

Student Placement - Practical Reserves Management

Grade: Early Careers

Directorate: Operations

Location: This placement is offered at the following WWT Wetland Sites:

Arundel

Caerlaverock

Castle Espie

Llanelli

London

Martin Mere

Slimbridge

Steart Marshes

Washington

More information on each site is available at www.wwt.org.uk/placements.

Reporting to: Reserves Manager on site

Overview:

We're WWT, the charity for wetlands and wildlife. We're on a mission to restore wetlands because they are a wondrous solution to the problems our world faces. Together we will unlock their power – and help nature burst back to life. Because when wetlands flourish all life will flourish.

At WWT our people are instrumental, and we want to inspire future conservationists to help lead the way. These learning and development placements are designed to provide experience and skills development in the following areas:

- Practical wetland reserve management
- Experience of the workplace
- Wetland conservation.

You'll work within the Reserves team at your wetland site, developing an understanding of the fundamental elements of what it takes to manage a wetland for people and wildlife. These roles are a great opportunity for people looking for experience in practical conservation as a reserve warden or similar outdoor career.

Responsibilities of the post

1. Assisting with all practical reserve management activities including grassland cutting, scrub control, pruning, coppicing and weed control
2. Martin Mere specifically – assisting with the running of the bird observatory – talking to visitors, conducting surveys, daily counts and bird ringing
3. Assisting with the construction and maintenance of ponds, scrapes, ditches and reed beds
4. Assisting with the management of grazing livestock
5. Facilitating and undertaking water quality monitoring
6. Supporting with the construction and maintenance of access routes including the maintenance of fences, bridges and viewing hides
7. Undertaking agreed training in order to operate machinery with proper regard to safety regulations, in accordance with WWT's health & safety procedures
8. Using all tools safely and correctly and observing and applying health and safety regulations at all times, including daily risk assessments and machinery checks
9. If you are required to carry out your own research project as part of your qualification, you will be supported to do so

Duties may also include:

10. Supporting research and monitoring activities which may include surveys for species such as breeding and wintering birds, water voles, dragonflies and wetland plants
11. Contributing to the upkeep of the nature reserve's databases
12. Assisting with the upkeep of visitor's wildlife sightings, bird boards and website and sharing responsibility for wild bird feeding stations
13. Assisting with events for visitors and media related activities
14. Engaging with visitors, sharing the stories of our work
15. Assisting with the daily running of the Visitor Centre, facilities and admissions (with the exception of Steart Marshes – an open access site)
16. Taking due care for the safety, welfare and enjoyment of the visiting public
17. Assisting with the day to day running of the bird observatory (subject to opening) which could involve talking to visitors, conducting surveys, daily counts and bird ringing (Martin Mere only)

Working at WWT

1. To work alongside volunteers encouraging, developing and supporting them in their work for WWT, ensuring that they have a positive volunteering experience
2. Where appropriate, learning to and practicing supervising volunteer teams.
3. To be responsible for working within the WWT health and safety policy and guidelines ensuring that the health, safety and wellbeing of yourself and others is an integral part of how you work
4. To be responsible for engaging with the WWT Sustainability Statement, being aware of negative environmental impacts and incorporating sustainable ways of working within your role
5. To interact with our visitors and supporters in a positive way, shaping unforgettable experiences and helping them understand and connect to wetlands
6. To ensure that in the course of your work you adhere to the WWT Data Protection policy and standards

In addition to the duties and responsibilities listed, the post holder is required to perform any other reasonable duties that may be assigned by the supervisor shown above, from time to time.

Person Specification

1. Qualifications

Essential:

- Studying a relevant course which requires, or allows, a one year practical placement. Please note that this training placement is targeted at, and designed for, students. However, it is not essential that you are a current student.

Desirable:

- Certificates in the use of practical equipment such as brushcutters (training and certification will be provided, dependent on the site).

2. Experience and skills

Desirable:

- Interested in practical wildlife and landscape conservation, with some experience of a similar role.
- Able to work in a team of staff and volunteers.
- Proactive and able to carry out tasks with a minimum of supervision or independently under direction.
- Driving license
- Experience of tractor driving.
- Bird and other wildlife identification skills
- Experience of working with volunteers
- Familiarity with databases
- Ability to cycle is important at Llanelli and may be beneficial at other sites.

General Notes

This position will from time to time require work during some evenings, weekends and public holidays to meet the needs of the post.