



# Leicestershire & Rutland

Wildlife Trust

Dear Applicant

## **Application pack for Trainee Reserve Officer (Volunteer Post)**

Thank you very much for your interest in our Trainee Reserve Officer position.

Please ensure you have read through Trainee Reserve Officer Role Description which forms the second part of this application pack below.

If you are interested in applying for this post please send your CV along with a covering letter stating why you think you are suitable for this post and how you meet the criteria of the role description.

We would prefer you apply by email; please attach your CV and covering letter to an email addressed to [ptrevor@lrwt.org.uk](mailto:ptrevor@lrwt.org.uk)

Completed applications must be received by **midday on Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021**, any received after this time and date will not be considered.

Interviews will be held at Rutland Water Nature Reserve on **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021**.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

**Paul Trevor**  
**Reserve Officer**

Email: [ptrevor@lrwt.org.uk](mailto:ptrevor@lrwt.org.uk)

Direct line: 07464497794



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**Job Title: Trainee Reserve Officer (Volunteer Post)**

**Location of job: Rutland Water Nature Reserve**

**Post holder reports to: Reserve Officer (Habitats)**

## **Role description**

This exciting volunteer post will give you vital experience at one of the UK's best nature reserves. Based at Rutland Water Nature Reserve's purpose-built Volunteer Training Centre you will have the opportunity to get involved in all aspects of the nature reserve; including habitat management, wildlife recording and monitoring and community engagement. You will also have the opportunity to work with the high-profile Osprey project and get involved with the Birdfair.

The role is very practical and this volunteer placement will be suitable for someone who is looking to start a career in conservation as a nature reserve warden or in a similar role. As part of your training you will gain certificates in the use of chainsaws, tree safety inspection and first aid; and you will be trained in hedge-laying, dry stone walling, charcoal production, tractor driving and much more.

The placement is based on four days per week for one year (Monday-Thursday), beginning in September 2021. We would expect you to commit yourself to this placement for the duration of the twelve months, 4 days per week. Uniform and personal protective equipment will be provided.

A living allowance of £70 per week will be paid for each 4-day week completed and temporary accommodation is available.

## **Main Responsibilities**

### Practical work

- Carry out a wide variety of practical habitat management tasks on the reserve using hand tools and machinery
- Animal husbandry – working with cattle and sheep
- Regularly carry out tool maintenance
- Regularly carry out vehicle checks
- Lead and supervise volunteer groups
- Work as part of the British Birdwatching Fair Site Team

### Health and safety

- Give tool and risk assessment talks when out on task
- First aider (when trained)
- Carry out risk assessments

### Wildlife Recording and monitoring

- Complete a season of the BTO breeding bird survey scheme under tuition
- Assist with a variety of surveys, including bat box checking, butterfly transects, wildflower ID, nest box checking and wetland bird surveys.
- Water vole and mink surveys



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### Community Engagement

- Gain experience at our Lyndon Visitor Centre.
- Coordinate Badger watches for volunteers and the public
- Lead guided walks and give illustrated talks
- Assist with educational visits

### Hours of work:

Normally Monday to Thursday, plus occasional weekend work.

The usual hours of work are 08.30 to 16.30; however some flexibility will be required to get the most out of your placement. During this role you will be required, on occasions, to assist with a number of different surveys and other activities that necessitate working in the early hours of the morning and late evenings in the spring and summer months.

There will be a variety of exciting volunteering opportunities on this busy nature reserve to be involved in, in addition to the standard hours.

### Leave entitlement:

4 weeks annual leave (pro rata)

### Training

- On the job training (this will vary depending on the season):
  - Wetland management (e.g. reed bed management, pond maintenance and river work)
  - Grassland management (e.g. scrub clearance, mowing, controlling thistles & ragwort)
  - Woodland management (e.g. coppicing, thinning, felling, planting and maintenance of woodland rides)
  - Hedge management (e.g. laying, planting and trimming)
  - Animal husbandry ( Sheep and cattle)
  - Fencing (e.g. stock, post and rail, wire)
  - Access improvements (path works)
  - Bird identification/surveys/counts
  - Hide and Tern raft construction
  - Carpentry
- Emergency first aid
- Brushcutter use and maintenance (includes strimmers and clearing saws)
- 4 x 4 on and off road driving experience
- Tractor driving
- Chainsaw NPTC certificated training (maintenance, cross cutting and felling small trees)
- Stone Walling
- Hedgelaying
- Lantra basic tree survey and inspection



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## Person Specification

Essential:

- In pursuit of a career in nature conservation
- Relevant education/experience to degree level or equivalent
- A basic understanding of the environment, conservation issues and wildlife identification
- Clean driving licence

Desirable:

- Experience of similar work
- Enthusiastic, committed and shows initiative
- A reasonable level of fitness and strength
- Team spirited
- Willingness to use power tools (training will be given)
- Ability to work with a range of people from different age groups and backgrounds
- Willingness to supervise and lead others
- Good communication and organisational skills
- Willingness to work with livestock (cattle and sheep)
- A good sense of humour

## How to apply

To apply please send your CV and covering letter via email to Paul Trevor at [ptrevor@lrwt.org.uk](mailto:ptrevor@lrwt.org.uk)

**Closing date for applications is midday on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021**

Interviews will be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at The Volunteer Training Centre, Rutland Water Nature Reserve.

Start date of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021



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## Background information to the post

Rutland Water Nature Reserve (RWNR) is managed by Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust in partnership with Anglian Water and provides one of the most important wildfowl sanctuaries in Great Britain, regularly holding in excess of 20,000 waterfowl.

It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a European Special Protection Area and internationally recognised as a globally important wetland site (Ramsar).

RWNR occupies an area of land and shallow water running for 9 miles around the western end of Rutland Water was created in the 1970s with the construction of the reservoir. The overall size of the reserve has been expanded to approximately 1,000 acres with the completion of the major Rutland Water Habitats Project in February 2011. This involved the constructions of nine extensive new lagoons comprising shallow water, snaking islands and wet marginal habitats to provide optimum conditions for wildlife and ensure it is undisturbed by future water management of the reservoir.

The larger section of RWNR lies on the western shore, close to the village of Eggleton. Here there is the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, 9 shallow lagoons, meadows and woodland.

The Lyndon area of RWNR, on the south shore of the reservoir, comprise the Lyndon Visitor Centre, a narrow strip of meadows and shoreline, two large impounded lagoons as well as plantation and ancient woodland.

Our base of operations has now moved to a new purpose built Volunteer Training Centre where we have new workshops, offices and training venue.

A variety of events and activities take place at RWNR including regular walks, talks and external courses.

RWNR is home to the successful Rutland Osprey Project enabling ospreys to breed again in central England for the first time in 150 years. Ospreys are regularly seen fishing over the reservoir from April - September.

The British Birdwatching Fair takes place at Rutland Water Nature Reserve in August each year (2020 and 2021 events cancelled due to the pandemic). Described as the birdwatcher's Glastonbury, Birdfair is the world's first and largest international birdwatching event and encompasses the whole spectrum of the birdwatching industry whilst at the same time supporting global bird conservation. There are hundreds of stands selling the latest products for wildlife enthusiasts and a packed programme of lectures and events.

A small army of volunteers are vital to the effective operations of activities at RWNR from practical nature conservation tasks, staffing the two visitor centres, wildlife monitoring and recording and helping stage Birdfair.

For more information about Rutland Water Nature Reserve and Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust visit [www.lrw.org.uk](http://www.lrw.org.uk)