

Role description - A Wild Career Choice Trainee

This placement is ideal for someone who is looking for a career in conservation and/or community development work as it will provide the skills and experience that are essential to be successful in obtaining employment within this highly competitive sector. All the Trust's work is helping to deliver a **Living Landscape** – the name given to our approach to restoring and reconnecting large areas of habitat to allow wildlife to adapt to climate change and other environmental challenges. You will be a key member of the team in assisting with the management of reserves and identifying opportunities to reconnect them with each other and the people around them.

Objective of the traineeship

To gain hands-on work based experience in managing and monitoring the natural environment and inspiring people to take action for wildlife. To complete the City & Guilds approved Certificate in Work Based Environmental Conservation

Key tasks**

- Assisting in planning and implementing the management of the Trust's nature reserves
- Assisting with monitoring and surveying of sites and species
- The delivery of community based environmental projects of varying complexities including practical, social and desk-top work
- Engaging and inspiring children and adults about their natural environment
- Working in identified communities to develop partnership projects primarily through volunteer activity.

**** These may change depending on the placement Trust – please see additional information**

Key responsibilities

- Active involvement in the management of nature reserves and community spaces, to the required standard of work, efficiency and quality expected by the Placement Provider
- Completion of the objectives and tasks as specified in your Individual Training Plan to be agreed with your Supervisor
- Registration and commitment to completing the City & Guilds approved Certificate in Work Based Environmental Conservation.
- Be accountable for your own development by undertaking and completing the project's reviewing and reporting procedures

Core requirements

Knowledge

- Knowledge and interest in current environmental issues

Skills

- Proven ability to work outside, in a variety of weather conditions
- The ability to work with a range of people from different age groups and backgrounds
- Adaptable and flexible, with proven qualities as a strong team player, able to work closely with others, and ability to work on one's own initiative

- Willingness to supervise and lead others
- Written communication skills
- To be computer literate

Experience

- Proven ability to absorb and apply new information
- Proven ability to take responsibility for professional development

Motivation

- A genuine desire to work in wildlife conservation
- A desire to inspire people about the wonders of the natural world and to encourage them to take action for wildlife

The placement will involve considerable amounts of travel and therefore a valid driving licence is essential.

Practical arrangements

Training Allowance:	£9000 per annum to cover the cost of accommodation, living expenses and travel to and from your place or work
Hours:	35 hours a week over a seven day period. The nature of the post's duties may from time-to-time require evening and weekend work. Paid overtime is not available, but time off in lieu will be given for any additional hours spent on the placement in a week.
Probationary period:	All appointments are subject to the satisfactory completion of a probationary service of one month.
Contract	One Year
Holidays:	A full-time trainee has 21 working days per annum in addition to normal public holidays and three additional days between Christmas and New Year.
Notice Period:	The period of notice for termination of your placement will be one week on either side.
Place of Work:	The post will be based at: TBC dependent on placement Trust
Travel:	Travel across the region will be required. Where applicable, the use of your own vehicle may be necessary and you will be required to have insurance to cover business use and a mileage allowance of 35p per mile will be payable for such journeys. If you are required to use public transport fares will be reimbursed.
Training:	The Trust is fully committed to personal development and training and each trainee will be allocated a £1500 training budget
Closing date:	5pm on Friday 16 th March
Interviews:	29 th / 30 th March

Roles in Individual Trusts

Shropshire

You will be working from the Shropshire Wildlife Trust's headquarters, visitor centre and estates base located centrally in Shrewsbury, the focal point for the Wildlife Trust's activities in the county. We have nearly 40 nature reserves of all shapes and sizes with a wide geographical spread, and you will have the opportunity to get involved in a variety of practical conservation work as well as surveys, projects and special events on site and at the Trust's centre throughout your traineeship.

Birmingham & the Black Country

Based initially with the People and Wildlife Services, the trainee will work across all areas of the Wildlife Trust (Conservation, People and Wildlife, Reserves and Education), covering the whole geographic area of this Trust. The People and Wildlife Services specialise in green wood working, working on community sites and school grounds. The post holder will be based at the EcoPark in Small Heath, but could be asked to work at any of our centres.

Staffordshire

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust are looking for 2 trainees to be based on one of their flagship reserves, Highgate Common, in South Staffordshire. The trainees will be part of a small team of 4 based at the office located within the Common. The roles will be to assist in the day-to-day management of the reserve. Both trainees will gain experience across the full range of skills required in running a large and busy nature reserve (habitat management, leading volunteer work parties, environmental education, running events and family activities). One of the posts will suit applicants wishing focus their career development in practical land management skills, whilst the other post will involve more education and community engagement work. The positions will involve weekend work on rotation. For more information on Highgate Common please go to www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/page/highgate-common

Warwickshire

Based at the Trust headquarters at Brandon Marsh Nature Centre on the outskirts of Coventry, the trainee will be an important member of the Living Landscapes team. The trainee's role will be primarily to lead regular volunteer work parties in conservation work on reserves throughout the county. He or she will also be involved in working with other members of the Trust on community, conservation and education projects and with corporate work parties. Three months out of the twelve will be spent working with the Trust's ecological consultancy, Middlemarch Environmental.