



# Volunteer Role Description

## Role title

### Practical Conservation Volunteer

#### Purpose of your role

To assist the Reserves Team (Reserves Officers, Reserves Assistants and Volunteer Reserves Officers) with the management of Durham Wildlife Trusts (DWT) Nature Reserves for the benefit of wildlife and visitors

#### Type of work you will be involved with

- Practical habitat management including scrub clearance, tree felling, burning, coppicing, tree planting/ maintenance, hedge laying, meadow raking, balsam control, bracken control, path mowing and reed cutting as part of a group of volunteers led by a task leader
- Assisting with fencing work and infrastructure repairs or new installation of bridges, steps and surfaced footpaths as part of a group of volunteer led by a task leader
- Helping move livestock
- Assisting with and conducting survey work

#### Skills and abilities you will be using in your role

- Use of hand tools
- Practical habitat management skills
- Practical access management skills
- Participant in a group
- An interest in and enthusiasm for wildlife
- Team worker with initiative
- Ability to follow instructions and adhere to Health & Safety procedures
- Good communication skills
- Reliable and hardworking

#### You will be based from either

Low Barns Nature Reserve (at Witton-le-Wear, near to Crook and Bishop Auckland) or Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve (at Houghton-le-Spring, near to Durham and Sunderland)

#### Times/days we would like you to be available

Ideal minimum time commitment 2 days per month for mid-week volunteering

Ideal minimum time commitment 1 day per month for Saturday volunteering

#### Benefits to you

- Learn new skills, such as how to use a range of hand tools, carpentry and fencing
- Learn about habitat management for wildlife
- Opportunities to learn practical management skills

- Become a valued member of the team, improving communication skills
- Knowledge that the work you do will benefit local and nationally important nature reserves and the work of DWT
- Opportunity to learn about local wildlife and conservation through access to a wide range of in house training, including wildlife surveying
- Develop skills working with livestock
- A chance to make new friends and get out in the countryside
- Get fit and have fun!

#### **Notes/special requirements**

- Minimum age 16
- Physically fit (or working towards improving fitness levels) with an interest in and enthusiasm for wildlife
- No special skills required (training provided by tools talk and task leader supervision)
- Must be prepared to work outside in all weather conditions
- Must be prepared to work as part of a team and with people from different background

#### **More Information**

For the latest news on what the Reserves Volunteers have been up to take a look at

[www.lowbarns.co.uk](http://www.lowbarns.co.uk) or [www.raintontaskforce.co.uk](http://www.raintontaskforce.co.uk)

To discuss how you can get involved call

- Graeme Middleton at Low Barns on 01388 488728 or email [lowbarnsvolunteers@durhamwt.co.uk](mailto:lowbarnsvolunteers@durhamwt.co.uk)
- Lisa Givens at Rainton Meadows on 0191 584 3112 or email [lgivens@durhamwt.co.uk](mailto:lgivens@durhamwt.co.uk)