

Squirrel Monitoring Rangers - Cumbria wide

Location: Cumbria, County wide or Staveley specific

Interested in volunteering for the Cumbria Wildlife Trust, to help protect our native red squirrel population?

From Beatrix Potter's character Squirrel Nutkin to road safety character Tufty Fluffytail, children and adults across Cumbria are familiar with the red squirrel's tufted ears and bushy tail. Sadly, red squirrels have suffered severe population decline across the UK. They can now only be found in wooded areas throughout northern England, western Wales and in many parts of Scotland.

We are looking for volunteer squirrel monitoring rangers, to help from home and survey any local wooded areas.

How will your volunteering help the red squirrel?

Your sightings will help us improve our understanding of how squirrel populations in Cumbria are changing and help our Squirrel Rangers take direct conservation action.

Monitoring evidence is starting to suggest that the red squirrel range is being maintained, through the commitment and dedication by Red Squirrels Northern England (RSNE). This is a multi-partner project working to conserve red squirrels in northern England. Cumbria Wildlife Trust is an RSNE partner, along with other organisations including Natural England, Red Squirrel Survival Trust and the Forestry Commission.

What is a Squirrel Monitoring Ranger volunteer?

Volunteers will record both red and grey squirrel sightings using grid references. You can monitor your garden, along your daily walking route and your local park. Any wooded area you explore on a regular basis. An induction on how to take grid references can be provided.

We are also looking for hazelnut collectors as the harvest this year looks to be quite plentiful. We set up Red squirrel only feeding stations in Red conservation areas, and these are filled with Hazelnuts where possible in the winter months.

You don't need to be a squirrel expert, just have a natural enthusiasm for the red squirrel and all other wildlife. Squirrel spotting techniques will be taught, and any equipment needed, will be provided for. Volunteers will need to report once weekly, via emailing their sightings.

What's in it for you?

- Learn new skills though volunteering
- **A flexible role to fit in with your lifestyle**
- Contribute to the Trust's work



- Support the red squirrel populations
- Induction provided if needed on how to take recordings

Extra information

Place of volunteering: Cumbria-wide

Time commitment: This a very flexible role and all recordings will help

Staff contact: Danielle Chalmers, Staveley Woodlands Officer

Training/ resources: Volunteer handbook and Trust induction. Volunteers are able to receive travel expenses of 0.45p per mile agreed in advanced with their staff contact. Survey training provided if necessary.

Requirements: N/A

Is this role for you?

Want to learn more about this role?

We'd love to hear from you.

Please contact Eve Mulholland, Volunteering Coordinator,
at volunteering@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk