

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

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| **Support Person** | Nominated Reserve Officer |
| **Role Purpose** | * To contribute to the delivery of practical habitat management across multiple nature reserves in Northamptonshire.
* To provide VRO with increased knowledge, skills and hands-on experience in nature conservation work.
* To enhance the opportunities of the VRO to access the professional conservation field.
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| **Specific Tasks** | * The placement covers typical aspects of the seasonal work required to manage the wide range of habitats including woodland, wetland and grassland.
* The VRO will gain experience in the practical skills involved with the management of the Trust's nature reserves including: coppicing, tree felling, woodland ride management, meadow management, plant identification, agricultural fencing, working with livestock, scrub management, reedbed management, visitor management and access improvements.
* Other work could include plant and wildlife surveying, construction and maintenance of structures such as hides, ditches or boardwalks, assisting with volunteer team leadership, risk assessments, management and task organisation.
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| **Skills and Qualities Needed** | Essential* Interest in pursuing a career in wildlife conservation
* Capable of using hand tools, power tools and machinery
* Able 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 weathers
* Valid driving licence

Desirable* Computer literate
* Experience of similar work
* Willing to supervise and lead others
* Relevant education and / or experience
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| **Commitment** | 3-4 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 exiting experienced reserves teams in the wide range of habitats present in Northamptonshire.
* In-house training (including risk assessment, grassland survey work, livestock 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
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| **Expectations of WTBCN Volunteers**  | 1. Willingness 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 up to 3 positions available and they will be based in Either Lings, Northampton or Rushden Lakes, Wellingborough. There will be travel for training and work on other reserves in the three counties area |

Task Description Updated: *18/07/2021*