**East Cornwall Reserves Officer**

**Background Information**

Cornwall Wildlife Trust is the leading local charity working to protect and enhance Cornwall’s wildlife and wild places. We own or manage 57 nature reserves across Cornwall covering over 2000 hectares. Collectively, the reserves support all of Cornwall’s diverse habitats. These are a haven for the rarest and most endangered species in the county such as the dormouse, lesser horseshoe bat, marsh fritillary butterfly and lesser butterfly orchid.

The nature reserves are managed by a dedicated group of staff and volunteers.



We have three area teams with the mid and west Cornwall staff based at our headquarters in Allet and the east team based in the Tamar Valley. The east Cornwall patch covers 17 reserves across an area from the county boundary to Bodmin and from the south-east coast up to Bude.

The 17 nature reserves include an SPA, four SSSIs and nine County Wildlife Sites, and contain a variety of habitats from upland moor to saltmarsh and mudflat, acid grassland to ancient woodland.

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| **EAST CORNWALL NATURE RESERVES** | | | | |
| **Name** | **Designation** | **Type** | **Size (ha)** | **Grid Ref.** |
| Armstrong Wood | CWS | Woodland | 9 | SX320773 |
| Beales Meadow | CWS | Semi-improved Grassland | 6 | SX304894 |
| Cabilla Wood | CWS | Woodland | 77 | SX129652 |
| Churchtown Farm | CGS | Mixed Farmland & Estuarine Habitats | 61 | SX417582 |
| Greena Moor | SSSI | Culm Grassland | 57 | SX234963 |
| Lower Lewdon | CWS | Culm Grassland & Woodland | 5 | SS256096 |
| Maer Lake | CWS | Wetland Meadow & Pool | 10 | SX206076 |
| Middle Amble Marsh | SSSI | Wet Meadow, Reedbed & Scrapes | 8 | SW995750 |
| Penlee Battery | CWS | Woodland & Coastal Grassland | 7 | SX436491 |
| Phillips Point | CWS | Cliffs & Clifftop Heath | 2 | SS200046 |
| Priddacombe Downs | SSSI | Acid Grassland & Rush Pasture | 91 | SX164770 |
| Slyvias Meadow | SSSI | Unimproved Neutral Grassland | 5 | SX413707 |
| Tamar Estuary | SPA/SAC | Tidal Mudlfat & Saltmarsh | 109 | SX431614 |
| Tincombe | CWS | Wet Meadow & Woodland | 0.6 | SX415588 |
| Trebarwith | - | Coastal Valley Woodland | 1.3 | SX062865 |
| Twaydreath Marsh | CWS | Marshland & Wet Woodland | 1 | SX077547 |
| Upton Meadow | - | Meadow | 1 | SS206042 |

The East Cornwall Reserves Officer supports the management of the reserves in the east and north of the county. This involves assisting the Reserves Manager to plan and deliver a work programme across the sites and entails a significant amount of practical activities including tree felling, scrub management, footpath clearance, boundary repairs and invasives control. The role requires experience and skills in reserve management, including competency in the use of a range of tools and equipment alongside an understanding of the various management techniques available to support the maintenance and enhancement of complex habitats. Identification skills are also required as an important component of our work is monitoring the results of our management.

A key responsibility is the wardening of Churchtown Farm Community Reserve, a busy and popular site on the edge of Saltash. The reserve is run in partnership with the local community through the Friends of Churchtown Farm group and the Reserves Officer will take the lead in working with the group to manage the site and develop a range of activities to promote the reserve and engage local people. This involves some weekend and evening work.

Grazing, by either sheep or cattle, is used as a management tool on a number of the reserves. Sites can be grazed, under licence, by other graziers, or by our own livestock. The Reserves Officer may be required at times to assist with the movement and welfare of the livestock and with managing licenced grazing.

The reserves team has various systems in place to record, monitor and review the management and condition of our nature reserves. The Reserves Officer is responsible for keeping the work records, maintaining the reserves files and for raising purchase orders when required. Good admin skills and experience of using Microsoft Office, Excel and SharePoint are a requirement of the post.

Safety is paramount on our reserves and an attention to Health and Safety and minimising risk informs all the work undertaken by the reserves teams. The Reserves Officer has a key responsibility in maintaining safe working practices across the range of activities taking place on the reserves and in ensuring the safety of staff, contractors, volunteers and visitors. Knowledge of how Health and Safety practice is applied in the work environment alongside experience of preparing risk assessments and site safety audits is important as is the ability to complete tree safety surveys.

Our reserves are popular places to visit so the post holder will need an appreciation of why and how sites are utilised by people. In many situations the Reserves Officer will be the first point of contact for visitors so experience of working with the general public and other stakeholders will be valuable. The Reserves Officer is also required to liaise with local and county groups and this will sometimes involve leading events and attending meetings.

The East Cornwall Reserves Officer is based in the Tamar Valley AONB offices at the Tamar Valley Centre, Drakewalls and in a workshop at Bush Farm, Pillaton.