

Cornwall Wildlife Trust

Volunteer Nature Reserves Estates Team



The Nature Reserves Section of the Trust manages 55 nature reserves. These are divided into three areas each of which has an Area Reserves Officer managing approximately 20 nature reserves. A full-time (37.5 hours/week) Volunteer Estates Team is needed to work with the Area Reserves Officers. Volunteering for the Estates Team is an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in nature reserves management. Training and work is structured to provide volunteers with the necessary skills to pursue paid employment in the Conservation work sector. Previous Estates Team volunteers have gone on to gain employment with Wildlife Trusts, Records Centres, Environmental Consultancies, and other conservation organisations in the UK and abroad.

Volunteer placements run for a minimum of 12 months. It is advisable to volunteer for 1 year to gain maximum experience over a full range of seasons. Details of work and training are below:

Habitat Management:

Woodland – volunteers will receive accredited chainsaw training. Extensive experience can be gained working on the Trust's woodland estate and learning from experienced members of staff.

Heathland/wetland/grassland - Volunteers will learn different methods for managing these habitats including scrub clearance (brushcutter and pesticide training provided), burning and grazing management.

Marine - The Trust owns an island which is a marine nature reserve. Volunteers will help with residential work parties on the island. This will help both with leadership training and management/monitoring in the marine environment.

Estate Maintenance:

Volunteers will gain experience in fencing and the maintenance and construction of access facilities and countryside structures such as gates, stile and bridges.

Machinery:

Accredited training will be given in either tractor driving or ATV driving. Trailer driving training can also be provided if necessary.

Management Planning:

Volunteers will work with the Trust's management planning system and there will be opportunities to work on new plans.

Survey & Monitoring:

Dormouse, otter, bat, butterfly, breeding birds etc. These skills can be developed on the nature reserves and in association with the Trust's professional Environmental Consultancy.

Visitor Management:

Interaction with visitors will occur informally

There will be opportunities to gain experience in other departments in the Trust, for example Records Centre and Conservation work. This can be arranged to suit an individual's needs.

A variety of other training courses are available through a network of organisations throughout Cornwall.

Expenses are available for clothing and travel within reason. We regret that accommodation cannot be provided and advise applicants that ideally they should already be living or could move to live within reasonable travelling distance of Truro or Plymouth. A current clean driving licence is essential.

If you would like to chat more about the above please phone Callum Deveney (Reserves Manager) on (01872) 273939 ext 222.

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