



<b>Voluntary Trainee Role Title</b>	<b>Role No.</b>
Nature Reserves Voluntary Trainee – South Yorkshire	
<b>Reserve, Project, Team or Area</b>	
Potteric Carr Nature Reserve, Doncaster with some tasks based at other South Yorkshire reserves.	
<b>Voluntary Trainee Supervisor</b>	
Mark Roberts – Assistant Reserves Officer	
<b>Background</b>	
<p>The South Yorkshire reserves team carry out a varied and important program of both outdoor and office work, in order to create and protect high quality habitats for a range of wildlife across Yorkshire. We currently have capacity to support and supervise three voluntary trainees within this team who will assist the reserves team in carrying out practical conservation tasks, leading volunteer groups and carrying out office-based reserve management. There will also be opportunities to help lead guided walks and other events. The role is predominantly based at our South Yorkshire Gateway site, Potteric Carr, but will also include work at our other sites in South Yorkshire.</p> <p>Our volunteer trainee program is now well established and as such, participants have become an invaluable addition to the reserves team, further enhancing and protecting Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's nature reserves whilst developing the skills and experience needed to take the first steps into a career in conservation.</p>	
<b>What will the voluntary trainee be doing?</b>	
<p>The role will be split between office based tasks and practical habitat conservation tasks mainly on the Potteric Carr Nature Reserve but also at various public nature reserves throughout South Yorkshire. Time will be spent carrying out habitat management activities such as scrub clearance, ragwort pulling, livestock management, fence and gate repairs and rubbish removal amongst a variety of other tasks. Days will often involve engaging with local volunteers to manage sites and part of the role will include leading volunteer groups in practical activities. Due to the physical nature of these tasks, the role does require a reasonable level of physical fitness and willingness to be outdoors all year round.</p> <p>Office based tasks will include some of the following: researching, writing and developing management plans, preparing and supervising contract works, writing funding bids, fielding queries, as well as other reserves administration. There will be the opportunity to be involved in leading and organising events, helping with educational activities and volunteering with other teams across Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.</p>	
<b>Experience, knowledge and skills needed for this role</b>	
<p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Experience in practical conservation tasks</li><li>• Friendly and approachable nature; able to get along with many different people</li><li>• Reliable, motivated and able to use initiative</li><li>• Computer literate in Word and Excel</li></ul>	

- Able to research, gather information and compile reports and plans.
- Enthusiasm for wildlife and conservation is a must.
- A reasonable level of physical fitness and willingness to be outdoors all year round

Desirable:

- Knowledge of wildlife and conservation land management methods
- Species identification skills and experience of surveying
- Experience of engaging with / leading volunteer groups

**Does the trainee need a driver's license?** Ideally yes – many of our sites are located in remote locations, away from main public transport routes, therefore this role is more suited to a person who holds a full driving license and is willing to drive as part of the role. There are a pool of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust vehicles shared amongst the teams which you will have access to.

**What's in it for the voluntary trainee?**

This role is the perfect opportunity to gain in depth experience of all aspects of a practical conservation role. There will be many opportunities to understand and learn new techniques and tasks in practical reserve management as well as the chance to develop volunteer management skills. In the office you will be involved in all aspects of the teams work from funding bids, reserve management plans, livestock movements and health and safety processes.

All this in addition to the wider access and networking with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's teams across South Yorkshire and beyond.

**There is the opportunity to learn project management skills and to expand your knowledge with our varied internal volunteer training programme, along with a competitive training budget for external training.**

**You can expect:**

- Reasonable travel expenses
- Ongoing personal and career development training and one-to-one support from your supervisor and the Volunteering Team staff
- An intensive and high quality experience that will stand out on any CV, as a team member of one of the UK's most vibrant and varied conservation organisations

**Where is the role based?**

The role is based at Potteric Carr Nature Reserve, Doncaster DN4 8DB. Potteric Carr is a 40 minute walk, 20 minute bus-ride or 10 minute cycle ride from Doncaster Station. Doncaster Station is easily accessible on the East Coast Main Line (Doncaster – York) and from Sheffield and Hull.

**Commitment**

3 days per week, usually between Mon-Fri but there is some flexibility here

**Duration**

12 months; starting September 2018