

# Volunteer Role Profile



Volunteer Role	<b>Voluntary Reserves Team Assistant, Accommodation Provided</b>
Volunteer Manager	<b>Nature Reserves Officer (Communities &amp; Volunteering)</b>
Where you will be based	<b>Outdoors</b>

## Why we want you

DWT's nature reserves are pivotal to our mission. They are havens for wildlife, protecting some of our most precious habitats and rarest species. They provide a reservoir of wildlife that can spread into the surrounding landscape. Landowners can learn from best practice trialled on reserves to restore other damaged habitats. And Nature Reserves are for people too – they are a place where visitors can experience nature and hopefully, as a result, work towards our vision too.

In this role, you will live in our volunteers' flat with two other volunteers in beautiful surroundings and be part of the nature reserves team helping DWT to manage more reserves to a high standard. With support and working as part of a small team, you will have the opportunity to be involved in all aspects of reserves' management that fit your skills and competencies. Your skills, knowledge and confidence will grow through training and guidance from experienced staff.

If you are hoping for a career in nature conservation, this role would provide excellent training and experience.

## What you will be doing

- Immersive practical conservation management across DWT's suite of nature reserves. You will usually be out and about 5 days a week, with opportunities for occasional evening and weekend volunteering. This can be flexible eg if you need to allow time for a part-time job
- Path maintenance: cutting and surfacing, brushcutting, litter clearance
- Access work: gate, kissing gate and boardwalk construction
- Fencing boundary repairs: hedgelaying, turf banking, stock fencing
- Habitat management: would include woodland, grassland, heath and reed bed management. Scrub control, tree felling and bracken management.
- Installing countryside furniture such as bridges, interpretation panels and benches as well as a wide range of other activities as required by Nature Reserve Management Plans
- Monitoring site management - conducting site integrity monitoring and recording the effects of management work.
- Some biological survey work on the Trust's Nature Reserves (mostly May

- to September) - providing all the necessary information to support management plans and work programmes
- Compliance with all Health and Safety requirements.
  - Gain knowledge of the nature reserves
  - Assist in maintaining a good working relationship with local communities, school groups, visitors and other agencies.
  - Offer guidance and advice to the visiting public
  - Run guided walks / events.
  - Lead volunteer parties, ensuring the volunteer groups do the work well and safely.
  - Supervise work experience students and visiting educational groups.

### **The skills you need**

- Ideally we are looking for people who can commit to this role for 6-12 months., though as a volunteer this is, of course, entirely your choice. A full year gives a better, more rounded experience of conservation management as much of the work is seasonal.
- Enthusiasm for conservation
- Applicants with enough relevant experience to know this role will suit them will be at an advantage (such as voluntary experience with conservation volunteer groups or other nature conservation organisations).
- Polite
- Open to learning
- Prepared to work as part of a team
- Can follow instructions, guidelines and protocols
- Can show initiative when responding to day-to-day challenges
- Able to do physically demanding work
- Prepared to work in all weather conditions
- A full, clean, driving licence would be a strong advantage

### **What's in it for you**

- Formal training courses for use of chainsaw, use of brushcutters, outdoor first aid
- This Voluntary role provides an excellent grounding in Nature Reserves management

### **Disclaimer**

We work in all sorts of weather, and conditions under foot can often be wet, muddy, uneven or on slopes.