|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Role Title: | Conservation volunteer – Doxey Marshes SSSI - Stafford |
| Department: | Conservation |
| Responsible to: | Doxey Marshes volunteer lead |
| Responsible for: | n/a |
| Salary: | Voluntary Role |
| Hours: | n/a Voluntary Role |
| Permanent/Fixed Term/Sessional: | Voluntary |

|  |
| --- |
| **About Staffordshire Wildlife Trust**  We are the county’s leading conservation charity, committed to protecting wildlife and inspiring a lifelong love of nature. Our climate is in crisis and nature needs our help, but together we can make a difference.  Our 50-year vision is for a thriving county with wildlife at its heart, which everyone enjoys, values and wants to play their part in protecting and improving.  Our mission is to ensure that:  We protect and enhance the wildlife and wild places of Staffordshire and promote understanding, enjoyment and involvement in the natural world.  We are part of a federation of 46 wildlife trusts, working passionately just like us. Volunteering for Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, in any role, means you are part of our ambition to halt and reverse natures decline in Staffordshire and across the UK, and to get more people to take meaningful action for wildlife. Whether you volunteer in IT, in our cafes, or out on our nature reserves you will be contributing to the common purpose of a county richer in wildlife.  For our people, being part of the effort to address the climate and nature crisis makes working for us truly meaningful and rewarding.  As well as investing in our mission, we invest in our people and culture. We are committed to creating an engaging, supportive and inclusive workplace for all and providing opportunities for development, training and growth.  Your journey in the Trust starts with your induction. Whatever role you're here to do, we'll explain what to expect, show you where to go, and make sure you understand your new environment before you get going.  You’ll also get chance to see what others in your teams, and across the Trust are doing through  Internal communications.  We’re Wild About Inclusion! To us, this means inspiring, empowering and engaging people from all backgrounds, cultures, identities and abilities, to change the natural world for the better. It means creating spaces where difference is celebrated, everyone can be themselves and flourish, just like nature  Staffordshire Wildlife Trust are committed to keeping children and young people safe, you can see our policy here:  <https://www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/our-policies>  Safeguarding and protecting our visitors, customers, members, staff and volunteers is the responsibility of every trustee, employee, and volunteer at Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. |

|  |
| --- |
| Role Purpose: |
| Would you love to get involved with a new volunteer work party, carrying out conservation and maintenance tasks at Doxey Marshes SSSI in Stafford? You will be helping wildlife and visitor experience, as well as learning all about our amazing wetland habitats, meeting new people, gaining physical and mental benefits from being outside in nature and seeing some great wildlife! If this sounds perfect, then please read the details alongside this role description on how to get involved.  **Role**  - Conservation volunteer  - Sessions are currently planned for twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from Spring until mid-Autumn, and then once a month every second Tuesday from Autumn until the start of March/April.  - Sessions will run from 10.30am to around 2pm – Meeting places will be emailed out each month to volunteers.  **Items provided**  - Tools and gloves are provided  - Volunteer lead is first aid trained  - Hand washing facilities and welfare kit are available during the session  **Please note**  - There are no facilities at Doxey Marshes  - We usually take a break and then a lunch break during a volunteer day but more breaks can be taken if needed or wanted - we are very flexible.  - The work is practical, but everyone goes at their own pace and there are always lighter duties available, such as littler picking, or site checks should anyone need this.  **Extra site information**  Doxey Marshes is in the heart of Stafford by the M6. The River Sow and West Coast Mainline Railway also cross the site. The reserve is a designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for it’s amazing habitat and breeding birds.  The site has wetland habitat, including, low-lying pasture, wet grassland, lowland fen, pools or ‘flashes’ as they are locally known, and muddy scrapes for overwintering and breeding waders and wildfowl.  The site has a large variety of bird species, some overwinter, some stay and breed, and others are passing migrants. The flora on site is also diverse and provides an array of interest year round. Invertebrates, such as dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies are also common, with many more species too, including bryophytes and lichens.  Work is moving forward with plans to improve the site for the wildlife and visitors. |

|  |
| --- |
| Responsibilities: |
| As a conservation volunteer you will be attending regular sessions with a member of Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Staff and carrying out a variety of tasks which include the below list and more.  Up-keep and general maintenance of the site such as:   * Fence repairs * Clearing paths * Hide up-keep   More conservation focused tasks such as:   * Invasive species removal, for example Balsam pulling * Rush cutting for wader habitat * Scrub clearing   **Requirements**   * Must be over 18 years of age * Work can be physically demanding, the terrain can be uneven and muddy, and walking across the site with tools may be needed, so a good level of fitness would be preferred. * There can be some lighter duty jobs, such as litter picking or site checks if needed, and everyone goes at their own pace, so if you’re not sure, feel free to apply. * A regular commitment is preferred. * An interest in wildlife and conservation would be great, but don’t worry if you don’t know anything, as each session will be a fantastic place to learn new things about nature and find out more about our wonderful wetlands. * Ability to work in a friendly team. * On occasion we are approached by members of the public which would like to find out more about our amazing work, so a friendly approachable personality and good visitor engagement is needed. |

Person Specification Role Title: Conservation Volunteer – Doxey Marshes

| Criteria | Essential | Desirable | Assessment Method \* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Experience** | | | |
| Experience of carrying out conservation tasks |  | ✓ | AF |
| Excellent visitor service skills, with experience of dealing with visitor queries and complaints |  | ✓ | AF |
| Full driving licence and access to a vehicle |  | ✓ | AF |
| Qualifications in brushcutter |  | ✓ | AF |
| Up-to-date first aid trained |  | ✓ | AF |
| **Skills/knowledge** | | | |
| Knowledge of nature and wildlife |  | ✓ | AF |
| Knowledge of birds |  | ✓ | AF |
| Effective communication skills | ✓ |  | AF |
| Interest in wildlife | ✓ |  | AF |
| **Abilities** | | | |
| Must be over 18 years of age | ✓ |  | AF |
| A friendly, approachable and professional personality | ✓ |  | AF |
| Physical fitness for carrying out heavy lifting, repeated work such as raking, walking over tough terrain | ✓ |  | AF |
| Ability to excite and motivate others | ✓ |  | AF |
| Able to work as part of a team | ✓ |  | AF |
| Able to give a regular commitment |  | ✓ | AF |
| Happy to be in or around water | ✓ |  | AF |
| Happy to be near or around cattle that graze the site |  | ✓ | AF |

\*

* I = interview
* QC = qualification certificate
* AF = application form
* T = test or assessment
* P = presentation