

Marine Champion Survey Leader- 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 700 active volunteers, over 15,000 members and supporters.

What is a Marine Champion Survey Leader?

Our Volunteer Surveyors will assist Cumbria Wildlife Trust in collecting and sharing information on local wildlife and the environment. This will include carrying out coastal and marine wildlife surveys.

The trust has a range of group activities throughout the year. Marine surveys are arranged around tides and weather and each survey day is split into two halves, which take place in either order depending on the tides that day.

Shoresearch: at low tide we do a rocky shore survey, where we lay a transect and along the shore, and do 12 randomly placed quadrats recording all of the species found in each.

Seawatch: at high tide (or at least when the tide is too high for us to stay on the shore), we go somewhere high up and do a land-based dolphin survey, where we look out to see and record signs of dolphins, seals, porpoises, and any other “megafauna”- or large animals, which we can see.

A Marine Champion Survey Leader will help lead these marine wildlife surveys on the North West Coast. After attending the mandatory training day, you can work for just one day, or regularly at the same or different locations. The choice is yours! So, for a sociable and interesting day in the beautiful Cumbrian shoreline, 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 marine wildlife species and habitats.
- Opportunity to help CWT raise awareness of marine wildlife and conservation.

What's Involved?

- Leading regular surveys on the Cumbrian coast and Morecambe Bay.
- Having a sound knowledge of species found on the shore in the North West.
- Engaging with our volunteers and guiding them through surveys.
- Engaging visitors with the marine wildlife.
- Ensuring health and safety protocols are followed and all incidents reported.
- Becoming familiar with, and then following the CWT's H&S policy, at all times.

Who would suit this role?

This role will suit anyone interested in volunteering with Cumbria Wildlife Trust, who loves the coast, its 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 the seashore.
- Are passionate about marine environmental conservation and looking to gain vital experience in the sector.
- Some basic species identification skills and knowledge of marine wildlife and habitats would be beneficial. Training and comprehensive guidance will be given.

Extra information

Your place	Cumbrian coast and Morecambe Bay
Time commitment	1 mandatory day for training, future days for attending surveys and future training if available/required. No set duration
Volunteer Coordinator	Ruth Alcroft, volunteering@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk
Staff Contact (if different)	Joe Harper, JoeH@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk
Training/Resources	Maps of sites, specific recording sheets and any other equipment will all be supplied by the Trust where needed.
Expenses	Out of pocket travel costs between home and volunteering place will be paid up to a set amount
Other Requirements	

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

or an employment contract