



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Community Growing Hub: Wildflower Growing Volunteer

Are you green-fingered and have time to help nurture wildflowers for the community?

The Wetland Wildflower Project aims to grow and distribute meadow plants of local provenance to enhance the wildflower diversity of local community projects, as well as the grounds and reserve areas at WWT Slimbridge. We will grow these plants in a recently refurbished polytunnel at Slimbridge.

Floodplain meadows are not only beautiful, but these rare, species-rich plant communities are part of the heritage of the Severn Vale. Floodplain meadows can store more carbon than woodlands, are incredibly biodiverse and can help mitigate flooding. Unfortunately, today just over 1000ha remain in England and Wales.

To help our efforts to restore floodplain meadows and other wet grasslands in the Severn Vale, we are looking for volunteers to assist with growing wildflower plug plants in our polytunnel. This is a great role for those who will enjoy this hands-on work behind the scenes, whilst playing a role in saving wetlands for wildlife and people.

This role involves:

- Receiving simple training on the methods and essential health & safety
- Caring for plug plants e.g. weeding, hand watering, potting on plants for sale in shop and watering and replacing these, as required
- Seed collecting and looking for pests and diseases
- Preparing plants for orders
- Ensuring optimal growing conditions in the polytunnel e.g. raising /lowering sides of tunnel, adapting automatic watering regime
- Some general maintenance, as needed, including moving trays and keeping work areas clean and safe
- Updating records, e.g. of any problems/loss of plants/transfer of plants
- Planting out plugs, as and when required
- Supporting attendance at plant sales and fairs, as agreed

This role will suit you if:

You are keen to support and learn more about our work, and are able to travel independently to WWT Slimbridge.

We welcome people that have the ability to work under your own initiative, with some guidance, and are also happy working with a mix of people on a team. A relatively good level of fitness is also be needed as tasks may involve lifting plant trays, using wheelbarrows, standing at plant benches, and lifting compost bags etc. However, adjustments may be able to be made based on individual needs, so do let us know how we may be able to help.

We ask that you wear your own sturdy footwear and outdoor clothing for this role.

Practicalities

Where will you be based?	WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre
Who will you volunteer with?	The Wetland Wildflower Team, led by Dr Sue Kinsey, Wetland Wildflower Co-ordinator
Time commitment?	It is flexible but ideally at least 2-3 hours every fortnight, ideally times agreed between Thursday to Sunday.

We want your volunteering to be a positive and fun experience. You'll get a warm welcome, including information on training, equipment and other information you need. This will include risk assessments based on your role and any particular support you need.

Volunteers receive access to our sites, and discounts in our shops and cafes. Some roles include a uniform or require the use of equipment or protective clothing.

If you are based at a particular site or office location, you'll need to be able to get yourself there and back. Information on locations can be found on our [website](#).

If you are interested in volunteering for WWT but don't wish to apply online, please email volunteering@wwt.org.uk or leave a message at 01453 891 231 with your name and number.

We will keep you up to date with what's happening across WWT and the difference you will be helping to make happen.

Interested?

If you are interested in this role, please complete the interest form online and we'll get in touch to talk it through further with you.