

Rainton Meadows Visitor Centre Volunteer



Located between the cities of Durham and Sunderland, Rainton Meadows is the location of Durham Wildlife Trust's headquarters and two of the Trust's nature reserves; Rainton Meadows itself and Joe's Pond. Visited by thousands of people each year, both sites show nature's power of recovery, with abundant wildlife now present where once the coal industry dominated.

The Visitor Centre Volunteer role is a varied one that allows volunteers to try their hand at everything or concentrate on what they enjoy most. The aim of the role is to provide visitors with a welcoming and informative experience and to ensure that the centre and surrounding area are presented to the highest standards. The Rainton Meadows Visitor Centre Volunteers support the work of the Rainton Meadows Assistant staff post.

What's involved?

There are three main tasks that the Rainton Meadows Visitor Centre Volunteers deliver. As a volunteer you can have a go at all three or just choose the one or two that suit you most. The tasks are:

- Helping to maintain the buildings – the Rainton Meadows Visitor Centre was formerly the offices for the open cast coal mine that reshaped the site in the 1990s, so there is always work to do to ensure that the buildings are well presented. This task involves making sure all parts of the centre are well maintained so that visitors have an enjoyable visit and leave with a positive impression of Rainton Meadows and the work of the Trust.
- Ensuring the site is well presented – the visitor centre volunteers help to look after the visitor facilities across the wider site. This task involves making sure that the wider Rainton Meadows nature is clean and tidy, bird hides are well presented and that notice boards are kept up to date. There is also a bird feeding station to keep stocked and if you are green fingered there are some gardening tasks too.
- Supporting events and activities at Rainton Meadows – the Trust holds events and other activities, such as training sessions, throughout the year at Rainton Meadows, helping to spread the nature conservation message and generate funds for the charity. Volunteers can lend a hand by helping to set up for events, whether outside or in the centre, taking part in the event itself by giving out information to visitors or manning a stall and, of course, tidying up afterwards!

What you can expect

Volunteering is central to all of the Trust's work, from being the public face of the Trust as a volunteer at a visitor centre or nature reserve to being one of the Trustees that govern the work of the charity.

Lots of volunteers are based at Rainton Meadows, which is the base for our Northern Task Force Volunteers who help manage nature reserves as well as Visitor Centre and Education volunteers, so there are lots of opportunities to meet new people and make new friendships. If you are already a wildlife expert there are lots of opportunities to share that knowledge, and if you're not there are opportunities to learn about wildlife and nature conservation, if you want to.

If volunteers are delivering a task that requires training that will be given and no volunteer is asked to do anything they don't want to do.

Visitor Centre Volunteers are guided by the Visitor Centre Assistants and the Trust's Head of Operations and Development.

What Durham Wildlife Trust expects

The Trust is proud of its work with volunteers and expects all members, volunteers, trustees and staff to support its aim of *Conserving Wildlife from Tees to Tyne*. This will be done in different ways, all of which benefit the wildlife, people and places that are at the heart of what Durham Wildlife Trust does.

Durham Wildlife Trust commits to -

- Providing a welcoming and positive environment for all volunteers that allows individuals to apply and develop their knowledge and skills.
- Maintaining an inclusive volunteering environment where all are welcomed, valued and respected.
- Giving volunteers the opportunity to have their say on how the Trust is operating.

Durham Wildlife Trust expects volunteers to –

- Help maintain a welcoming, inclusive and positive environment, which includes ensuring that a safe and healthy workplace is maintained at all times.
- Behave in a courteous and respectful manner towards others and follow directions given by task leaders.
- Act as an ambassador and advocate for Durham Wildlife Trust, helping to spread the nature conservation message and promote support for the Trust.

How much time should I give?

Opportunities to volunteer are available from Monday to Sunday. Exact hours will be negotiated and agreed to suit both the volunteer and Trust

Apply today by completing an online application form

We'll contact you to discuss your application and the role in more detail, and answer and questions you might have.

Contact Zoe Hull on 0191 584 3112 or volunteering@durhamwt.co.uk to find out more.