



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

Support Person	Nominated Reserve Officer
Role Purpose	• To contribute to the delivery of the management plan across multiple nature reserves with the Lings team (covering reserves in Northampton and across North Northants) • To provide the 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.
Specific Tasks	• The placement covers typical aspects of the seasonal work required to manage a wide range of habitats including wetland, woodland, and grassland. • The VRO will gain experience in the practical skills involved with the management of Trust nature reserves including: coppicing, tree felling, grassland management, woodland ride management, fencing, livestock management, scrub management, reedbed management, visitor management and access improvements. • Other work will include plant and wildlife surveying, construction and maintenance of structures such as hides, ditches or boardwalks, assisting with volunteer team leadership, risk assessments and practical task management and organisation.
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 • Willing to supervise and lead others • Valid driving licence Desirable • Computer literate • Experience of similar work • Relevant education and / or experience • Experience of public engagement
Commitment	3 days per week for a period of 12 months, starting on or before 25 th August 2026
Support and Training	The volunteer will gain experience in a number of ways: • Working alongside the Reserves teams in a wide range of habitats present in Northamptonshire. • In-house training (including risk assessment, ecological 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
Expectations of WTBCN Volunteers	• Willingness to abide by the Wildlife Trust BCN's Policies and Procedures. • Willingness to use support systems • Co-operation with administrative tasks <i>e.g. filling in expenses forms</i> • Commitment to attend on-going training • Contribute to the safety, welfare and enjoyment of visitors of the WT nature reserves.
Location of volunteering	Based at Lings nature reserve but candidates will be required to travel regularly to Old Sulehay nature reserve. Travel to training and work on other sites within the counties of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire will be required on occasion.