

# Conservation Officer, GWCT Allerton Project

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Post Title:	Conservation Officer, GWCT Allerton Project
Type of appointment:	Full-time, permanent
Reporting to:	Farm Manager
Location:	Allerton Project, Loddington
Hours of work:	Full time, 37.5 hours per week over 5 days.
Salary:	£25k with potential to rise to £35k. Accommodation could be available as part of package, subject to negotiation.

## Job Purpose

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The Allerton Project is a demonstration farm, and this role gives the opportunity for an individual to be involved in pursuing best practice conservation management and demonstrating and communicating this to others.

We are seeking a competent and driven individual to work closely with the Farm Manager, Game Keeper and the Senior Ecologist on all aspects of conservation and environment at The Allerton Project. The individual will be responsible for day-to-day maintenance and management of all conservation areas on the estate as well as developing and improving woodland, hedgerow and agri-environment areas. This individual will need to be a good self-starter with a positive 'can do' attitude.

Training and development opportunities will be given as part of this role. There is some kit on site already and we would expect the new member of staff to help the farm manager scope and purchase additional. This role gives the opportunity to develop practical and communication skills as part of an industry leading project delivering state of the art conservation practices in a wonderful location

## Partnerships

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The successful applicant will be expected to work with key partners which include:

- Woodland Trust
- Forestry Commission
- The Rural Payments Agency and other grant -giving bodies
- Local farmers and landowners

## Our vision

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The Allerton Research & Educational Trust (ARET) aka The Allerton Project is a nationally important research and demonstration farm that researches the effects of different farming methods on wildlife and the environment, sharing results of our research through advisory and educational activities. Much of this is undertaken on our 320-hectare demonstration farm based in Leicestershire, with outreach activities also carried out on-line and elsewhere.

We identify management that delivers multiple benefits for our rural landscape. Our work covers natural capital accounting, Environmental Land Management and regenerative farming systems. From soil and water to woodland and farmland habitats that increase biodiversity, our aim is to develop farming and land management systems that are resilient to economic and environmental shocks. Our own research team collaborates with other research organisations and co-supervises numerous PhD and MSc projects.

Visitors to the Project include businesses, policy makers, non-government organisations, regulators, farmers, advisors, students and schools. We have several initiatives that involve the local community to help improve a shared understanding of agricultural and environmental issues. In essence, the Allerton Project is an award winning, pioneering blueprint for future rural landscapes. Arable cropping and livestock enterprises sit alongside woodland, wetland and other environmental habitats. The Project is noted for developing scientifically validated solutions to a range of agricultural and land management conflicts, including wildlife, game management, soil health, carbon accounting and water quality. We are leaders or partners in many public and privately funded initiatives with a number of international corporations as our clients.

The Allerton Project has a well-established environmentally sustainable training and visitor facility attracting over 2,000 delegates and visitors a year. The project delivers comprehensive training programme such as the BASIS Certificate in Sustainable Land Management as well as numerous bespoke packages.

## Who will you be working with?

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### Key members of The Allerton Project Team

- Oliver Carrick (Farm Manager)
- John Szczur (Ecologist)
- Matt Coupe (Head Keeper)
- Alastair Leake (Project Director)
- Alice Midmer (Assistant Manager)
- Chris Stoate (Head of Research)
- Joe Stanley (Head of Training and Partnerships)
- Roger Draycott (Director of GWCT Advisory)

### Key Accountabilities and Responsibilities

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1	Responsibility for day-to-day maintenance and management of all conservation areas on the estate
2	Work closely with the Farm Manager, Game Keeper and the Ecologist to develop and improve woodland, hedgerow and agri-environment areas.
3	Implement the current Woodland Management Plan and develop further to display best practice including Carbon Accounting projects
4	Undertake hedge planting and laying requirements at The Allerton Project
5	Work with the Farm Manager to design and manage agri-environment areas on the farm
6	Undertake hedge laying at local farms
7	Manage the agro-forestry trial at the Allerton Project
8	Develop relationships with local schools and colleges to learn about farmland conservation
9	Work closely with the Farm Manager, Ecologist and wider team to develop new agri-environment schemes
10	Work with the Head of Research and Ecologist to manage habitats in line with research requirements
11	Work with the Head of Training and Partnerships to deliver relevant training and talks to visitors.

## Person Specification

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1	Strong practical skillset in conservation management such as hedge laying and woodland management with appropriate certificates (e.g. chainsaw)	Essential
2	A team player; approachable, flexible, engaging, enthusiastic and welcoming to all.	Essential
3	Flexible and adaptable, willing to work with a range of members of the team to improve conservation and environment	Essential
4	Genuine interest in improving and developing conservation at Allerton and communicating this with others	Essential
5	A full driving licence	Essential
6	Tickets and qualifications in practical areas such as tractor driving, felling, wood-chipper, pesticides, forklifts etc.	Preferable
7	Interest and ability to monitor wildlife and collect data	Preferable
8	Ability to operate heavy machinery such as forklift and tractor	Preferable
9	Ability to communicate, present and demonstrate effectively with school age children, college students, farmers and advisors	Preferable