

Practical Reserve Management Placements: Summarised Role Descriptions

Please look over the role summaries carefully when considering which reserve placement roles you would like to apply for. These have been written by the reserve wardens to reflect what your placements are likely to include, and to allow insight into how varied our reserves can be.

Arundel

The placement roles for this centre will include much strimming and vegetation clearance, mainly of wet grasslands and reedbed throughout autumn and winter. Hedgerow work. Daily morning set up of grounds before public come in. They will also participate in surveys: water vole, dormouse, reptile, bat, breeding birds and breeding waders, moth, butterfly and dragonfly.

Caerlaverock

You will be a key member of the team and get involved with everything we do running a huge reserve. Practical Habitat management is an important part of the role this includes mowing the fields in the tractor, strimming the islands, cutting scrub along the hedgelines and fencing. We provide lots of training both certified and on the job, certified includes Brushcutter, First aid at Work, Water safety, 4x4 and Tractor. On the job training includes carpentry, species identification, small tools, Health and safety, and leading guided walks and talks.

We have a lovely herd of Hebridean Sheep and the role involves assisting managing them looking for injuries, shearing, treatments, moving and daily checks. We do lots of surveys throughout the year which includes Natterjack toads, Barnacle geese, WeBS, BBS, Butterfly, Dragonflies and plant surveys. Public engagement is really important at Caerlaverock you'll be doing swan feeds with public commentary, guided walks, Wild goose Festival, and family events like puddle jumping, Giant duck hunt etc.

You'll be helping on the trading desk and get training on how to welcome our visitors and selling gifts, membership, tea, coffee, cakes etc. We provide onsite accommodation with a wood burner. The site is absolutely beautiful if you are interested in working on a really wild site with gorgeous views of the Lake District, we are looking for people who are keen, practical and happy to work as part of our small team where we all help each other and do a bit of everything.

London Wetland Centre

You will be involved in the day-to-day running of the SSSI nature reserve at WWT London. This is a great chance to learn new skills in habitat management on this fairly small but very diverse site, and we'll give you the training and skills you need for the role and the future. In particular tasks you'll get involved with will include practical management of dry and wet grasslands, reedbed, waterbodies, woodland/scrub and grazing marsh. You'll assist with the upkeep of the nature reserve infrastructure including, bridges, fences and water level control structures. Help manage our sheep and cattle and carry out a variety of habitat and species monitoring projects,

Slimbridge Wetland Centre

Placements will mainly support our work around the reserve management plan working in a variety of habitats including reedbeds, coppice woodland, species-rich grassland, wader scrapes and nesting islands. Placements are trained to use a variety of tools and machinery to undertake the work, and develop an understanding as to why tasks are done and when.

There are also a wide variety of other tasks undertaken by placement student to including water level monitoring, surveys for birds, water voles, rare plants and amphibians, and routine day-to-day site management tasks. If Placements are interested there is also the opportunity to get involved with our extensive visitor engagement and events schedule to gain skills in public speaking and delivering events.

Stear

Placements would engage with practical tasks around the site with the wardens. They will do this increasingly independently as they gain the necessary confidence and skills. They would also support the team with hide management, volunteer group management, tractor work, species monitoring, risk assessments and public engagement with visitors on site.

Washington

The Placements main focus will mainly be supporting with the practical side of the Reserve Management plan and will be working in the many different habitats at Washington such as Grassland Management, Pruning, Coppicing & Pollarding, Reed bed Management, Woodland & Woodland Glade Management. Water level management as well as assisting with the construction and maintenance of Ponds Scrapes, ditches and Reed beds and develop an understanding as to why tasks are done and when. Making full use of training received such as brushcutter, hedgetrimmer, tractor and attachments, RTV.

They would also be working with volunteers during habitat management activities as well as the routine day-to-day site duty tasks. Assisting with the upkeep of visitor's wildlife sightings, bird boards and website and sharing responsibility for wild bird feeding. Support research and monitoring activities which may include surveys for species such as breeding and wintering birds, mammals, amphibians, invertebrates, Trees & plants and Contributing to the upkeep of the nature reserve's databases. Also taking part in some visitor engagement and event.