

## Nature Recovery Policy and Spatial Planning Student Placement

**Responsible to:** Nature Recovery Network Development (NRND) Officer

**Duration:** Flexible (minimum 12 weeks at 3-4 days per week), start summer 2026

### Background

Ulster Wildlife has an exciting opportunity for a dedicated student to get involved in all aspects of terrestrial environmental policy and spatial planning as part of an industry work placement. The student will have the opportunity to undertake a range of activities including assisting in research and evidence gathering into key topics (e.g. rewilding, 30by30, Spatial Planning, nature-based solutions and biodiversity indicators) and translating evidence into briefings, datasets and maps. They will gain a strong understanding of the current state of environmental policy in Northern Ireland, the role of stakeholder engagement around various challenges and pressures facing our local environment, alongside a practical understanding of how projects contribute towards nature recovery and meeting the gaps in policy.



### Purpose of the role

The placement will give you the opportunity to work with and contribute towards the work undertaken by Northern Ireland's largest local environmental charity focused on delivering local action to build a collective impact that contributes to global solutions to *Bring Nature Back*. You will have the chance to gain valuable experience in influencing environmental policy and decision-making and how practical conservation work undertaken by Ulster Wildlife is contributing towards the recovery of biodiversity and ecosystem services across Northern Ireland. You'll also have opportunities to engage with other key stakeholders in the sector, including Public Bodies. More information about our work is online at <https://www.ulsterwildlife.org/>.

### Main responsibilities:

- Support the work of the NRND Officer in topics relating to development of terrestrial environmental policy and spatial planning.
- Work closely with the NRND Officer by gathering evidence and producing reports and information briefs on key topics regarding terrestrial spatial planning around Northern Ireland.

- Contribute to GIS datasets, such as around NI's contribution to the national UK's 30by30 target.
- Support towards an NI-specific 30by30 work in collaboration with Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL).
- Support the review of Ulster Wildlife's current in-house data and evidence base
- Attend relevant stakeholder meetings and events around terrestrial and freshwater environmental policy and related industries. Provide valuable input where appropriate to feedback of attended stakeholder meetings to gain a better understanding of cross-policy and legislative gaps that can be addressed.
- Provision of research information relevant to terrestrial and freshwater associated themes
- General work alongside relevant members of staff to achieve or support goals of and promote nature recovery on land and sea.

### **Skills required:**

- Undertaking or completed an Environmental Sciences/Policy degree or similar with relevant modules.
- Enjoys working as part of a team.
- Motivated and able to work without supervision.
- Passionate about nature conservation.
- At least basic understanding of GIS, practical experience working with spatial data would be an advantage.
- Own laptop – we will provide access to relevant documents and data.
- Use of a car/driving licence, or strong understanding of the public transport system. This is not necessary as the staff can provide some level of transport for attending further-afield sites.

We do not require a comprehensive set conservation skills, but we do require the student to have a willingness to learn and is proactive about their own self development. Work areas/themes will have been discussed previously with the applicant to ensure appropriate and relevant work placement programme, but will usually relate to research-focused tasks and engagement opportunities.

### **Desirable skills:**

- Experience of partaking in public- and stakeholder engagement events.
- Experience of collecting, analysing and communicating terrestrial and freshwater data and evidence
- Experience of assessing policy documents.

**Place of volunteering:** Ulster Wildlife Office, McClelland House, 10 Heron Road, Belfast, BT3 9LE. Could be extended to hybrid working after induction has been finalised.

To apply, please send your CV and cover letter to [volunteering@ulsterwildlife.org](mailto:volunteering@ulsterwildlife.org) by **12 noon Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026**