

## **Volunteer Role Description – Practical Conservation**

### **Purpose**

The key purpose of this role is to assist in the delivery of estate and conservation management at Pensthorpe

### **Key Tasks**

Under the guidance of the Reserve Team, you will be involved in:

1. Habitat maintenance and restoration. Tasks may include: scrub clearance, hedge and tree planting, ragwort and Himalayan balsam pulling, path and hide maintenance, nest box checks, preparing areas ahead of the breeding season
2. Undertaking survey work, such as flora and fauna surveys under the close supervision of our Warden team
3. Helping in corporate volunteering activities
4. Park inspections, to check the park for litter, hazards such as fallen trees and branches, checking the fence line and gates, checking hides for litter and sweeping out leaves, and filling bird feeders at all hides
5. Livestock inspections, to check our sheep and cattle regularly for signs of ill health or discomfort, accounting for livestock headcount, and checking none are missing or separated from their flock / herd and helping in livestock movements

You may also be involved in greeting visitors, answering questions they may have and assisting with presentations and walks and talks.

Together, all staff and volunteers are responsible for the health and safety of our visitors, which requires us to work using safe methods, maintaining legal compliance and best practice to our working environment, reporting anything that is unsafe to the Reserve Manager, and reporting any accidents or near misses.

### **Key knowledge/skills/qualities/experiences**

1. A keen interest in conservation / habitat management and an enjoyment of working outside, no matter the weather
2. A basic understanding of conservation / habitat management and a willingness to learn more
3. Ability to follow instructions
4. Ability to work on own initiative when allocated a specific task and able to work as part of a team
5. Due to the physicality of the role, you need good overall health and mobility

### **Time and level of commitment required**

You need to be able to commit to a full day on a reasonably regular basis from 9.30am to 3.30/4.00pm on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays. Due to the size of our site, ½ days are not practical.

### **Key working relationships**

Reserve Manager, Reserve team members, Aviculture team members, HR team.

### **Training and support**

All volunteers will undertake a basic induction course, which will include health and safety and manual handling essentials. The Reserve Manager will ensure you have appropriate training to undertake the tasks you are allocated. PPE and all required tools will be provided.

As you may expect, we like to give and receive feedback about our volunteer's experiences. All volunteers will have a "trial" day and after that, depending on the amount of time and frequency that you are able to volunteer, we will arrange periodic reviews.

### **Additional information**

All volunteers will be provided with mid-morning and afternoon refreshments and a full lunch.

You need to ensure that you wear appropriate clothing to suit your key tasks, including appropriate footwear (stout boots or wellingtons, ideally steel toe capped) and wet weather gear. Please ensure in hot weather you wear a hat and regularly apply sunscreen and insect repellent as required.