</b>
<p>Our Wildlife Trainees assist the Reserves team to carry out habitat management across our nature reserves in South Buckinghamshire. You will gain experience on a variety of habitats including chalk grassland, wetland and woodland; carrying out practical habitat maintenance/restoration including scrub clearance, tree felling, brushcutter operation, and maintenance of site infrastructure such as fencing, gate repairs and sign installation. You will also gain experience leading volunteer groups, and there will be many opportunities to assist with the management of Trust livestock. Training and guidance will be provided for all tasks.</p>
<b>Experience &amp;/or qualifications needed:</b>
<p><b>Essential:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Strong desire to work in UK wildlife conservation.</li><li>A good level of physical fitness &amp; strength.</li><li>Willingness to use power tools including chainsaws (training will be provided).</li><li>Willingness to supervise and lead others.</li><li>Ability to engage with a range of people from different age groups &amp; backgrounds.</li><li>Strong desire to develop skills and standards of workmanship required in wildlife management.</li><li>A proactive 'can do' approach to learning and completing tasks.</li><li>Valid manual driving licence and a willingness to drive Wildlife Trust vehicles.</li></ul> <p><b>Desirable:</b></p>

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

**Times/days we would like you to be available:**

A commitment to three days a week for 6 or 12 months is required.  
Actual days: Tues, Wed & Thurs 8:30am to 4:30pm. 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 the practical tasks you undertake. A programme of in-house training is provided for Trainees\* covering topics such as:

- Leadership Training
- Safety on Site
- Tool Maintenance
- Applying for a Job in Conservation
- Brushcutter Training
- Driver Awareness
- Social Media and Communications Training
- Leading Guided Walks
- Introduction to Botany
- Reserves Management Planning

\*The in-house training runs to a set schedule and training received will depend on the start date and duration of the placement, as well as availability of places. Your mentor will work with you to book onto training that best suits your needs.

You will also receive externally certified training in Outdoor First Aid at Work and, if able to commit to a 12 month placement, NPTC chainsaw training. Trainees also have the opportunity to book on to Developing Your Skills (DYS) courses, which are offered by the Trust to build relevant skills and knowledge.

The programme is intended to facilitate your progression to a paid job in wildlife conservation.

**You will be responsible to:**

Reserves Officer (South Buckinghamshire)

**Expenses payable:**

Travel expenses of 20 pence per mile are available (including bicycle travel) up to £175 per month.