

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE	Conservation Trainee
TEAM	Reserves
GRADE	A
RESPONSIBLE TO	Warden

OVERALL ROLE

Learning through assisting in the delivery of work programmes in one of 5 regional posts (North, South, West, East, Brownsea Island) directly through working alongside the relevant warden team specific to the region. A wide variety of conservation work will be covered, including practical management tasks associated with woodland, grassland, heathland, wetland and hedgerow habitat.

During the 10 month traineeship you can expect to gain experience in:

- Scrub clearance
- Chainsaw and Brushcutter operation
- Coppice management
- Installation and maintenance works such as fencing, gate and boardwalk construction and repair.
- Biological and habitat surveys
- Developing volunteer teams and leading groups
- Livestock husbandry

All traineeship positions are primarily outdoor working, in all weathers. You will need to be physically fit to meet the demands of the testing terrain and the nature of the roles.

The trainee role is designed to equip you with both the skills and experience needed to pursue a career in the conservation sector. Training will be delivered throughout the traineeship and will be a mix of recognised sector 'tickets' including First Aid, Brushcutter, 4x4 off-road driving, Chainsaw (NPTC) as well as several AQA modules that build knowledge and experience in areas such as volunteer management and public engagement.

The majority of time will be spent working directly with a Reserve warden team on a day to day basis, enabling each trainee to learn and develop through dedicated mentoring.

All of the traineeships are established as 28 hours (4 days) per week. There may be an occasional requirement to flex the days to fit in with any external training course requirements.

Some evening and occasional weekend working may be required with time off in lieu. There also may be periodic travelling within the county with occasional journeys further afield.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The post holder will be expected to have relevant personal qualities, skills, knowledge and experience in the following areas:

Essential:

- An understanding of the range of practical conservation activities
- Hold a full UK driving licence
- Good level of physical fitness
- A strong commitment and interest in UK wildlife conservation
- Enthusiastic, willing to learn and willing to work in all weathers
- Good work ethic, understanding of the principles of Health & Safety in the workplace
- Good written and spoken communication skills
- Excellent timekeeping

Desirable:

- Experience of volunteering, either as a volunteer or managing volunteers
- Livestock experience
- Habitat and/or species surveys
- Knowledge of land management using hand tools
- Computer literate