Nature Reserves Assistant
Placement Opportunity 2027-28

Responsible to: Nature Reserves Manager and Nature Reserves Officers

Role Duration: One Full-time role available. **Please note this is a voluntary placement.** Training and travel expenses to Ulster Wildlife Offices will be provided with a daily mileage cap of 30 miles round trip @ 55p per mile.

Background

Ulster Wildlife is Northern Ireland's largest local nature conservation charity and manages 19 Nature Reserves across the country. As well as including a range of key habitats, ranging from ancient woodlands and wildflower-rich meadows to important peatlands and wetlands, these sites also contain some of the most iconic and important species of plants and animals found in NI. The work through the year is varied and is an ideal opportunity for participants to gain first-hand experience of working in the conservation sector, learning about the importance of conservation measures and their impact, as well as excellent experience in nature reserve management.





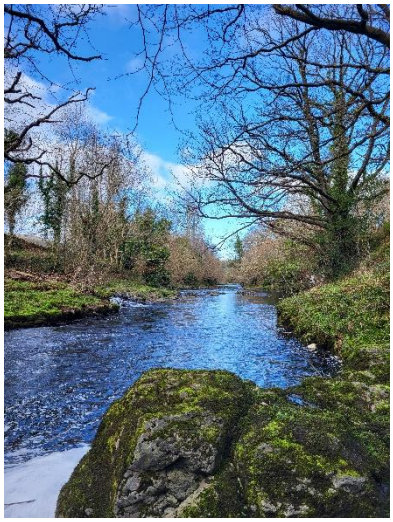
Purpose of role:

This role will require the placement student to support the Nature Reserves Team in a range of hands-on practical conservation activities and techniques. This placement will largely be offsite based, working across all of our nature reserves gaining experience in grassland, peatland and woodland management, invasive species control, access and safety works. The role will also assist in a programme of biological monitoring on nature reserves as well as working to nature reserves management plans of Ulster Wildlife.

Main responsibilities:

- Carry out a range of practical conservation activities on nature reserves in conjunction with the nature reserves team.
- The safe use and maintenance of nature reserves tools and equipment – this will include hand-tools and machinery.
- The ability to work outdoors in all seasons, on a variety of terrains, learning skills in a 'hands-on', practical manner.
- Assist in carry out health & safety recording and reporting e.g. the production and review of risk assessments and site safety checks.
- Assisting in biological surveying and monitoring across Ulster Wildlife Nature Reserves: including botanical monitoring, habitat mapping, camera-trapping, bird and invertebrate surveys.

- Support the promotion of nature reserves work through a range of media e.g. photography and creation of short videos in relation to nature reserves.
- Throughout the year opportunities will be made available to work with other projects within Ulster Wildlife such as Native Oyster Restoration, Community Engagement and with the Priority Species team.



Skills required:

- Undertaking an Environmental Sciences / Ecology degree or similar.
- Excellent communication and team working skills
- Use of own initiative, we aim to enable students to take on more responsibilities onsite as their year progresses and confidence grows
- Self motivated and keen to learn practical habitat management skills
- A degree of physical fitness is required to fulfil this placement as you will be working outdoors daily and across differing terrains
- Passionate about nature conservation.

We do not require practical conservation skills we are happy to teach these and provide training qualifications. However, we do require that the student has a willingness to learn and is proactive about their own self development.
We do not have direct handling or contact with mammals/birds but there will be vast learning opportunities to develop your ID Skills in Flora and Fauna as well as spotting the local wildlife that frequents our nature reserves.

Desirable skills:

- Experience of wildlife surveying and monitoring.
- Use of a car/driving licence would be an advantage but not a necessity.

Placement location: Ulster Wildlife Offices, McClelland House, 10 Heron Road, Belfast, BT3 9LE. Field work will be carried out at a range of locations across Northern Ireland.

Please send a CV and cover letter to volunteering@ulsterwildlife.org by
5pm on Friday 29th January 2027.