

## Butterfly Transect Volunteer Surveyor- 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 15000 members and supporters.

### What is a Butterfly Transect Volunteer Surveyor?

Butterfly Transect Volunteer Surveyors will assist Cumbria Wildlife Trust in collecting and sharing information on local wildlife and the environment.

This work takes place annually, from April to September, with surveys going back to the 1990s. This gives us a unique data set of butterfly numbers for the Smardale reserve and contributes to the overall trends for butterflies across the UK.

We need someone to walk the Transect once a week, noting all the butterflies they see. Flexibility is essential as the weather has to be warm, sunny and relatively still to do the survey. You do not need to be a butterfly expert to volunteer but the ability to commit to regular surveys for the coming year (and ideally beyond!) is important.

### 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.
- 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 butterflies accurately
- Using spotting sheets, guidebooks, indexes, equipment & binoculars

- Recording observations including numbers, behaviours and images and entering the information onto a spreadsheet
- Attending certain locations at a particular time of day
- Submitting findings to the Wildlife Trust
- Optional additional tasks depending on skills may include leading other volunteers on surveys; recording research and desk surveys; liaising with other research groups; photography and filmmaking

### 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 to the knowledge of butterflies, particularly the Scotch Argus and Northern Brown Argus. It would especially suit those who:

- Are reliable and committed to this role
- Have good observational skills, basic literacy and numeracy skills and are happy to enter data onto a computer
- 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
- Some basic species identification skills and knowledge of wildlife and marine habitats would be beneficial. Training and comprehensive guidance will be given

### Extra information

<b>Your place</b>	<b>Smardale Nature Reserve</b>
<b>Time commitment</b>	Approximately 3 hours per week
<b>Volunteer Coordinator</b>	Ruth Alcroft 07436 657653 <a href="mailto:volunteering@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk">volunteering@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk</a>
<b>Staff Contact (if different)</b>	Andrew Walter <a href="mailto:Andreww@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk">Andreww@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk</a>
<b>Training/Resources</b>	Maps of sites, specific recording sheets and any other equipment will all be supplied by the Trust where needed.
<b>Other Requirements</b>	

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