



Role Description

Title of role:	Practical conservation volunteer
Responsible to:	Reserves officer
Status:	Voluntary
Location:	Various
Hours:	Various

General Information:

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust manages around 60 nature reserves across the county. Our volunteers are an invaluable asset, assisting us in carrying out many conservation tasks on our reserves, maintaining them as valuable sites for wildlife. The trust has a range of groups that operate throughout each month with varied tasks, so for a sociable and interesting day in the beautiful countryside, come along and join the team at HWT.

We have working parties running at a range of reserves throughout each month.

Main tasks:

- 1 Assisting our reserves officers and wardens with practical tasks, including but not limited to:
 - Coppicing
 - Hedge laying
 - Replacing or fixing fencing
 - Scrub management
 - Hay making

Additional or optional tasks

- 1 Assisting at events, workshops and walks
- 2 Assisting the Reserves Officer with any additional tasks

Skills/Qualities Needed

Whilst we would invite all those interested in joining our work parties to get in touch with us these can be physically demanding roles and require an extended period of time spent out of doors. The skills we would look for from our volunteers are:

- Reasonable level of fitness
- Willingness to work out of doors all day all year around in all weathers
- A genuine enthusiasm for wildlife and habitats
- Punctuality
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Ability to listen to and follow instructions
- Awareness and understanding of risk in relation to tools and practical work

Additional skills

Previous experience or training in practical conservation work is not required for this role but if you do have any of the following or any other previous experience or skills that would benefit our volunteer groups please let our reserve officers know:

- Previous practical conservation work experience
- An in-date first aid certificate (please provide certificate)
- An in-date ticket for use of power tools including chain saw or brush-cutter (please provide certificate)
- Training in operating plant machinery

Benefits

The practical conservation volunteer role provides you with the opportunity to work with others on a range of beautiful sites across the county and to learn practical conservation management from our experienced team of reserve officers. You will meet like minded individuals and be invited to a range of social events including our Christmas quiz and summer picnics.

Training

Volunteers will not be asked to partake in an activity for which they have not been appropriately trained. There may be opportunities to attend training sessions in both practical management skills and survey skills where appropriate. Opportunities for training in first aid and power tools may also be available at certain times.

Health & Safety

Practical conservation work can involve some level of risk and our reserves officers will take all necessary precautions to minimise this risk. When attending work parties you will be provided with:

- All necessary tools in a good working order
- A safety talk including relevant details of a completed risk assessment
- Appropriate level of PPE for the task at hand
- Training in the use of tools where needed

We recommend that anyone taking part in a practical conservation task has an up to date tetanus jab.

Confidentiality

The volunteers may have access to sensitive information on sites and individuals, such as personal contact information. Herefordshire Wildlife Trust has a Data Protection Policy a copy of which will be provided if requested. The volunteer is expected to respect confidentiality and not to comment on any sensitive issues which may arise.