

# VOLUNTEER ROLE

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## 1. Who

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<b>Volunteer Role:</b>	Volunteer Trainee Reserve Officer
<b>Department:</b>	Conservation
<b>Office:</b>	Allet, Truro
<b>Support Officer:</b>	Reserve Officer
<b>Type of Role:</b>	Part time Monday - Thursday.

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## 2. When

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<b>Application Deadline:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
<b>Interviews:</b>	TBC January 2020
<b>Start date:</b>	TBC January 2020

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## 3. What we are looking for

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The Reserves Section of the Trust manages 58 nature reserves. These are divided into three areas (West, Mid and East) each containing approximately 20 nature reserves. Each area has a designated Reserves Manager and Reserves Officer. In Mid Cornwall, there is also an additional Ranger who looks after Penhale Dunes SSSI.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust is looking for a Volunteer Trainee Reserves Officer to carry out practical countryside management tasks across the organisation's nature reserves. The trainee will gain experience and training structured to provide them with the necessary skills to pursue paid employment in the Conservation sector. This role is designed to assist the reserves team with practical tasks, helping to maintain and improve the habitats and infrastructure on our nature reserves.

Volunteer placements run for a minimum of 12 months. It is advisable to volunteer for one year to gain maximum experience over a full range of seasons.

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## 4. The Skills You Need

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- Experience of using hand tools
- Passion for nature conservation
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Ability to work in line with CWT's health and safety policy
- Willingness to learn
- Good attendance and time keeping skills

### Desirable

- Use of power tools
- Full driving license
- Experience of habitat management

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## 5. Practical Considerations

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There is limited public transport access to the office at Allet, however, there is often the opportunity to car share – please ask for further details.

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## 6. What's in it for you?

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This role is a fantastic stepping stone into employment. Previous volunteers have gone on to work with the Wildlife Trusts, Natural England, Records Centres, Environmental Consultancies and other conservation organisations in the UK and abroad.

You will gain the following experience and training:

### Habitat Management

- *Woodland* – volunteers will receive accredited chainsaw training. Experience can be gained working on the Trust's woodland reserves and learning from experienced members of staff.
- *Heathland/wetland/grassland* - Volunteers will learn different methods for managing these habitats including scrub clearance (brush cutter training provided), burning and grazing management.



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- *Marine* – There may occasionally be the opportunity to visit Looe Island Nature Reserve to carry out surveys or aid with practical management.

## **Infrastructure Maintenance**

Volunteers will gain experience in the maintenance and construction of access facilities and countryside structures such as gates, stiles and boardwalks as well as various methods of fencing.

## **Survey & Monitoring**

Species identification and surveying courses/workshops are available through ERCCIS (Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly).

## **Public Events and Interaction, Volunteer Management**

There is the opportunity to volunteer with Wildlife Watch events and other public events, including the annual Wilder Festival. Some areas of the reserves team work with volunteer groups on a weekly basis and there will be the opportunity to gain experience managing volunteers. Interaction with visitors will occur informally whilst out on site.

## **Volunteer Training Available**

### **Qualifications and Courses**

- First aid at work
- Brushcutter
- Pesticides application
- Chainsaw
- Tractor
- ERCCIS workshops x 3

### **Additional on-the-job experience**

- Fencing – post and wire, post and rail, electric
- Gate hanging
- Stile installation/maintenance
- Boardwalk
- Livestock husbandry
- Public engagement
- Survey techniques
- Experience driving 4x4

