

Practical Conservation Summer Placement - Paid Internship (x2 positions)

Job description

Post title:	Practical Conservation Summer Placement – Paid Internship
Line managed by:	Project Officer
Status:	Part-time (30 hours/week) for approximately 4-months
Wage:	£8.91 per hour

Background

The Lower Ure Conservation Trust (LUCT) has been successful in securing a grant through the Green Recovery Challenge Fund for a project in the lower Ure and Swale valleys. The project's aim is to considerably increase capacity for nature conservation and restoration on undermanaged Priority Habitats in the area.

At the heart of this is the 100-hectare Nosterfield Nature Reserve; generally regarded as North Yorkshire's premier wet grassland reserve, including one of the County's largest reedbeds. The reserve is home to important breeding populations of birds such as lapwing, curlew, redshank and avocet as well as numerous orchids and rare invertebrates.

In the past 20 years LUCT has restored a large amount of land to high conservation value (mainly wetland) habitats, working with a small, dedicated and highly experienced volunteer team. With increased capacity we will create more priority wetland habits, particularly species-rich reedbed and fen. In the future our aim is for this extra capacity to support restoration and management of selected key County Wildlife Sites in the region.

Main purpose of the job

Based primarily at Nosterfield Nature Reserve, your role will be to assist the Project Officer, trustees, and volunteers in the delivery of the Green Recovery Challenge Fund project plan.

You will focus on habitat management, reserve maintenance, wildlife monitoring, leading volunteer work parties, and community engagement.

Regular duties

- Assisting with planting of new fen habitat
- Assisting with grassland management
- Assisting with plant propagation work such as potting, sowing seeds, and seed collection
- Making repairs to reserve infrastructure such as benches, gates, and fences
- Invasive species control
- Working with volunteers
- Assisting with community days and events
- Maintaining reserve equipment
- Ecological surveying

- Administration and maintaining databases
- Contributing to social media output

Appropriate training will be given for each task and ongoing support provided by the Project Officer.

Standard Accountability Statements:

Health & Safety

You are required to comply with Health and Safety Policy and to take such steps as are reasonably practicable for your own health and safety and that of your colleagues at work and those affected by your work. You must comply with your safety responsibilities and must co-operate with management in all respects for the full implementation of the organisations Health and Safety Policy.

Equality & Diversity

The post holder must adhere to all policies and procedures relating to equality and diversity in the workplace and provision of services.

Learning & Personal Development

The post holder has a personal responsibility for his or her own learning and development and will maintain up to date records of achievement and attendance as required. The post holder must undertake the learning and training that is identified and agreed with their manager.

Person Specification

Essential criteria – vital requirements for the post holder

- Demonstrable passion for UK wildlife and conservation
- General knowledge of UK habitats and species
- Ability to work proactively and to show initiative
- Confident meeting new people and representing the charity
- Good level of physical fitness and able to undertake strenuous manual labour
- Prepared to work in outdoor settings in all weather
- Enthusiasm and a willingness to learn new skills
- Ability to work well within a team
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Strong work ethic
- IT literate
- Car driver and access to personal transport
- Willingness to work some weekend days

Desirable criteria – additional requirements relevant to the post

- Good wildlife identification skills
- Knowledge of wetland species & habitats (wet grassland, reedbed, fen)
- Previous experience of practical work and volunteering
- Basic DIY skills