



Lancashire,
Manchester &
N Merseyside

Brockholes Conservation Intern - Role Description

About the Lancashire Wildlife Trust

We are part of the Wildlife Trusts movement, the UK's leading conservation charity dedicated to all wildlife. We are your local charity, working hard to improve your local area for wildlife and for you.

The Trust manages approximately 1300 hectares of some of the region's most precious wild places in the form of 42 nature reserves and 20 Local Nature Reserves. These provide places where wildlife can thrive and people can relax and enjoy the wealth of our natural heritage.

Brockholes is LWT's flagship nature reserve and has a key role to play in connecting people to wildlife.

About the Role

This voluntary Conservation Intern role at Brockholes asks for a significant time commitment of 3 days/week for a 6 month period, but in return it offers invaluable training and mentoring from experienced reserve staff, who manage all habitats and features at the reserve.

The closing date to apply for this vacancy is 5pm 29th February 2020. The successful candidate must be able to attend for three days during the week, ideally selecting from the choice of Tues, Wed, Thur and/or Fri. They will be able to start their 6 month placement at their earliest convenience.

The role is designed for a candidate who already has good baseline experience in practical conservation, and for such a person it is typically a stepping stone into a paid career in this competitive field. It is suited to someone energetic, self-motivated and passionate to learn and get stuck in. Good communication skills are important and it is not an 'entry level' role, because it expects baseline familiarity with habitat management tasks.

What is a Conservation Intern?

Under the direction of the Reserve Officer and Assistant Reserve Officer you will help to deliver an array of practical conservation tasks throughout the reserve, creating, restoring and maintaining important habitats, promoting safe working practices, maintaining conservation tools, assisting with conservation income-generating projects and also contributing to the smooth-running of the visitor experience associated with Brockholes as a whole.

You will primarily be involved with maintaining, restoring and creating habitats for wildlife, but will also undertake practical infrastructure tasks (e.g. path and fence installation or repair) and duties that contribute towards visitor engagement, conservation revenue generation and/or general day to day running of the reserve. You will often be working as part of existing conservation volunteer

teams, but additionally you will develop the ability to lead these teams, plus lead corporate volunteer groups that visit on team-building task days.

Whilst volunteering on the reserve you will have the opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge about the habitats and the wildlife that they support. In turn, you may have the opportunity to engage with visitors to Brockholes and we ask that you are polite and enthusiastic, engaging with visitors in a positive way whenever the opportunity arises. Helping people connect with nature in their local patch enables us to inspire people about the natural world so that they value it, understand their relationship with it and take action to protect and restore it.

This role of Conservation Intern will suit a self-motivated person who has energy, enthusiasm, an ability to adapt dynamic situations and ideally a good baseline knowledge of wildlife identification, with a passion to learn more. In return the role provides valuable experience of hands-on nature conservation to kick start your career.

Main tasks will include:

- *Assisting Reserve staff in the day to day running of the site*
- *Practical habitat management, including habitat creation, restoration and maintenance*
- *Reserve infrastructure work, such as fence and path repair and/or installation*
- *Coordinating and supervising volunteer teams and work parties*
- *Assisting with community and public engagement activities*
- *Checking livestock and assisting in managing grazing animals*
- *Promoting the safety, health and wellbeing of fellow volunteers and also staff.*
- *Biological survey opportunities*

This is a varied role and provides an excellent opportunity to make a genuine contribution to nature conservation whilst gaining valuable experience for a career in this field.

What's in it for you?

You'll gain valuable work experience, develop new skills, enhance your CV and learn how Lancashire's largest conservation charity dedicated to wildlife is run. The majority of our previous Conservation Interns have gone on to paid roles in practical conservation work.

This role will provide you with:

- The chance to be involved in managing wetland, grassland and woodland habitats, for the benefit of wildlife, and on a high profile nature reserve.
- An opportunity to carry out tasks with a team of enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers and a genuine chance to contribute your own experience and expertise.
- An opportunity to gain new skills or put your existing skills to use.
- An opportunity to meet new people.
- Possible machinery training opportunities (funding dependant).
- The chance to become a vital and integral part of Lancashire's largest conservation charity dedicated to all wildlife.
- Valuable work experience to support a growing career in nature conservation.
- Free car-parking at Brockholes Nature Reserve.

On completion of an induction you'll also get:

- Access to our LWT Internal job vacancies
- Access to LWT training courses which generally cover a wide range of natural history and habitat management topics, along with more role specific training as opportunities arise, plus Volunteer Conferences and meetings.
- 10% discount in The Nest Gift Shop at Brockholes on the days that you are volunteering
- 10% discount in The Restaurant at Brockholes on the days that you are volunteering
- Invitations to social events for Brockholes volunteers or as part of the wider trust
- 20% discount at Cotswold Outdoors

What's involved?

You will assist the reserve staff in the day to day management of the site, including (but not exclusively):

A) Practical habitat management:

- Vegetation management including reedbed work, scrub control, ragwort control
- Invasive non-native plant species management
- Hay meadow management
- Woodland management & coppicing
- Working with livestock (cattle and sheep), including routine welfare checks

B) Practical estate work & site maintenance:

- Infrastructure maintenance, including paths, fences, furniture etc.
- Operation and maintenance of reserve equipment and tools
- Processing of firewood, charcoal and other income generating activities

C) Research, survey & monitoring:

- Assist with the co-ordination and implementation of reserve bird survey work, as well as keeping detailed records of ad-hoc bird activity on site
- Undertake survey/monitoring work of other wildlife (e.g. lepidoptera, mammals) as required

D) Events & Public Engagement

- Assist in the planning and delivery of events
- Assisting in visitor management during busy periods

E) Health & Safety

- Assist staff in ensuring day-to-day operations are compliant with all legal duties and in accordance with Trust policy.
- Supported by staff, you will be expected to comply with health & safety policy and risk assessments for all aspects of you work.

F) Volunteer management

- Supervise teams of volunteers, carrying out a wide range of tasks

We also ask that all our volunteers at Brockholes:

- Actively engage with all visitors to Brockholes, sharing your enthusiasm for the reserve and our wildlife. Promote the work of Lancashire Wildlife Trust, support our membership team and raise awareness of LWT Membership.
- Handle visitor management issues in a polite, sensitive and confident manner e.g. explaining our no dogs policy, challenging smoking in none smoking areas and assisting visitors with car parking enquiries.
- Given the nature of our operation at Brockholes, we may, from time to time, ask you to assist us with tasks other than those listed above. This may include helping out in an emergency or “out of the ordinary” situations or during very busy periods or when we have a shortage of volunteers in a particular area.
- Keep up to date with information about Brockholes and our operation by reading weekly team brief minutes, email communications, volunteer notice boards and by attending volunteer meetings and training sessions.
- Say hello and provide our visitors with information and assistance whenever you can!

This role will suit people who

- Have previous experience of outdoor practical conservation or estate management work, including familiarity with common hand tools and equipment.
- Have a good level of fitness and a willingness to volunteer outdoors in all weathers.
- Have energy, enthusiasm, self-motivation and an ability to adapt to dynamic situations.
- An ability to work safely and champion a “high quality of work” ethos. Also an ability to promote a “culture” of tool care and to help to inspire other volunteers in this respect.
- A keen interest in wildlife and conservation. Specialist knowledge is not necessary (although will be an advantage), however enthusiasm and willingness to learn is essential.
- A hands-on, can-do attitude and a genuine desire to develop a career in nature conservation.
- Basic competence with IT.
- Have a willingness to be flexible in terms of hours.
- Good personal skills/good sense of humour and good at working as part of a team.
- Have a flexible approach to the role with a ‘can do’ attitude.
- Are reliable and punctual
- Following a period of induction and training are able to carry out their role with minimal supervision.

Please note this role is not suitable for people with no previous experience of outdoor practical work.

Extra information

Your place	Brockholes Nature Reserve, Preston New Road, Preston, PR5 0AG
Time commitment	3 days/week for a continuous period of 6 months. Typical hours are 9am until 4pm and the days available to select from are Tues, Wed, Thurs and Fri.
Application closing date:	5pm on 29th February 2020
Brockholes Volunteer Manager	Sarah Leach Events & Communications Manager 01772 872003 Sarah.leach@brockholes.org
Your Supervisor:	Lorna Bennett (Reserve Officer)
Reserve Staff (with whom you would be volunteering)	Lorna Bennett (Reserve Officer) Tom Irvine (Assistant Reserve Officer)
Training/Resources	Brockholes Volunteer Induction LWT Volunteer Programme LWT Membership Training Brockholes Volunteer Meetings and training sessions. Health and Safety Manual Handling <i>Potential</i> to attend external training courses if funding allows including first aid and specific machinery courses.
Expenses	Out-of-pocket travel costs between home and the reserve will be paid, up to a maximum of £5 per day.
How to apply for this role	Please send a copy of your C.V and a covering letter outlining your previous experience of outdoor practical work and your suitability for this role, by email, to Sarah.leach@brockholes.org

This role is purely voluntary and this arrangement is not meant to be a legally binding one or an employment contract