

Information for Peatland Restoration Monitoring volunteers

Overview of project:

Over the past decade peatlands throughout the uplands of the Lake District National Park have been receiving restoration works to improve the state of peat bogs in Cumbria - helping these areas to lock away carbon stored within their peaty soils, provide valuable habitat to biodiversity and to slowly begin to sequester more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

One of the main factors for peatland restoration to be successful is time. By repairing erosion features and increasing a sites ability to hold onto rain water, the initial restoration work is able to stop further damage occurring to these sites. However, once the damage has been halted it takes many years for these sites to reach their full potential, this can be thought of as a 'recovery' stage.

For these restored areas to reach their full potential, it's vital that we gather information on the success of these restoration works during the recovery phase– this is where your help comes in! Over the next year we're looking to train a number of volunteers to be able to assess the state of peatland restoration on sites throughout the Lake District National Park. We hope to give you new skills and knowledge whilst carrying out essential work on our vitally important peat bogs.

Aims of the project:

We've identified 6 sites that have undergone restoration within the last 5 years. Each site is at a different stage of recovery – we'd like to gather data from each of these sites to see how this recovery progresses over the years, whilst also informing decisions about further restoration works on each of the sites.

During 2024 – early 2025 (the duration of our project) we aim to train several volunteers to be able to recognise and understand the processes of peatland restoration. This would involve multiple days out in the fells with trained staff members, learning how to both recognise restored features as well as using a monitoring methodology to assess the success of the previous restoration.

The information you gather will be extremely useful in flagging up problems with previous restoration works. For example, if your survey flags up problems with a site, a CWT peatland restoration team member will then also make a visit to the site to decide what / if restoration repair works are required. Your work will help the team to efficiently allocate their time to certain sites.

How to get involved and find out more information:

This project is being delivered in partnership between Cumbria Wildlife Trust and Ozawa Wildlife. The best way to register your interest and find out more information is by emailing Lee Bassett – Ozawa.wildlife@gmail.com

We plan to run volunteer training events at least monthly from August 2024 onwards.