

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** Volunteer Reserve Assistant

**Why do we need you?**

Caerlaverock Wetland Centre is a spectacular 1,400-acre wild reserve situated on the north Solway coast. From dawn until dusk, from January to December, in fair weather and not so fair, its open coastal landscape and wide skies are full of the sights and sounds of nature – and very little else.

The centre is deservedly famous for its vast flocks of over-wintering water birds, including around 30,000 barnacle geese from Arctic Svalbard and large numbers of pink-footed geese and whooper swans. Summer offers the opportunity to explore rolling wildflower meadows, watch ospreys hunting over the Solway and even spot barn owls and badgers.

We are involved in the maintenance of this internationally important wetland site. This involves maintaining and developing the various habitats that attract large numbers of migratory birds but also help develop the reserve to increase general biodiversity.

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‘*With a wealth of experience and proven track record in scientific research, we create and conserve wetlands and save species. We provide wetland conservation solutions that work in today’s society, sustaining both wildlife and people*.

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**Who will be responsible for your role?** Reserve Manager

**Where will you be based?** Caerlaverock Wetlands Centre

**How much time will it take?** It is useful to commit to at least one day per week (usually Tuesday) between 10:00-15:00

**What will you be doing?**

* Maintenance of visitor facilities including paths, hides etc.
* General habitat management work across a multitude of habitat types
* Maintenance of screens and stock fences
* Maintenance of bird feeding stations
* Maintenance of hedges and trees
* Assist with wildlife monitoring.
* General visitor engagement
* Occasional assisting with management of livestock/visitor centre work

**Who are we looking for?**

* Practical experience on a nature reserve and good identification skills is desirable although training can be given.
* Able to work alone or as part of a team.
* Good people skills
* Confident with communicating with the public.
* Good level of physical fitness
* Ability to work outdoors in all weather.

**How will you benefit?**

* You will be able to become part of the small but friendly reserve team.
* You may be involved in role specific training such as strimming and brush cutter.
* You will be involved in the workings of this centre and will therefore be able to take up any opportunities that become available.
* Suitable uniform and personal protective equipment is provided to all regular volunteers
* Discount is available in the shop for all volunteers
* Training opportunities will be provided along with the opportunity to visit other WWT centres across the UK

**General notes:**

This position may require helping out on other days in addition to rota days but this will be infrequent and will be agreed with your head of department.

It will be important to present a welcoming and professional image to all Caerlaverock visitors and to be sensitive to the needs of our visitors.

It is important to be smartly presented in full uniform at all times.

You will be required to regularly check the volunteer notice board and emails and to respond to the information contained.

This position is entirely voluntary and is therefore unpaid. Any offer of a volunteer placement is not intended to create a legally binding contract between us and any agreement may be cancelled at any time at the discretion of either party. Neither of us intends any employment relationship to be created either now or at any time in the future.

**Date raised:**  Sept 2024