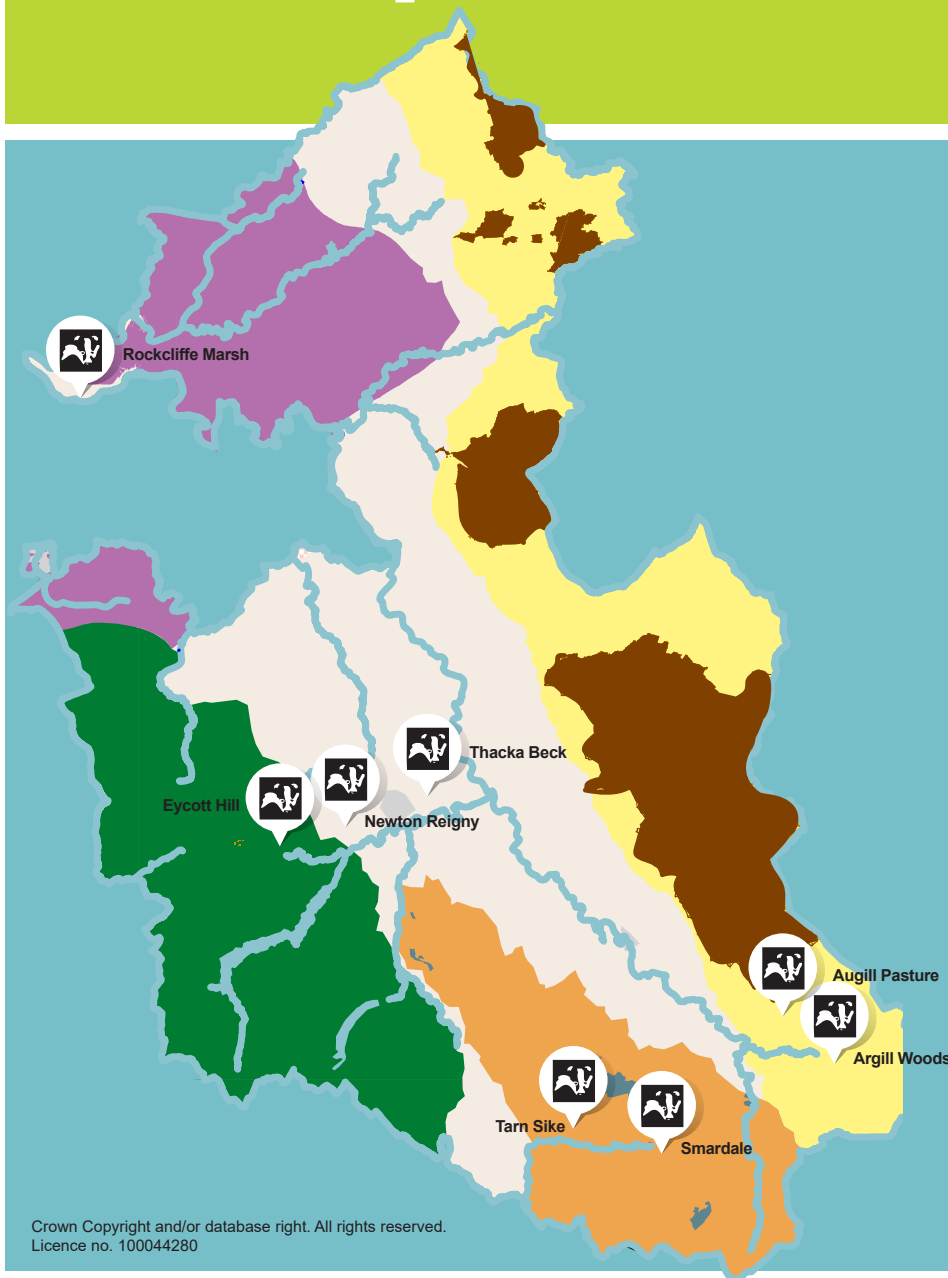


Penrith and the Border Constituency



Cumbria
Wildlife Trust



Cumbria Wildlife Trust is the only voluntary organisation devoted solely to the conservation of the wildlife and wild places of Cumbria. The Trust stands up for wildlife, creates wildlife havens, and seeks to raise environmental awareness.

In your constituency the Trust has:

- ❖ **2,219 members**
- ❖ **8 nature reserves**
- ❖ **2 Local Support Groups**

KEY	
	Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve
	Coast
	River/Stream
	Peat bogs
	Lakeland Fells & Dales Living Landscape
	North Pennines Living Landscape
	Solway Basin Living Landscape
	Orton & Howgill Fells Living Landscape

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Nature in the constituency

Penrith and the Borders is the biggest constituency in Cumbria covering a vast array of nationally important habitats including blanket bogs, mires, lakes, heathland and flower-rich limestone grasslands.

Limestone pavement

Limestone pavement was formed by glacial scouring during the last ice age. Cumbria holds a significant proportion of this globally scarce habitat which provides a home to rare and threatened species. It can be found on the limestone fells between Shap and Kirkby Stephen.

Blanket bogs

Blanket bogs are one of the most extensive habitats in Cumbria and the shallow slopes of the Pennines are particularly suited to its development.

Confined to areas of the world with a cool and humid climate, Cumbria holds a large proportion of this internationally rare habitat. As well as being home to a number of wet-loving species, the peat stores vast quantities of carbon that has built up over thousands of years.

Hay meadows

These increasingly rare habitats have declined nationally by 97% in the last 50 years and so the cluster of species-rich meadows that still exist around Orton are increasingly important. This habitat, formed by the traditional practice of hay making, can hold up to 50 plant species per square metre and is a vital feeding ground for birds such as the twite.

There are 46 Wildlife Trusts across the UK working towards A Living Landscape and Living Seas. A Living Landscape is a recovery plan for nature to create a resilient and healthy environment rich in wildlife and provide ecological security for people. Within Living Seas wildlife thrives, from the depths of the ocean to the coastal shallows, wildlife and habitats are recovering, adapting to climate change, and inspiring people.

A vision for your constituency

Rare species such as red squirrels and Scotch argus butterflies can be found at Smardale Nature Reserve



Your wildlife trust is leading efforts to secure nature's recovery in your constituency

Our Peatlands project has been working in this area to restore degraded peat soils. Working in partnership with farmers, we have designed and delivered management plans for protecting our peatland habitats.

The Trust purchased Eycott Hill in 2015. The precious upland site has been restored with the help of local volunteers, making it a haven for wildlife with improved access. Its mosaic of upland habitats include moorland, flower-rich haymeadows and wetlands. Conservation

grazing takes place on the nature reserve, by a herd of belted Galloway cattle.

Smardale Nature Reserve is situated near Kirkby Stephen. The Trust manages this popular nature reserve to maintain the rich mixture of woodland and species-rich grassland for those enjoying a walk along the disused railway line that runs through the reserve.

It is one of only two sites in England that's home to the rare Scotch argus butterfly. The tiny northern brown argus can also be seen here. 2019 has seen greatly improved access and the installation of red squirrel feeders at the nature reserve.

The limestone grasslands around Orton are home to a number of rare species restricted to the north of England, including the bird's-eye primrose and the rigid buckler fern.

Cumbria Wildlife Trust has been working with farmers and smallholders to enhance, restore and manage flower-rich hay meadows using traditional practices to increase plant diversity.

Cumbria is on the frontline of red squirrel conservation with three red squirrel reserves at Greystoke, Whinfell and Kielder falling within the Penrith and the Borders constituency.

One of Cumbria's red squirrels at Smardale Nature Reserve



We are calling on the national parties to pledge to:

- ❖ **Back an ambitious Environment Act** with legally binding targets to restore nature, a powerful, independent environmental watchdog, and a Nature Recovery Network to protect and join-up important places for wildlife
- ❖ **Introduce an Agriculture Bill** that pays farmers for helping wildlife and for rebuilding our natural countryside, so that public money is used for the good of everyone and farmers help create a connected landscape
- ❖ **Revive our marine environment** through a network of Highly Protected Marine Areas and a new Marine Strategy to guide how we develop at sea, how we fish within environmental limits and how we restore our marine ecosystems to support plentiful fish and wildlife

Volunteers are vitally important to the management of our nature reserves



Cumbria
Wildlife Trust

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All 46 Wildlife Trusts are members of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (Registered charity number 207238).