



Avon



Devon



SOMERSET



Wild Paths – new careers in nature conservation

Role Title:

Practical Conservation & Engagement Trainee – Dorset, East

Based at:

Dorset Wildlife Trust – Urban Wildlife Centre, Beacon Hill, Corfe Mullen BH21 3RX

Mentors:

Becky Atkinson-Mayes, Warden (Volunteer Support)

Type of work the role will be involved with:

This placement is based at the Urban Wildlife Centre in East Dorset, which is situated adjacent to the 191 ha Upton Heath nature reserve, which is described as a heathland oasis on the doorstep of Poole and Bournemouth residents. This rare habitat is home to species such as smooth snakes and sand lizards, and a multitude of dragonflies and butterflies. The juxtaposition of such valuable heath next to an urban setting creates great opportunity for learning about engagement in the wider community, fire prevention and visitor impacts. Of the two Dorset placements, this is the more community orientated. To reflect the diversity in this placement, two mentors with different specialisms will assist. The trainee will learn about:

- Scrub clearance, tree felling, coppicing and hedgelaying
- Fencing and reserve infrastructure work
- Stock management (cattle & ponies)
- 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 including
 - 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 likely to require a DBS check

Bursary:

£1000 per calendar month for ten months duration

Future progression

This role would provide the ideal background for progression into the sector, working as an assistant warden, ranger or community engagement officer, especially with a well-being element.

