

Nature Restoration Trainee

Job title	Nature Restoration Trainee
Reporting to (post)	Reserves Management Team and Community Engagement Team
Department	Reserves Management Team
Hours of work	28 hours per week
Located at	Pond Farm, Wisley Common, GU23 6QS
Start date	September 2024

Purpose of role

- To contribute to the overall mission of the Trust so that we can restore Surrey's Nature as outlined in our Strategic Plan.
- Work as part of the Reserves Management team to deliver exemplary habitat management practices to maximise biodiversity and bio-abundance on SWT managed land.
- The placement will provide the opportunity to develop knowledge and hands-on experience in land management and will provide a diverse range of practical training and engagement experience, along with more transferable skills.

Training Outcomes

By the end of the traineeship, trainees should have successfully achieved the following outcomes. This list is intended as a guide and may be subject to alteration:

- Carry out a range of practical habitat management tasks on heathland, chalk grassland, and wetland by joining practical conservation groups. The use of tools and techniques will also be developed.
- Carry out reactive duties across the reserves including tree works, repairs to furniture and infrastructure, and other similar duties.
- Co-organise practical conservation volunteer days. Lead and inspire volunteers.
- Help maintain tools and equipment.
- Provide on-site wardening presence, liaising with local users and ensuring appropriate public use of site.
- Plan guided walks including the opportunity to develop and lead your own walk for colleagues and/or the public.
- Contribute to record keeping of habitats and site monitoring.
- Assist staff with office and administrative duties.
- Assist the grazing team to facilitate conservation grazing.
- Opportunity to work with the Education Team at Nower Wood assisting with school visits to the education centre and outreach visits to schools. Support the nature discovery day programme working with volunteers.

- Opportunity to lead a research project. Conduct surveys, collect and analyse data and create results in a variety of topic areas using the expertise of staff from across the Trust.
- Opportunity to support the work of the Youth Action Committee and be involved in organising events.
- Wider Trust involvement. Opportunities to work with all members of staff within Trust, whether directly or through collaboration. Be invited to staff-wide events, meetings and training.
- Opportunities for career development such as CV and LinkedIn workshops.
- Freedom for independent learning and study. Opportunity to further develop skills suited to interests and career ambitions.
- Marketing and communication skills development through blog and newsletter article writing, social media posts, and public engagement.

Person Specification

- Experience of volunteering, preferably with an environmental organisation
- Basic understanding of the practical skills required in countryside and habitat management
- Basic understanding of the ecology of UK habitats and passion for wildlife
- Knowledge of health and safety requirements and legislation
- Knowledge of environmental and wildlife issues at local, regional and national levels
- Able to lead, inspire and advise others, and a confident team player
- Good organisational skills and resourceful
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Computer literate
- A high level of commitment and enthusiasm
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Reliable and a determination to finish tasks and ability to self-motivate
- Flexible
- Good general level of health and fitness
- Ability to work outside in all weathers
- Ability to listen and follow instructions
- Subject to DBS check
- Full driving licence is required with access to a car

Training Opportunities

- The placement will provide a diverse range of practical training from heathland management, chalk grassland management, to conservation grazing, along with more transferable skills.
- The placement will provide the opportunity to undertake various formal training courses including (or suitable equivalents if already obtained):
 - Outdoor First Aid
 - Brushcutter
 - Chainsaw Cross-Cutting, Maintenance and Felling up to 380mm.
- Increase knowledge of wildlife and their associated habitats.
- Gain organisation and administrative skills.

- Undertake training days on a range of topics including leading volunteers, communications and delivering education sessions. Assist with large Trust events in the planning stages and running of events.

Further Information

- Trainees are expected to take full active part in the tasks, situations and projects offered to each individual. This may mean from time-to-time working at a weekend and long travel times.
- The role will be based at Pond Farm, Wisley Common but there are different offices which you may be expected to work at including Pirbright and Nower Wood Education Reserve.
- You will be required to have a full driving licence and your own transport to reach the different offices. The role will also involve driving Trust vehicles.
- You will receive an induction at the start of your trainee placement.
- During the placement, you will undertake a selection of training courses as well as on-the-job training.
- We will reimburse travel expenses, in line with the Trust mileage policy.
- We can also act as a referee for future job applications.