Priority Species Student Placement Opportunity 2027/28

Responsible to: Senior Conservation Officer

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 a local nature conservation charity working to protect habitats and species for future generations here in Northern Ireland. Ulster Wildlife works for nature, people and climate. We have been part of species conservation in Northern Ireland for over 40 years, and we continue to work to support local habitats and species. We have been successfully working on barn owl and red squirrel conservation, as well as a host of other species. We are expanding our work with a new 'Let Nature In' wildlife gardening campaign, including hedgehogs, and this opportunity provides you with the chance to be involved in all aspects of our work.







Purpose of role:

The role of the placement student will be to assist with Ulster Wildlife's species conservation work. Throughout the year you will work alongside the Senior Conservation Officer and Priority Species Officer during various aspects of the species projects including work on red squirrels, pine martens, barn owls and hedgehogs. This will include species survey work, camera trapping, processing data, putting up nest boxes, pellet dissection, attending farm visits, helping at events, creating content, and producing materials. You will also assist with raising awareness of the importance of gardens for nature's recovery and help the Wildlife Gardening Officer with the delivery of the Let Nature In project. If you have a project to do as part of the placement, we will support you with this.

Main responsibilities:

- Assist with the data collection for the Squirrel and Pine Marten Survey 2028.
- Review camera trap footage for the survey.
- Help with the delivery of Let Nature In training, both online and in-person, in wildlife-friendly gardening topics to key stakeholder groups, for example, housing developers or community groups.
- Help collection of sightings of hedgehog, and promotion of hedgehog-friendly gardening annually through Let Nature In.
- Carry out fieldwork for the species projects, including hedgehog, red squirrel and barn owl.
- Carry out data analysis for the species projects.
- Carry out pellet dissection to contribute to a wider study of barn owl diet.
- Assist the Priority Species Officer in verifying sightings.

- Help with barn owl and red squirrel events.
- Promote Ulster Wildlife and our species work.

Skills required:

- Undertaking an Environmental Sciences/Ecology/Zoology BSc degree or similar.
- Passionate about nature conservation.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- IT skills – competent in MS Office; particularly Word and Excel.
- Excellent team worker.
- Motivated and able to work without supervision.
- Well organised and competent with time management.
- Willingness to learn.
- Able to work occasional evenings or weekends.
- Use of a car/driving licence.

Desirable skills:

- Confident in/experience with GIS.
- Volunteering experience.
- Experience of carrying out species surveys.

We do not require practical conservation skills; we are happy to teach these and provide training qualifications. However, we do require the student to have a willingness to learn and are proactive about their own self development.

Placement location: Ulster Wildlife Offices, McClelland House, 10 Heron Road, Belfast, BT3 9LE.

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

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