



# Volunteers' Week 2020



## My voluntary traineeship



My name is Kate License, and after completing my degree in Plant Sciences from the University of Sheffield I decided that I wanted a career in practical conservation, to allow me to make a tangible impact on the world around me. I decided to undertake my degree because I had a long-standing interest in the environment, climate change and being able to live sustainably, in balance whilst the natural world.

I originally undertook the role to gain more practical experience in the sector, despite having a relevant degree the job market is very competitive and therefore it was vital to have hands-on experience of working in conservation. I also wanted to spend more time working outside, apply the theoretical knowledge I had gained from university and learn even more about conservation.

My role is as a trainee for the Dearne Valley region. The Trust has several sites across the area, these are

interlinked and are a great example of the Living Landscapes initiative. Most of my time is spent working on these sites and the Back from the Brink Willow tit project, which aims to protect the UK's most threatened resident bird. I have greatly enjoyed my time as a trainee, working on land management, running task days for volunteers and gaining extra qualifications to boost my CV. I have really enjoyed expanding my knowledge and meeting lots of like-minded people and learning about the job, wildlife and seeing some great wildlife myself. Highlights for me have been hearing a Willow tit, seeing a red squirrel on the away trip and ending a day in the office with a murmuration visible from the window.

Volunteering with the trust has been an amazing experience, you get to see exactly how an organisation like YWT works, meet some amazing and inspiring people and work in some of the most beautiful outdoor spaces in the region. I would recommend the traineeship to anyone looking to work in conservation.

