

# Volunteer Role Profile

Volunteer Role

**Residential Training Placement**

Volunteer Manager

**RSPB Reserve Team**

Where you will be based

**Community**

## Why we want you

This RSPB Residential Training Placement is designed to provide you with the training, experience, skills, and knowledge required to pursue a career in sustainable farming and conservation.

You will be provided with a wide range of practical skills in a variety of habitats on the reserve and on Vyrnwy's organic farm. Alongside this you will have the opportunity to complete a series of modules on sustainable upland agriculture which will broaden your knowledge and understanding of nature friendly farming and equip you for a career in this area. The completion of a training portfolio will allow you to record and subsequently demonstrate your learning to potential employers.

Accommodation (near to the reserve) including household bills will be provided free of charge. There is a monthly bursary payment available to help with living expenses and travel (kindly funded by the National Lottery Community Fund).

Lake Vyrnwy has a range of vital habitats including blanket bog, dry heath, acid grassland, and ffridd. Vyrnwy's farm, Ty Llwyd, is the biggest organic farm in England and Wales.

Sustainable agriculture has a key role to play in enabling the protection of habitats, increasing biodiversity, protecting the soil, and improving carbon sequestration. We want you to feel part of the team managing Vyrnwy's special places whilst you are gaining essential skills for your future career in sustainable agriculture.

The tasks included in our training placement include a wide range of topics including animal husbandry, sustainable land management of upland and enclosed habitats, grazing in the uplands, and natural capital.

## What you will be doing

- Learn to be able to assess the age and condition of sheep, cattle, and ponies, and maintain high welfare standards.
- Learn to understand how age, condition, and health impacts on an animal's ability to maintain health on the uplands.
- Learn to assess the condition and maintain the good health and welfare standards for semi-wild Carnediau ponies used to graze the uplands year-

round.

- Learn to recognise basic ailments in farm stock including their cause, effect, and treatment.
- Gain an understanding of veterinary health plans.
- Gain knowledge of how to gather and handle stock safely.
- Learn how to keep accurate records, including medical and stocking records.
- Learn to understand and implement the upland farming cycle on an upland farm.
- Learn how to plan and implement a work schedule appropriate to the seasons.
- Understand the process of cutting hay and what hay is used for.
- Learn to undertake general farm checks to include feeding, tree management, and managing boundaries including maintenance of gates, fences, and hedges.
- Gain a basic understanding of a farm management plan.
- Learn about the sustainable management of upland habitats for nature and climate.
- Gain an understanding of the history and past impacts of land management on the uplands including the role of agriculture and its impact on habitats including blanket bog, dry heath, acid grassland, and ffridd.
- Gain an understanding of upland hydrology, geology, and vegetation.
- Learn to identify key upland species including plants, insects, birds, and mammals and learn how to complete monitoring surveys.
- Learn to understand the different designations applied to habitats and what they mean for the land manager, for example, SSSI, SPA, and SAC.
- Learn the principles of improving ecosystem function, for example, understanding of the principles behind peatland restoration and why it is important.
- Gain an insight into the available routes to fund and deliver restoration.
- Learn about livestock grazing as a tool to protect and enhance upland habitats including understanding of the detrimental effects that both no grazing and intensive grazing can have.
- Attending formal accredited training as required by the role.
- Explore the use of no fence technology including the use of collars.
- Learn about natural capital and the benefits for farming, nature, and people including farming within the natural capacity of the land.
- Studying Welsh case studies for examples of good practise.
- Focus on the alignment of the food we produce with the needs of Wales.
- Gain an understanding of Welsh Agricultural Policy including highlighting the shift away from production driven policies.
- Learn about the role of farm wildlife.
- Learn how to make space for nature within enclosed farming systems including how to undertake a basic farm assessment for condition.

- Learn about working as part of a team including the opportunity to work with partners, other farmers, and the wider community.
- Gain career enhancement.
- Have the opportunity to work on an individual topic of choice.
- Learn about the use and maintenance of a range of machinery.
- Learning about key reserve management topics such as cross compliance, Agri-environment schemes, and management planning.
- Working as part of the farm and conservation teams in a wide range of practical tasks to gain practical experience.
- Gain support to join local networks like Farming Connect and the Nature Friendly Farming Network to build on farming connections for the future.

### **The skills you need**

- The position is aimed at 18–25-year-olds. Applications from this age group will be prioritised. You will need to be 18 years old plus to apply.
- We are seeking individuals who have the energy, enthusiasm, and desire to succeed in a career in sustainable agriculture.
- It would be beneficial to have some previous experience of working or training in an agricultural environment, for example, on a family farm or attending an agricultural training college.
- You must be prepared to undertake physical work outside in all weathers.
- You should be available for five months and be able to attend the placement five days per week from Monday to Friday (very occasional weekend training may be required).

### **What's in it for you**

- These training placements are designed to give you the training and experience needed to pursue a career in sustainable farming.
- As well as providing lots of opportunities to gain first-hand experience, we will also assist your personal development and progression.
- Access to our knowledgeable conservation and farming teams.
- Access to the RSPB policy teams who can provide up to date knowledge of upcoming policy related to farming.
- Accredited training (when appropriate) which could include tractor training, first aid, and ATV training.
- Full PPE and any other equipment necessary to complete the training.
- Free accommodation including household bills.
- A monthly bursary payment to help with living costs and travel.

### **Disclaimer**

You'll be fully trained on our in-house systems before starting in the role, and ongoing support will be provided. We'll also ensure you're set up with an RSPB

email account & login, which will enable you to access the RSPB systems you'll need. You'll need to complete our GDPR and Safeguarding training which can be done online.

References on your suitability for this role will also be taken up.

The RSPB will provide the equipment, training, PPE, and any uniform needed for you to complete the role.

We're now the largest nature conservation charity in the country, consistently delivering successful conservation, forging powerful new partnerships with other organisations and inspiring others to stand up and give nature the home it deserves. We rely on the support and generosity of our volunteers to make a difference

Our work stretches far beyond the UK. Wherever wildlife is in threat, we'll work with partners across the globe to help save it and give it a home.