



JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION	Reserve Ranger
REPORTS TO	Watatunga Reserve Operations Manager
ASSISTING	Watatunga and all conservation efforts across the estate

Watatunga is home to the largest collection of deer and antelope species within the UK. We also have many different species of waterfowl, cranes, pheasant & Great Bustard. Animal welfare is at the forefront of everything that we do. Our animals are free to roam within our 170-acre reserve, whereby guests can visit on pre-booked buggy tours. Having only been open to the public since 2020, It is an incredibly exciting time to be involved.

JOB PURPOSE

The role will require someone with practical animal experience, ideally with both bird and ungulate species, but this is not necessary as full training will be provided. It is an incredibly practical and hands on role, encompassing all aspects of reserve maintenance, our off-show animal areas, and our herd of water buffalo.

The candidate will work closely with the reserve operations manager to carry out animal husbandry duties, whilst maintaining and helping to advance the welfare standards of the animals under our care. We are a very progressive organisation and believe that there is always more to learn. Applicants should be motivated & passionate, whilst having the ability to work both independently and as part of a team.

The working patten will be Sunday-Monday, with Friday & Saturday's off, given the understanding that the candidate will be flexible to cover holiday and swap days as and when required. This will be a permanent position upon successful completion of a probationary period.

Desirable but not essential as training can be provided:

- Firearms and Shotgun Licence
- DSC1 and DSC2
- PA1 and PA2
- Telehandler
- Live capture and immobilisation course (Darting course)
- Trailer licence
- 360 digger training
- Vermin control and use of rodenticides



Responsible for:

- The daily welfare of the animal collection including all aspects of animal husbandry.
- Following the agreed collection plan, assisting animal transfers, dispositions, and acquisitions
- Proactively taking part in culling
- Catching, darting and manual handling of ungulates and birds
- Habitat management to enhance the visitor experience, and conservation.
- Vermin control within Watatunga and other animal enclosures
- Assisting the Operations Manager within Watatunga
- General housekeeping and appearance of the outside areas

Jobs are likely to include but not limited to:

- Daily animal feed rounds
- Tree/shrub planting
- ATV and UTV work such as topping, feeding.
- Rifle shooting for vermin control and culling.
- Basic veterinary practice such as darting, clipping wings, rearing of young birds and ungulates where necessary.
- Representing Watatunga and Watlington Farms at events such as the Norfolk Show
- Attending conferences and workshops when required
- Hydroseeding and habitat creation
- Strimming
- Aiding the reserve manager in accurate record keeping, progressing onto inputting data into ZIMS.
- Carrying out welfare audits & keeping husbandry knowledge up to date
- Tractor work such as topping, silage feeding, hay turning, irrigation.
- Generating quotes and prices for materials such as tree guards, fencing materials, work tools.
- Fence, building and enclosure construction and maintenance, including water troughs, animal shelters and electric fences.
- Lawn mowing and gardening
- Washing buggies and keeping Watatunga areas clean and tidy
- Assisting with tours and accommodation guests including back buggy and logistics, progressing onto tour guiding eventually, to be called upon as emergency cover if needed.
- Being on call if necessary & progress onto becoming part of the firearms rota
- Be part of the reserve lock up rota during normal operational hours or during late night events.
- Be cover/additional cover on late night events.
- Attend Team meetings as and when required.
- Upkeep and maintenance of the reserve infrastructure and environment

Salary negotiable depending upon experience.

How to apply: Send a brief CV and cover letter to operations@watatunga.co.uk by the 31st March 2024.