

**Volunteer Role:** Volunteer Reserves Officers (VRO)

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| **Support Person** | Nominated Reserve Officer |
| **Role Purpose** | To contribute to the delivery of the assigned Reserves Team’s programme of practical conservation tasks carried out on Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves. To contribute to the preservation of the most valuable habitats in the county. To develop knowledge, skills and experience in nature conservation work, with a view to obtaining a future career in the conservation field. |
| **Specific Tasks** | The placement covers typical aspects of the seasonal work required to manage a wide range of habitats for wildlife, including woodland, wetland and grassland. VROs gain experience in the practical skills involved with the management of the Trust's nature reserves, including: hand-tool use; machinery use (eg. chainsaw, brushcutter), various habitat management techniques eg. coppicing; biological monitoring; fencing; working with livestock; access infrastructure maintenance; leading volunteer work parties; plus some involvement with the administrative elements that underpin reserve management. |
| **Skills and Qualities Needed** | Essential* Interest in pursuing a career in wildlife conservation
* Some experience using hand tools and power tools; willingness to use machinery
* Ability to work with a range of people from all age groups and backgrounds
* Willing to develop skills and standards of workmanship required in wildlife conservation
* Self-motivated, flexible and willing to work hard outdoors in all weather conditions
* Valid full UK driving licence

Desirable* Computer literate
* Some experience of similar physical, outdoor work
* Experience of leading group work
* Qualification in a related field
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| **Commitment** | 3-5 days per week for a period of 9 -12 months |
| **Support and Training** | The volunteer will gain experience in a number of ways* Working alongside the reserves team, which holds more than 20 years of experience in nature conservation, in the wide range of habitats present in Either Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire or Northamptonshire.
* In-house training (including risk assessment, grassland survey work, stock management).
* Attendance on training workshops (species survey and identification, and habitat knowledge and management),
* Formal training certificates in chainsaw, brushcutter and first aid at work that are necessary for the type of work involved in this volunteering opportunity.
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| **Expectations of WTBCN Volunteers**  | 1. To abide by the Wildlife Trust BCN’s Policies and Procedures.
2. Willingness to use support systems
3. Co-operation with administrative tasks *e.g. filling in expenses forms*
4. Commitment to attend on-going training
5. Contribute to the safety, welfare and enjoyment of visitors of the WT nature reserves.
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| **Location of volunteering** | There are potentially 4 roles available – and the base location will serve nature reserves in the immediate county.**1** role based in **Bedfordshire** at either Griffin Farm (Conger Lane, Toddington, LU5 6BT) or Priory Country Park (Barkers Lane, Bedford, MK41 9DJ)**3** roles based in **Northamptonshire** at Lings House, off Lings Way, Billing Lings, Northampton NN3 8BE |

Task Description Updated:  *05.06.2019*