

Volunteer Role Description

Role title
Volunteer Nature Reserves Trainee (West Berkshire)
Based at location
For more information see http://www.bbowt.org.uk/nature-reserves/
Purpose 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.</p> <p>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>
Type of work in which you will be involved
<p>Our Volunteer Wildlife Trainees assist the Reserves Team in carrying out practical habitat management and infrastructure maintenance across 11 of our nature reserves in West Berkshire including Greenham and Crookham Common, Thatcham Reedbeds and Kintbury Newt Ponds. You will gain experience on a wide variety of habitats including heathland, wetland, woodland and meadows.</p> <p>In the autumn and winter, you'll be carrying out practical habitat maintenance and restoration which could include scrub clearance, tree felling, brushcutter operation, meadow and fen cutting, small scale coppicing and pond clearance. In the Spring and summer months, you'll be involved in the maintenance of site infrastructure such as stock fencing repairs, gate repairs, sign installation, keeping paths open and meadow and fen cutting.</p> <p>You will also be trained and gain experience in leading volunteer groups and assisting with the care and management of cattle and sheep as well as Exmoor and New Forest ponies. You'll likely also have the chance to help at events or guided walks and to assist with seasonal habitat and species surveys. Training and guidance will be provided for all tasks.</p>
Experience &/or qualifications needed
<p>What you'll have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A positive attitude • A passion for helping nature and being outdoors • A good level of physical fitness and strength • Problem solving skills and able to use your own initiative • Ability to communicate clearly and follow complex instructions • A full driving licence with at least 1 years' experience and a willingness to drive Wildlife Trust vehicles. • Ideally some experience of working /volunteering doing outdoor work <p>Who you'll be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed and passionate about joining our mission to put nature into recovery • A proactive 'can do' approach to learning and completing tasks whatever the weather! • Happy to get hands-on with power tools and machinery

- A team player able to work collaboratively and inclusively whilst building excellent working relationships
- Full of energy and enthusiasm to motivate and lead teams of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds
- Desire to develop skills and standards of workmanship required in habitat management

Times/days we would like you to be available

We've found that this works best when Volunteer Trainees can commit to 3 days a week for 12 months. The days for your traineeship will preferably be Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, however there may be some flexibility. On a normal day, you will start at 8.30am and finish at 4.30pm, although sometimes, this may vary.

The duration of the traineeship could be flexible (based on a discussion) but the training opportunities available to you may be reduced.

Benefits to volunteer & possible training opportunities

A substantial amount of training and experience is provided including externally certified training in:

- **Outdoor First Aid Level 2 plus Forestry**
- **BORDA Basic 4x4 Driving**
- **NPTC Level 2 Award in Chainsaw: Cross-cutting, Maintenance & Felling Trees up to 380mm.** *Chainsaw training will only be provided if the trainee signs up to a 12-month placement*

In addition to this, a programme of in-house training is provided including:

- Intro to BBOWT
- Leading Practical Groups
- Tool Maintenance
- Brush cutter use and maintenance
- Driver awareness

The in-house training runs to a set schedule and training received will depend on the start date and the duration of the placement. Trust staff will also teach practical nature reserve management skills including livestock, infrastructure, and habitat management, and provide the theory and rationale behind the work you do.

You will be responsible to

Reserves Officer

Expenses payable

Volunteers who use their own vehicles when travelling on behalf of the Trust will receive reimbursement in accordance with the mileage rates outlined below:

Motorised vehicles: 45p/mile

Bicycles: 45p/mile.

The above rates are intended to cover all running costs associated with the use of personal cars on behalf of the Trust and no other expenses, e.g. car wash, fuel and oil, etc. will be reimbursed by BBOWT in this regard.

Travel expenses may also be claimed by Volunteer Trainees in travelling to their placement in accordance with this policy but are capped per month.

