

Natural Prospects Trainee Wolverhampton Council Placement

Role Description

Project Manager	Natural Prospects Coordinator
Line Manager	Parks, Landscape and Countryside Manager Daily supervision Pendeford Mill Manager
Location	Based at Pendeford Mill

Background

Our vision is for Birmingham and the Black Country to be a Living Landscape alive with nature and rich in wildlife that is valued, enjoyed and protected by everyone. To help achieve this vision, we are delivering the *Natural Prospects* training scheme, recruiting 24 trainees over 4 years and equipping them with the necessary skills, accreditation and support needed to get a job in Birmingham & Black Country's nature conservation sector. The scheme aims to increase the diversity of people working in nature conservation, and will target people from BAME groups, people from economically deprived backgrounds and non-graduates.

Trainees will be employed by the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country, this placement being based at **Pendeford Nature Reserve, Pendeford Hall Lane, Coven, Wolverhampton WV9 5BD** and additional sites across Wolverhampton.

Pendeford Mill and Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve are two nature reserves in Wolverhampton, boasting a wide variety of habitats. A further Local Nature Reserve is proposed along the Wyrley & Essington Canal, which runs through the East of the City. Wolverhampton also has a country park at Northcote Farm, in the Bushbury area of the City.

Pendeford Mill Nature Reserve is a site of valuable environmental and historical significance. The site covers 24 hectares of naturally managed countryside dating back to the 13th century and lies in a peaceful and tranquil setting on the fringe of the city, bordering rural South Staffordshire.

Smestow Valley LNR covers around 50 hectares of meadows, scrubland and woodland; forming a wildlife corridor through the western side of Wolverhampton. The reserve runs alongside the Smestow Brook, a former railway line and the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal. The site was formally designated a Local Nature Reserve in 1998.

Northcote Farm Country Park has a Tudor farmhouse, working farm, tearooms and is supported by an active Friends Group. The surrounding parkland and woodland is carefully managed for the benefit of wildlife.

Nature reserves in Wolverhampton are managed alongside the City's more formal parks and open spaces. These include some fine examples of Victorian parks, which have been restored in recent years with help from the Heritage Lottery Fund. A formal open space strategy provides guidance on the development a

management of Wolverhampton's parks, which are looked after and improved wherever possible by the Council's parks service, grounds maintenance teams, park rangers and local community groups.

Trainees will receive work-based training in practical conservation activities, community engagement, visitor centre support, and public events by supporting staff across a range of venues and sites in the Wolverhampton area. This will be underpinned by a grounding in health and safety practice, communicating with members of the public and supporting range of community events. All Natural Prospects trainees will receive training in additional skills that are needed to start a career in the urban conservation sector e.g. First Aid at Work and leadership skills. Trainees will also have a personalised budget enabling them to access specialist training such as chainsaw, brushcutter and spraying licences and be given the chance to develop these skills in the work place.

Trainees will be required to keep a portfolio documenting their achievements and progress throughout the year. This will provide the evidence to qualify for a City & Guilds Work-Based Certificate in Workbased Environmental Conservation, demonstrating to future employees that they have the necessary skills, experience and competencies to undertake a practical role in the sector.

Main Objectives

To develop skills and experience needed to begin a career in the urban conservation sector.

Key Responsibilities

- To participate in formal and work based training under the guidance of WTBBC and Wolverhampton Council staff members
- To carry out day-to-day practical conservation work at Wolverhampton Council nature reserves and parks
- To deliver public facing events and activities to engage local communities in their natural heritage
- To follow risk assessments and adhere to health and safety requirements and regulations
- To maintain a portfolio of evidence throughout the traineeship, recording all work undertaken in order to achieve the City & Guilds level 2 Work-Based Certificate in Environmental Conservation.
- To support the Reserves and parks team in the delivery of work relating to key species, habitats and reserve infrastructure across the relevant sites.

Other items

- Attend such meetings as may be required
- To work with colleagues and undertake other duties as requested by your line manager to further the organisations strategic goals
- The nature of this post means that occasional out of hours and weekend working will be required, for which time off in lieu will be granted
- To abide by all policies including equal opportunities and health & safety

General Terms and Conditions

Payment	£9,000 tax free bursary paid in monthly instalments. N.B. 10% of bursary will be retained and paid on completion of the City & Guilds award
Hours of Work	Full-time: 37.5 hours per week Some weekend and evening work required for which time off in lieu will be granted
Duration of post	12 month placement starting 11th January 2021 and ending 7th January 2022

Holidays	25 days plus statutory public holidays
Place of work	Based at Pendeford Nature Reserve, Pendeford Hall Lane, Coven, Wolverhampton WV9 5BD , but the trainee will be required to work at other sites and nature reserves in Wolverhampton from time to time
Safeguarding	A DBS check will be required as part of this role

Applications

Deadline for applications is **5pm on Monday 2nd November 2020**

Interviews will be held on **Thursday 19th November 2020**

Complete the attached application form and returned via email to recruitment@bbcwildlife.org.uk

If you have any queries about this role please contact Jen Jones on 0121 523 0094 or 07791 070895

Person Specification

		Essential	Desirable
Specific Criteria	Must meet one of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living in economically deprived area or receiving benefits, or No higher education qualifications, or Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic Background (BAME) 	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Minimum age 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Ability to travel to locations where traineeships are based	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Motivation	Passion for wildlife/conservation and ambition to pursue a career in the land based sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Willingness to work towards a qualification and take responsibility for learning and development	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Self-motivated with ability to use initiative and work independently to achieve personal goals	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	An interest and enthusiasm for practical outdoor work, throughout the year	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Qualifications	Minimum GCSE/O-level or equivalent level of education	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Experience	Experience of participation in related activities, including voluntary roles or Natural Prospects taster days, making positive contributions to local community	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Experience of working with hand and/or power tools		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Applicants are not required to have previous work experience or current employment		
Knowledge	An interest in and appreciation of local wildlife and conservation activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Knowledge of Birmingham & Black Country, its people, wildlife and wild spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Ability to undertake and practical work as required	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	A good understanding of health and safety and safe working methods when working outside and using tools	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Skills	Excellent time keeping	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Able to prioritise and organise time and resources effectively	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	An ability to inspire and enthuse others	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Full clean UK driving license		<input type="checkbox"/>
Work with others	Team player, keen to engage or lead others in wildlife conservation work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	An understanding and commitment to equal opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Communications	Basic IT and communication skills (Email & Microsoft Office)	<input type="checkbox"/>	