

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE	Ecological Trainee
TEAM	Reserves - Ecology
GRADE	A
RESPONSIBLE TO	Reserves Ecology Assistant

OVERALL ROLE

The trainee will gain hands-on experience through assisting with the delivery of various ecological projects within the Reserves Ecology team. Key responsibilities will include assisting with ecological assessments, surveys, and monitoring across diverse habitats and taxa. Contributing to preparation of data and reports, mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) work, as well as data manipulation and storage. Assisting with habitat restoration and management activities and engaging in fieldwork activities.

Learning Outcomes for the Trainee:

- Conduct ecological survey and monitoring work across multiple species groups, including flora, mammals, invertebrates, amphibians, and reptiles
- Develop skills in GIS mapping using ArcGIS Online and QGIS software
- Gain experience in data entry, storage, and manipulation
- Understand and apply Health and Safety protocols
- Enhance report writing skills
- Creating and communicating wildlife-related content via social media, blogs, and magazine articles.

This placement is based at Dorset Wildlife Trust's headquarters at Brooklands Farm near Dorchester, although occasional travel to other Dorset Wildlife Trust centres may be required. Travel within the county, and occasionally further afield, may be required as part of the role.

Traineeships are set at 28 hours (4 days) per week, with occasional flexibility required to accommodate external training courses. Some evening and weekend work may be necessary, with time off in lieu.

The role is primarily outdoors, requiring the ability to work in all weather conditions. A good level of physical fitness is essential to navigate varied and challenging terrain.

Skills and Qualifications You Will Gain in This Role:

- First Aid at Work certification
- Health and Safety in the workplace training
- Practical experience in ecology surveying and monitoring
- Environmental sampling techniques
- Proficiency in GIS software
- Skills in data manipulation and analysis
- Knowledge and qualifications from specific ecological courses focused on species and habitats, tailored to the individual

- Understanding of habitat management and natural history.

The majority of the time will be spent working closely with a member of the ecology team, allowing for hands-on learning and development through direct mentoring and work-based practice.

This traineeship will provide valuable experience and skills, serving as an ideal foundation for a career in the ecological sector, particularly in roles such as assistant ecologist within the NGO sector.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful candidate will possess the following essential qualifications, skills, and experience:

Essential:

- Strong commitment to and genuine interest in UK wildlife conservation
- Sound understanding of UK species and habitats
- Possession of a full UK driving licence
- Good level of physical fitness and ability to perform outdoor tasks
- Enthusiastic, eager to learn, and adaptable to working in various weather conditions
- Strong work ethic with a solid understanding of Health & Safety principles in the workplace
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Proficient in using computers and relevant software applications
- Punctual and reliable with exceptional time management skills.

Desirable:

- Knowledge and experience in habitat and species surveying and monitoring
- Experience in volunteering, including managing or supporting volunteers
- Proficiency with GIS
- Ability to manipulate and analyse data effectively.