

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE	Conservation Trainee
TEAM	Reserves
GRADE	A
RESPONSIBLE TO	Warden

OVERALL ROLE

Learning through assisting in the delivery of work programs on Dorset Wildlife Trust nature reserves directly through working alongside the area teams across South & East Dorset. 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 qualifications as well as building knowledge and experience in areas such as volunteer management and public engagement through on-the-job training.

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

The traineeships are established as 28 hours (4 days) per week split between the East & South Dorset teams. 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

Due to the terms of the external funding for the role the candidate must be currently living in Dorset or the surrounding counties.

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:

- Qualifications in the use of chainsaws or brushcutters
- Certificate in first aid
- 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