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**Wild Paths – new careers in nature conservation**

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| Role Title: |
| **Practical Conservation & Engagement Trainee** |
| Based at: |
| Dorset Wildlife Trust – Kingcombe Meadows Farm, Toller Porcorum, West Dorset DT2 0EJ |
| Mentor: |
| Lucy Ferris – West Dorset Warden |
| Type of work the role will be involved with: |
| This placement is based at Kingcombe Meadows where the 180 ha nature reserve is managed as a traditional working farm, grazed by cows and sheep without the use of pesticides, artificial fertilisers and other modern agricultural practices. The result is a patchwork of fields of unimproved flower-rich grassland, broken up by thick hedges, streams, ponds, ancient green lanes & wooded areas spreading up the valley either side of the River Hooke and is almost entirely designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The trainee will train at Kingcombe and at other West Dorset Reserves alongside reserves staff. The trainee will learn about:   * Scrub clearance, tree felling, coppicing and hedgelaying * Fencing and reserve infrastructure work * Stock management (cattle & sheep) * Surveying and monitoring * Working with and leading volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds * Giving guidance and advice to the visiting public * Community group engagement including guided walks and events * Media and communications skills   All trainees will receive training in key skills such as time management, personal effectiveness, interview and application techniques. |
| Skills and qualifications you can expect to gain in this role: |
| * Emergency First Aid at work Level 2 * Health and Safety at work * NPTC CS30 & 31 Chainsaw maintenance, cross-cutting & felling * LANTRA Brushcutter * Tractor or 4x4 driving * Volunteer Management AQA accreditations * AQA unit award scheme accreditations   + Volunteer Management   + Conservation grazing   + Lookering   + Woodland Management   + Leading a group   + Hedgelaying   + Coppicing   + Community engagement and inclusion * Species identification skills * Ability to use hand tools * Habitat management and natural history knowledge |
| Disclosure and barring checks |
| This role is unlikely to require a DBS check |
| Bursary: |
| £1000 per calendar month for nine months duration |
| Future progression |
| This role would provide the ideal background for progression into the sector, working as an assistant warden or ranger, especially with a conservation grazing element. |