

Job Description



Title: **Apprentice Conservation Officer (Northern Reserves)**

Commitment Required: 35 hours per week for 18 months

Based At: Gosling Sike, Houghton, Carlisle CA3 0LD with regular travel across North Cumbria

Reports to: Northern Nature Reserves Manager

Role Purpose:

To support Cumbria Wildlife Trust's northern team working on nature reserves and community sites across north Cumbria. The Apprentice Northern Nature Reserves Officer will gain experience of practical conservation and habitat/species monitoring at nature reserves & community wildlife sites; and be involved in volunteer management and community engagement around the region and at the Gosling Sike centre in Carlisle.

Special Features of the Role:

This role is part of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust's Green Futures programme and will include paid time off to complete a Level 2 Countryside Worker apprenticeship at Craven College and other work related training. The salary for this role is in accordance with National Apprenticeship rates. Some evening and weekend working may be required.

Main Responsibilities and Accountabilities:

Nature Reserves

Assisting with the management of infrastructure and habitats on nature reserves, including all aspects of practical conservation work tasks such as tree planting, scrub removal, dry stone walling & other tasks.

Support development work for public understanding of the wildlife and the role of nature reserves in conservation practice, as required.

Support the Seasonal Rockcliffe Warden with breeding bird surveys and transects for birds such as Lapwing, Redshank, Oystercatcher, Skylark and Meadow Pipits, and practical tasks such as protecting the gull colony by electric fencing.

Wildlife monitoring and projects e.g. butterfly species surveys eg for Marsh Fritillary and more on Solway reserves including Drumburgh and Bowness-on-Solway; plus White-faced darter dragonfly translocation/reintroduction and seasonal monitoring at Drumburgh

Ensure that all tools and vehicles are properly maintained and fit for purpose. Ensure that all records of maintenance checks are kept up to date and in accordance with Cumbria Wildlife Trust codes of practice.

Ensure that Health and Safety standards are met.

Horticulture & Wildlife Gardening

Occasional assistance with a large community wildlife garden, alongside a volunteer group carrying out seasonal tasks such as planting, pruning, and maintenance.

Occasional working in the wildflower and plant nursery business to grow plants and trees for habitat restoration, community projects, and general sale, including responsibility for regular, routine facility checks.

Assisting visiting volunteer groups with gardening and woodworking tasks including adults with learning disabilities and young people.

People engagement

All of our sites receive visits from the general public and specialist naturalists. Gosling Sike is a particular focus for development in 2022-23 and there'll be opportunities to be involved with event management and delivery for a range of events from family days to specialist courses and workshops.

We work with groups from organisations like Carlisle Youth Zone and Carlisle Mencap, which offer the apprentice the opportunity of gaining valuable experience of community engagement and working with diverse audiences.

Staff and volunteer responsibilities

Assist staff in developing and maintaining an effective support group for the nature reserves and community wildlife garden including working with other volunteers from the local community and other organisations and groups. Develop good working relationships with groups and volunteers.

Community stakeholder liaison

Promote the interests of Cumbria Wildlife Trust in the wider community and seek to develop effective partnership working. Provide a professional welcome to all visitors to our centres and reserves. Represent the Trust at events and conservation days across north Cumbria.

Administration

Respond to telephone calls, e-mails and other enquiries. Ensure all Cumbria Wildlife Trust administrative documentation is completed. Assist with the recording of wildlife monitoring data.

Communications

Assist with event promotion including production and distribution of marketing materials. Promote our work and nature reserves through regular blog posts, contributions to e-newsletters, and social media.

Supporting the Trust – other tasks:

Be proactive in increasing the Trust's membership and raising the profile of Cumbria Wildlife Trust.

Participate in educational aspects of our work including events, guided walks and illustrated talks.

Any other duties that may reasonably arise from time to time.

All tasks and responsibilities to be carried out in accordance with the Trust's policies and procedures.

*Due to the location of the nature reserves **applicants will need their own transport**, however travel expenses will be reimbursed. This apprenticeship would suit a person who has an interest in natural history and some previous experience of working outdoors. Good organisation skills, and an ability to work and communicate with people of all ages is also important.*

To apply please visit <https://www.ydmt.org/apprenticeships>

The deadline for applications is 30 August 2022. Interviews will be held shortly after the closing date.

For further information regarding the placement roles please contact Jo Boulter - YDMT Apprenticeships Co-ordinator for an informal chat on 015242 51002.