**Volunteer Red Squirrel Rangers**

Location: throughout Cumbria

**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 1 in 4 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

700 active volunteers, over 15,000 members and supporters.

**About the Red Squirrel Recovery Network**

Almost £5 million has been awarded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Red Squirrel Recovery Network. This five-year partnership initiative, led by Northumberland Wildlife Trust and working with a number of partners, will help protect and conserve red squirrels across Northern England and Southern Scotland. For more information, have a look here: [Red Squirrel Recovery Network (RSRN) | Northumberland Wildlife Trust](https://www.nwt.org.uk/what-we-do/projects/rsrn)

As part of the Red Squirrel Recovery Network (RSRN), Cumbria Wildlife Trust is launching a new initiative to recruit and train Volunteer Red Squirrel Rangers.

**What is a Volunteer Red Squirrel Ranger?**

Our Volunteer Red Squirrel Rangers play a vital role in protecting one of the UK’s most iconic native species. Volunteers help create and maintain suitable woodland habitat, monitor red squirrel populations and support community engagement.

Volunteers will be recruited through Cumbria Wildlife Trust and trained in red squirrel conservation. Once trained, you will be matched with your local red squirrel or wildlife group to provide direct support, while remaining part of the Trust’s volunteer network.

**What will you do as a Red Squirrel Ranger?**

Rangers may assist with:

* Help deliver the Spring Survey – a large scale monitoring effort across Southern Scotland and Northern England
* feeder checks
* camera monitoring
* ongoing recording of red squirrel presence or absence

Additional opportunities may include:

* supplementary feeding of red squirrels
* grey squirrel control (subject to training and permissions)
* Nest box installation for red squirrels

The RSRN project officer will coordinate between the Northern Red Squirrels groups (NRS) and local red squirrel groups to ensure smooth collaboration and appropriate volunteer placement. All activities must comply with National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) guidelines and align with the Red Squirrel Conservation Plan.

**What’s in it for you?**

* Becoming part of a friendly and dedicated team at Cumbria Wildlife Trust
* Health and wellbeing benefits by getting outdoors and making a difference for nature
* Learning and putting into practice new practical management conservation skills

**Health and Safety**

Conservation work can involve some level of risk and our reserve officers will take all necessary precautions to minimise this risk. As a Volunteer Red Squirrel Ranger, we’ll ensure you are fully trained and it will be your responsibility with comply to Trust policies and safety procedures.

This may include:

* All necessary tools, equipment and resources provided in a good working order
* Training around use of tools
* PPE provided

We recommend that any volunteers taking part in conservation work have an up-to-date tetanus jab.

**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 area. It would especially suit those with:

* Willingness to work outdoors
* Ability to listen and follow instructions
* Awareness and understanding of risk in relation to practical work
* Ability to comply to all policies and procedures put in place

**Additional Skills**

Previous experience in practical conservation work is not required for this role but if you do have any of the following or any other previous experience or skills that would benefit this role, please let our reserve officer know:

* Previous practical conservation work experience
* A valid first aid certificate (please provide certificate)

**Extra information**

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| **Your place** | **Cumbria** |
| **Time commitment** | A few hours per week |
| **Volunteer Coordinator** | Ruth Alcroft  07436 657653  [volunteering@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk) |
| **Staff Contact**  **(if different)** | **Josh Adams**  **Josha@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk** |
| **Training/Resources** | Volunteer induction  Risk assessment awareness |

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

**or an employment contract**