



Marine Survey- Shoresearch Volunteers- 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.

What is a Marine Survey Volunteer?

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 that operate throughout March to October, each 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. **Note, surveys at Earnse Bay, Barrow will be Shoresearch only.**

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.

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?

- Attending monthly surveys at Earnse Bay, Barrow. Cumbria Wildlife Trust also conduct regular surveys across the Cumbrian coast and Morecambe Bay.
- Some basic species identification skills and knowledge of marine wildlife and habitats would be beneficial. Training and comprehensive guidance will be given.
- Engaging with our fellow volunteers.
- Ensuring health and safety protocols are followed and all incidents reported to survey leader.
- 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.
- 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.

Extra information

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| Your place | Cumbrian coast and Morecambe Bay |
| Time commitment | There are monthly marine surveys, however it is not necessary to attend all of them. |
| Volunteer Coordinator | Ruth Alcroft, volunteering@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk |
| Staff Contact (if different) | Yolanda Aze yolandaa@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk |
| Training/Resources | All equipment will all be supplied by the Trust where needed. |
| Expenses | |
| Other Requirements | |

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