



Meadow Survey Volunteer - Role Description

About Cumbria Wildlife Trust

As one of 46 independent Wildlife Trusts, we are a local wildlife conservation charity. Cumbria Wildlife Trust cares passionately about wildlife and wild places – we're here to put wildlife back into our land and seascapes to make Cumbria a wilder county with more space for nature. We restore and connect wild places, work with nature to tackle the climate emergency and support people to take local action for wildlife.

We wouldn't be able to do what we do without the dedication and support from our community of 600 active volunteers, over 1500 members and supporters.

Volunteer Surveyors assist Cumbria Wildlife Trust in collecting and sharing information on local wildlife and the environment. This includes carrying out meadow, white-faced darter, butterfly, dune habitat and marine wildlife surveys. The trust has a range of group activities that operate throughout **March to October**, each year

What is a Meadow Survey Volunteer?

A meadow survey volunteer will assist us in surveying grassland hay meadows that Cumbria Wildlife Trust has previously restored or that have the potential for future restoration. This involves counting the cover of wildflower species and grass species within celled quadrats at random locations across the site. Meadow survey blog [here](#).

Previous botanical ID skills would be ideal but not essential if the participant is happy to learn. A willingness to work with other volunteers as a pair to carry out the survey.

Our grassland team works on many grassland sites; some being our own sites, on partner organisations sites, various landowners and farmers holdings etc. As much as we would love to, unfortunately we don't have the time to go back to each site for continual monitoring to assess the sites progression after restoration, especially with our growing site list. With the help of our grassland survey volunteers, we are able to revisit more of our restored sites to monitor progress and success which can support our future restoration work.

We would like to ask for a minimum of one botanical survey (2 full days of surveying) per year. You can survey at the same or different locations. The choice is yours! So, for a sociable and interesting day in the beautiful Cumbrian countryside, come along and join one of our survey teams.

What's in it for you?

- Becoming part of a friendly and dedicated team at Cumbria Wildlife Trust
- Health and wellbeing benefits by making new friends, making a difference and having fun
- Learning new practical conservation survey skills from our experienced team of reserve officers. These skills will help your future career/learning opportunities.

- Opportunity to increase your knowledge of wildlife species and habitats
- Opportunity to help CWT raise awareness of wildlife and conservation

What's Involved?

- Identifying a range of wildflower species and grass species accurately.
- Using celled quadrats, spotting sheets, guidebooks, indexes and other equipment
- Recording observations including numbers, behaviours and images
- Attending certain locations at a particular time of day
- Submitting your survey results to the grassland team promptly after the survey

Who would suit this role?

This role will suit anyone interested in volunteering with Cumbria Wildlife Trust, who loves wildlife and wants to make a real difference in their local community. It would especially suit those who:

- Are reliable and committed to this role
- Have good observational skills, basic literacy and numeracy skills
- Have communication skills where surveying can take place as part of a group
- Are polite and helpful wherever necessary, when in contact with public and acting as representatives of the wildlife Trust
- Have an ability to follow given health and safety guidelines
- Have a reasonable level of fitness
- Have an ability to negotiate uneven and slippery terrain on land
- Previous botanical ID skills would be ideal would be beneficial, but not essential. Training and comprehensive guidance will be given.

Extra information

Your place	Cumbria wide for meadow survey volunteers
Time commitment	We would like to ask for a minimum of one botanical survey (2 full days of surveying) per year.
Volunteer Coordinator	Ruth Alcroft, volunteering@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk
Staff Contact (if different)	Grassland team, grassland@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk
Training/Resources	Maps of sites, specific recording sheets, celled quadrats and any other equipment will all be supplied by the Trust where needed.
Other Requirements	Meadow survey volunteer role not suitable for wheelchair users

**This role is purely voluntary and this arrangement is not meant to be a legally binding one
or an employment contract**