



Volunteer Role: Volunteer Reserves Officer (VRO) – West Cambridgeshire

Support Person	Reserve Officer
Location	West Cambridgeshire – (includes Peterborough, Huntingdonshire, Fenland areas)
Role Purpose	• To contribute to the delivery of reserve management plans through practical management, and monitoring of habitats and species. • To provide an opportunity to learn the theory and practice of reserve management from a friendly and knowledgeable team of reserve officers and volunteers • 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 the wide range of habitats including wetland, woodland, and grassland. • The VRO will gain experience in the practical skills involved with the management of these sites including: coppicing, tree felling, meadow & wet 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, assisting with volunteer team leadership, risk assessments and practical task management and organisation
Skills and Qualities Needed	We're wild about inclusion! We want our volunteers and staff to be as diverse as wildlife. As an inclusive employer we recognise that our workforce needs to better reflect the communities in which we live and work. We actively encourage applications from people of all backgrounds, identities and cultures. We believe that a diverse workforce will help us create our vision of 'people close to nature, with land and seas rich in wildlife. Volunteers will come from a wide range of backgrounds and will have many different qualities and skills. Essential skills and qualities for this role are: ▪ Self-motivated, flexible and willing to work hard outdoors in all weather ▪ Capable of using hand tools, power tools and machinery ▪ Able to work with a range of people of all ages and backgrounds ▪ Willing to develop skills and standards of workmanship required in wildlife conservation ▪ Willing to supervise and lead others ▪ Interest in pursuing a career in wildlife conservation

	▪ To hold a valid driving licence (use of a Trust vehicle will be required)** Desirable skills include: ▪ Computer literate ▪ Experience of similar practical work ▪ Relevant education and / or experience / or interest in wildlife conservation / natural history ▪ Experience of public engagement
Commitment	3 days per week for a period of 9 to 12 months, subject to a trial period of one month. Hours would typically be 8:30am - 4:30pm, but some flexibility may be required
Support and Training	The volunteer will gain experience in: • Working alongside the Reserve Staff Team, which holds many years of experience in nature conservation, in the wide range of habitats present in Cambridgeshire. • In-house training (which may include – Health & safety - risk assessments, ecological survey work, livestock management, fencing, hand-tool use and maintenance, powerscythe use) • Formal training certificates in chainsaw, brushcutter and first aid at work • Attendance on training workshops (eg species survey and identification, and habitat knowledge and management) • Monthly catch-ups with your Support Officer.
Expenses	Limited travel expenses available – to be agreed at start of role
Expectations of WTBCN Volunteers	• Punctual • Enthusiastic • Willing to learn from colleagues • Commitment to attend training offered • Willing to work as part of a team • Contribute to the safety, welfare and enjoyment of visitors of the WT nature reserves. • Sign Volunteer Agreement.
Location of volunteering	Based at our Corney's Farm office (Great Fen and West Cambs Reserves base), with travel for training and work on other reserves in the three counties area

Task Description Updated: 23.07.2026

West Cambridgeshire Volunteer Reserves Officer position

What is it like to work here?

Diversity of habitats

This role offers the opportunity to work with a broad range of interesting and specialised habitats. From ancient woodlands and meadows, to wetlands and ponds, the role is incredibly varied and requires a range of habitat management techniques.



Diversity of the role

Although the role is highly practical and most of your time will be spent outdoors in all weathers, there is plenty of opportunity to get involved with various projects, making the role incredibly diverse. A list of jobs you could be doing outside of practical habitat management that may include:

- Organising volunteer groups
- Using milling and carpentry skills to produce signage, way markers, and benches
- Producing welcome and information boards and other signage
- Working with Volunteer Wardens and local committees

- Attending meetings, organising reports and updating management plans
- Working with our graziers
- Writing articles for local parish mags, supporter group newsletters and our websites

Great Facilities

You will be working out of two offices and bases with a large workshops. There is a range of well – maintained machinery and tools to help you perform your job well.

Supportive Colleagues

The North Cambridgeshire Reserves team is a small and supportive group with many years of experience and knowledge to share.



