

Volunteer Role Description

Title of role
<p align="center">Wildlife Trainee Conservation (College Lake & South Buckinghamshire)</p>
What are the main objectives of the role?
<p>Our aim is to give you hands-on experience and training that will place you in a stronger position to gain paid employment in the practical conservation sector. As your experience grows, you will also become an important part of our team, supporting our work and helping us to achieve our vision of an environment rich in wildlife, valued by all.</p>
What sorts of tasks and activities will I be doing?
<p>Our Wildlife Trainees assist the Reserves team to carry out habitat management across our nature reserves. This is a split role, shared between the College Lake and South Buckinghamshire teams (your time will be evenly divided between each team). 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 opportunities to assist with the management of Trust livestock and to experience public engagement such as helping at events or guided walks. Training and guidance will be provided for all tasks.</p>
How will my role fit in with BBOWT's work?
<p>Our mission is to create a Living Landscape across our towns, cities and countryside, and inspire our communities to act for nature.</p> <p>We look after more than 80 nature reserves spanning more than 2,500 hectares. You will be part of our work to secure a better future for wildlife on our nature reserves.</p>
Who will I be volunteering with?
<p>You'll be part of a team of employees, volunteers and other trainees. You will report to a dedicated mentor, who will support you, monitor your progress and help with personal development throughout your placement.</p>
Where will I be based?
<p>You will be based at College Lake nature reserve, near Tring (HP23 5QG) and from here travel out to other reserves within South Buckinghamshire (BBOWT vehicles will normally be available for this, or mileage expenses will be paid if required to use your own vehicle). You may also travel to other sites within Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.</p>
How much time will I be expected to give?
<p>You will have to be available for 3 days a week for 6 or 12 months. The days for your traineeship will be Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.</p> <p>A further commitment to one weekend day per month is required, with time off in lieu given during the week.</p> <p>On a normal day, you will start at 8.30am and finish at 4.30pm, although this may vary sometimes.</p>

What's in it for me?

If you're enthusiastic, energetic and determined to get into a paid role in conservation, this could be a perfect role for you. We are proud that many of our Trainees have gone on to develop their careers in the sector.

You will benefit from a substantial amount of training and get plenty of active experience, learning from our experienced, professional employees and volunteers how and why we do things.

Our in-house training is specifically geared to giving you a wide range of employer-valued skills, depending on availability and what is best suited to your career plans. The training programme includes options such as leadership skills, safety on site, tool maintenance, how to apply for jobs, driver awareness, and leading guided walks. You'll also be given the opportunity to attend our popular free Developing Your Skills courses for volunteers.

You will also receive relevant externally certified training in outdoor first aid at work. If you will be with us a full 12 months you'll also be given NPTC chainsaw training.

There's an email newsletter for volunteers, Grapevine – you will be able to sign up for that, and you'll also be given the opportunity to attend our popular free Developing Your Skills courses for volunteers.

On top of that, you'll benefit from being in a large organisation, meeting other trainees, employees and volunteers. You'll get to see how a conservation organisation works, giving you the chance to build a network of contacts and develop communication and team-working skills that are so important to your future career.

Will I be able to claim for expenses?

We will pay limited expenses for you to get to your normal base (20 pence per mile, up to £175 per month), or elsewhere if agreed with your mentor. Normally, BBOWT vehicles will be available for you to drive out to other locations so you won't need to travel in your own vehicle.

What skills, experience and attributes do I need?

What's most important is that you should have a desire to get involved and learn all you can.

You'll need to have a keen interest in UK wildlife conservation, a good level of physical fitness, and be willing to supervise volunteers. Relevant volunteering or work experience is desirable.

The table below gives some more details about the experience and skills we are looking for.

	Essential	Desirable
Strong desire to work in UK wildlife conservation.	✓	
A good level of physical fitness & strength.	✓	
Willingness to be trained on and use power tools including brushcutters / chainsaws.	✓	
Willingness to supervise and lead others.	✓	
Ability to engage with a range of people from different age groups and backgrounds.	✓	
Strong desire to develop skills and standards of workmanship required in habitat management.	✓	
A proactive 'can do' approach to learning and completing tasks.	✓	

	Essential	Desirable
Valid manual driving licence and a willingness to drive Wildlife Trust vehicles.	✓	
Availability to cover occasional weekend days.	✓	
Helpful and friendly attitude towards members of the public.	✓	
Experience of practical conservation.		✓
Aptitude for hands-on practical tasks.		✓
Experience of interacting with volunteers.		✓
Experience of public engagement and good communication skills.		✓
Experience of handling / managing livestock.		✓
Relevant education and / or experience.		✓