

Volunteer Training Centre
Oakham Road
Nr. Hambleton
Rutland
LE15 8TL
Phone: 01572 720049

March 2025

Dear Applicant

Application pack for Trainee Reserve Officer (Volunteer)

Thank you very much for your interest in our Trainee Reserve Officer (Volunteer) position.

Please ensure you have read through the Trainee Reserve Officer Role Description which forms the second part of this application pack below.

If you are interested in applying for this post, please read and fill in the application form. CVs will not be accepted. Please email your completed application form to mheaver@lrwt.org.uk

Completed applications must be received by **midnight Monday 28th April 2025**, any received after this time and date will not be considered. Candidates who are successful after the shortlisting process will be contacted and invited to interview.

Interviews will be held at Rutland Water Nature Reserve on **Monday 12th May 2025**.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Heaver
Reserve Officer

Email: mheaver@lrwt.org.uk
Direct line: 07464 497794

Job Title: Trainee Reserve Officer (Volunteer Post) x 2 posts

Location of job: Rutland Water Nature Reserve (Volunteer)

Post holder reports to: Reserve Officer

Role description

This exciting volunteer post will give you vital experience at one of the UK's best nature reserves. Based at Rutland Water Nature Reserve's purpose-built Volunteer Training Centre you will have the opportunity to get involved in all aspects of the nature reserve and habitat management with opportunities to get involved with wildlife recording and monitoring and community engagement.

This is a very practical volunteer placement role and will be suitable for someone who is looking to start a career in conservation as a nature reserve warden or in a similar role. As part of your training you will gain certificates in the use of chainsaws, tree safety inspection and first aid; and you will be trained in hedge-laying, dry stone walling, brushcutter, tractor driving and much more.

The placement is based on five days per week for a duration of a year (Monday-Friday with occasional weekend work), beginning on **Monday 16th June**. We would expect you to commit yourself to this placement for the period of the twelve months. Uniform and personal protective equipment will be provided.

Please be advised that this role is not salaried, but a 12-month FTC that will provide for a living allowance of £120 per week. Temporary accommodation for the duration of the traineeship is available (at no cost) at our Volunteer Training Centre.

Duties

Practical work

- Carry out a wide variety of practical habitat management tasks on the reserve using hand tools and machinery
- Animal husbandry – working with cattle and sheep
- Regularly carry out tool maintenance
- Regularly carry out vehicle checks
- Lead and supervise volunteer groups

Health and safety

- Give tool and risk assessment talks when out on task
- First aider (when trained)
- Carry out risk assessments

Wildlife Recording and monitoring

- Complete a season of the BTO breeding bird survey scheme under tuition
- Assist with a variety of surveys, including bat box checking, butterfly transects, wildflower ID, nest box checking, wetland bird surveys and small mammal surveys.

Community Engagement

- Gain experience at our Lyndon Visitor Centre and Osprey watch point
- Lead on running Badger watches for the public
- Lead guided walks and give illustrated talks
- Assist with educational visits

Hours of work:

Monday to Friday, plus occasional weekend work.

The usual hours of work are 8.30am to 16.30pm, however, some flexibility will be required to get the most out of your placement. During this role you will be required, on occasions, to assist with a number of different surveys and other activities that necessitate working in the early hours of the morning and late evenings in the spring and summer months.

There will be a variety of exciting volunteering opportunities on this busy nature reserve to be involved in, in addition to the standard hours.

Leave entitlement:

25 days annual leave plus bank holidays.

Training

- On the job training (this will vary depending on the season):
 - Wetland management (e.g. reed bed management, pond maintenance and river work)
 - Grassland management (e.g. scrub clearance, mowing, controlling thistles & ragwort)
 - Woodland management (e.g. coppicing, thinning, felling, planting and maintenance of woodland rides)
 - Hedge management (e.g. laying, planting and trimming)
 - Animal husbandry (Sheep and cattle)
 - Fencing (e.g. stock, post and rail, wire)
 - Access improvements (path works)
 - Bird identification/surveys/counts
 - Carpentry
- Emergency first aid
- Brushcutter use and maintenance
- 4 x 4 on and off road driving experience
- Trailer driving experience
- Tractor driving
- Chainsaw NPTC certificated training (maintenance, cross cutting and felling small trees)
- Stone Walling
- Hedgelaying
- Lantra basic tree survey and inspection

Person specification

Essential:

- In pursuit of a career in nature conservation
- Relevant education/experience to degree level or equivalent
- A basic understanding of the environment, conservation issues and wildlife identification
- Full, clean driving licence
- Ability to work with a range of people from different age groups and backgrounds
- Willingness to supervise and lead others

Desirable:

- Experience of similar work/ volunteering
- Willingness to use power tools (training will be given)
- Enthusiastic, committed and shows initiative
- A reasonable level of fitness and strength
- Team spirited
- Good communication and organisational skills
- Willingness to work with livestock (cattle and sheep)
- A good sense of humour

To apply please send a completed application form, via email to:

Matthew Heaver

mheaver@lrwt.org.uk

Volunteer Training Centre, Rutland Water Nature Reserve, Oakham Road, Hambleton, Rutland,
LE15 8TL
01572 720049

Closing date for applications is midnight Monday 28th April 2025

Interviews to be held on **Monday 12th May 2025** at The Volunteer Training Centre, Rutland Water Nature Reserve

Start date: **Monday 16th June 2025**



Background information to the post

Rutland Water Nature Reserve (RWNR) is managed by Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust in partnership with Anglian Water and provides one of the most important wildfowl sanctuaries in Great Britain, regularly holding in excess of 20,000 waterfowl.

It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a European Special Protection Area and internationally recognised as a globally important wetland site (Ramsar).

RWNR occupies an area of land and shallow water running for 9 miles around the western end of Rutland Water was created in the 1970s with the construction of the reservoir. The overall size of the reserve has been expanded to approximately 1,000 acres with the completion of the major Rutland Water Habitats Project in February 2011. This involved the constructions of nine extensive new lagoons comprising shallow water, snaking islands and wet marginal habitats to provide optimum conditions for wildlife and ensure it is undisturbed by future water management of the reservoir.

The larger section of RWNR lies on the western shore, close to the village of Egleton. Here there is the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, 9 shallow lagoons, meadows and woodland.

The Lyndon area of RWNR, on the south shore of the reservoir, comprise the Lyndon Visitor Centre, a narrow strip of meadows and shoreline, two large impounded lagoons as well as plantation and ancient woodland.

Our base of operations is a purpose built Volunteer Training Centre where we have workshops, offices and training venue.

A variety of events and activities take place at RWNR including regular walks, talks and external courses.

RWNR is home to the successful Rutland Osprey Project enabling ospreys to breed again in central England for the first time in 150 years. Ospreys are regularly seen fishing over the reservoir from April - September.

A large army of volunteers are vital to the effective operations of activities at RWNR from practical nature conservation tasks, staffing the two visitor centres, wildlife monitoring and recording as well as educational activities.

The following websites will be useful in providing further information about Rutland Water Nature Reserve:

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust www.lrwt.org.uk
Rutland Water Nature Reserve www.lrwt.org.uk/rutland-water
Rutland Osprey Project www.lrwt.org.uk/rutlandospreys

