



Practical Reserve Management Placements: Summarised Role Descriptions

Please look over the role summaries carefully when considering which reserve placement roles you would like to apply for. These have been written by the reserve wardens to reflect what your placements are likely to include, and to allow insight into how varied our reserves can be.

Arundel

The placement roles for this centre will include much strimming and vegetation clearance, mainly of wet grasslands and reedbed throughout autumn and winter. Hedgerow work. Daily morning set up of grounds before public come in. They will also participate in surveys: water vole, dormouse, reptile, bat, breeding birds and breeding waders, moth, butterfly and dragonfly.

Caerlaverock

At WWT Caerlaverock we are looking for 2 Practical Reserve Placements. You will be a key member of the team and get involved with everything we do running a huge reserve. Practical Habitat management is an important part of the role this includes mowing the fields in the tractor, strimming the islands, cutting scrub along the hedgelines and fencing. . We provide lots of training both certified and on the job, certified includes Brushcutter, First aid at Work, Water safety, 4x4 and Tractor. On the job training includes carpentry, species identification, small tools, Health and safety, and leading guided walks and talks.

We have a lovely herd of Hebridean Sheep and the role involves assisting managing them looking for injuries, shearing, treatments, moving and daily checks. We do lots of surveys throughout the year which includes Natterjack toads, Barnacle geese, WeBS, BBS, Butterfly, Dragonflies and plant surveys. Public engagement is really important at Caerlaverock you'll be doing swan feeds with public commentary, guided walks, Wild goose Festival, and family events like puddle jumping, Giant duck hunt etc.

You'll be helping on the trading desk and get training on how to welcome our visitors and selling gifts, membership, tea, coffee, cakes etc. We provide onsite accommodation with a wood burner. The site is absolutely beautiful if you are interested on working on a really wild site with gorgeous views of the Lake District, we are looking for people who are keen,

practical and happy to work as part of our small team we all help each other and do a bit of everything.

Castle Espie

We would envisage that the placement student would be taking part in all aspects of the reserve management plan including all the habitat management and species monitoring work. In addition the placement would specifically contribute to CMSi administration, GIS data, species database, hide maintenance and zoonotics, managing bird feeding stations, Brent goose monitoring, Black-headed gull monitoring and predator monitoring.

London Wetland Centre

The placement student will be involved in the day-to-day running of the SSSI nature reserve at WWT London. This is a great chance to learn new skills in habitat management. In particular there will be tasks involved with the best management of dry and wet grasslands, reedbed, wader scrape, woodland/scrub parcels and grazing marsh. They would also take part in bird identification and recording, assisting with the upkeep of nature reserve infrastructure as well as water level control and management.

Llanelli

The placement students will be involved with a very wide range of tasks including: Surveys including: Breeding birds (CBC methods), wetland birds (WeBS), nestbox survey, butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies, reptiles, water voles, field condition monitoring, water quality, otters, invasive species, optional bird ringing. Habitat management including: Wild flower meadow management, Reedbed management, Scrub control, Willow coppicing, Hedge laying, Path maintenance, Fencing, Pond management, Livestock checks and care (sheep/cattle/ponies). Reporting on wildlife sightings, upkeep of reserve databases. Helping with occasional guided walks on the reserve and other visitor events.

Martin Mere

A year at Martin Mere Wetland Centre as a Practical Reserve Placement is really varied no 2 days are the same. We survey everything which includes WeBS, BBS, nest surveys, butterflies, dragonflies and NVC surveys. We do lots of bird ringing at Martin Mere including wildfowl, gull, wader, tern, owl and passerine pulli which is great experience to learn a new skill and improve bird handling. Most of the placement involves practical habitat

management which includes cutting scrub regrowth in the reedbed, reed cutting, balsam pulling, ragwort pulling. We provide lots of training both certified and on the job, certified includes Brushcutter, First aid at Work, Water safety, 4x4 and ATV. On the job training includes carpentry, species identification, small tools, Health and safety, and leading guided walks and talks. We have a captive collection at Martin Mere and we help out with bird catches which is great experience handling larger birds including storks and flamingos. Public engagement is a really important part of the role you'll be doing swan feeds with a commentated talks, dawn goose events, bat and barn owl walks, North West bird watching festival and there are opportunities to help the education team with school events and national events like pumpkin calving sail to santa etc if you want to. We have a herd of 30-60 English Longhorn Cattle which you get to help with this involves calving, ear tagging, handling them in the pen and crush during vet treatments, foot trimming, moving between fields and daily checks and feeds. We provide onsite accommodation it's actually on the mere and overlooks the main lake which is covered in swans and geese in the winter and gulls and waders in the summer. We have 3 Practical Reserve Placement positions at Martin Mere we are looking for people who are keen, practical and happy to get stuck into everything (sorry it does rain a lot in Lancashire!!)

Slimbridge Wetland Centre

Placements will mainly support our work around the reserve management plan working in a variety of habitats including reedbeds, coppice woodland, species-rich grassland, wader scrapes and nesting islands. Placements are trained to use a variety of tools and machinery to undertake the work, and develop an understanding as to why tasks are done and when.

There are also a wide variety of other tasks undertaken by placement student to including water level monitoring, surveys for birds, water voles, rare plants and amphibians, and routine day-to-day site management tasks. If Placements are interested there is also the opportunity to get involved with our extensive visitor engagement and events schedule to gain skills in public speaking and delivering events.

Steart

Placements would engage with practical tasks around the site with the wardens. They will do this increasingly independently as they gain the necessary confidence and skills. They would also support the team with hide management, volunteer group management, tractor work, species monitoring, risk assessments and public engagement with visitors on site.

Washington

The Placements main focus will mainly be supporting with the practical side of the Reserve Management plan and will be working in the many different habitats at Washington such as Grassland Management, Pruning, Coppicing & Pollarding, Reed bed Management, Woodland & Woodland Glade Management. Water level management as well as assisting with the construction and maintenance of Ponds Scrapes, ditches and Reed beds and develop an understanding as to why tasks are done and when. Making full use of training received such as brushcutter, hedgetrimmer, tractor and attachments, RTV.

They would also be working with volunteers during habitat management activities as well as the routine day-to-day site duty tasks. Assisting with the upkeep of visitor's wildlife sightings, bird boards and website and sharing responsibility for wild bird feeding. Support research and monitoring activities which may include surveys for species such as breeding and wintering birds, mammals, amphibians, invertebrates, Trees & plants and Contributing to the upkeep of the nature reserve's databases. Also taking part in some visitor engagement and event.