

Residential Volunteer - Forsinard

Region: North Scotland
Where: Forsinard Flows nature reserve

When: November – April
Commitment: 2 weeks - Saturday to Saturday

Why We Want You: At Forsinard we manage the largest (and still expanding) RSPB reserve in the UK. We undertake a variety of survey and monitoring programmes all year round, some of which even extend into the neighbouring areas of the Flow country. In order to undertake the work programme and help to implement the reserve management plan on this internationally important reserve, we need enthusiastic volunteers to assist with our busy habitat restoration and monitoring programme, wildlife surveys and practical management works.

What's In It For You: This is a top opportunity to get an insight into the management of a nature reserve on a landscape scale. We manage nearly 20,000 ha of ground at Forsinard, where we undertake large scale habitat restoration. Unlike many other reserve volunteering positions, you will mainly do survey work. During your short stay you could be involved in a variety of activities, or one big project depending on the time of year. These activities and projects include, habitat restoration monitoring, pre-felling forestry survey work, conifer re-generation monitoring, deer counts, drain blocking survey and monitoring and more. You could be involved in practical estate management, such as drain blocking and tree re-generation control.

Requirements: You will need to be at least 18 yrs old, preferably with a clean driving licence and have a keen interest in birds and conservation. You will feel equally comfortable whether you are roaming around the reserve on your own all day or working in a small busy office on data entry and management. You need to have plenty of enthusiasm and flexibility and be able to walk long distances over bogs and moorland, working outdoors in all weathers. The ability to work on your own in a remote area and as part of a small, flexible team is essential as you may occasionally be asked to work extra hours. Some map and compass navigation skills are desirable.

Notes: Residential volunteers assist with habitat and species management, research, survey and monitoring and estate management over the winter.

Appropriate training will be provided and expenses will be reimbursed where necessary.