

Durham Wildlife Trust Naturally Native Water Vole Survey Volunteer

Bring your passion for wildlife and conservation and join our volunteer team at Durham Wildlife Trust as a Water Vole Survey Volunteer.



Water voles have suffered a drastic decline over the past 60 years making them Britain's fastest declining mammal. The Naturally Native project will work with partners and local communities across the North East, to halt the decline and aid the recovery of this much loved British mammal before it is too late. As a Water Vole Survey Volunteer, you will have the opportunity to take part in group surveys, led by the Naturally Native Project Officer and more independent surveys where you and a partner will be assigned a water course to survey, in an area you have selected.

What's involved?

- Learn how to identify suitable habitat for water voles, signs of active water vole populations and signs of American mink
- Walk a pre-agreed stretch of a water course, recording locations, images and characteristics of any water vole field signs encountered.
- Being outdoors, negotiating uneven ground and working in and around shallow water courses
- Submitting your records to the Naturally Native Project Officer

What will you get out of it?

A chance to learn;

- Survey skills
- About habitat management and conservation for wildlife

Opportunities to;

- Visit a wide range of urban and rural locations across Durham
- Improve communication skills
- Develop your CV

But above all a chance to work outdoors, exercise in the fresh air, meet new people, make friends and contribute to a landscape scale conservation project aiming to halt the decline and aid the recovery of water voles in North East England.

What skills do I need?

- An interest in and enthusiasm for wildlife
- Team worker
- Ability to follow instructions and adhere to Health & Safety procedures
- Good communication skills
- Happy to work outside in all weather conditions

How much time should I give?

- Surveys typically take 1-3 hours
- Water vole surveys take place from April to October
- An individual site should be surveyed twice per year

Apply today by completing an online application form.

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

Contact Elliot Lea on 07414 831600 or elea@durhamwt.co.uk to find out more.

Our volunteers play an integral role in what we do, from the management of reserves to helping with administration duties. We are always looking for willing volunteers who share our passion for wildlife, conservation and broadening awareness.