

Seagrass Restoration Volunteer- 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 Seagrass Restoration Volunteer?

Cumbria Wildlife Trust has received funding to restore a vast area of seagrass near Roa Island in the Walney Channel.

The company [Ozone](#) has donated £141,964 to be given over a three-year period and the Environment Agency (EA) has funded via the Championing Coastal Coordination initiative and the [Department of Environment Food & Agriculture's \(Defra\) Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment \(NCEA\) programme](#).

This funding will enable Cumbria Wildlife Trust to understand more about the benefits the seagrass beds are providing to this coastline and the pressures that they're under. The funding also provides the resources Cumbria Wildlife Trust need to help this fantastic ecosystem to recover, and to work with other organisations across the Northwest to bring about an Irish Sea that's healthier and wilder in the long term. Watch short video about seagrass restoration, [here](#).

The Cumbria Wildlife Trust marine team wish to set up a team of seagrass volunteers to support our restoration works in South Cumbria. The work will be ongoing throughout the coming year, and we are using this time to build the team's capacity.

Given the nature of seagrass work, with sessions dictated by the weather, the tides and plant readiness, we are looking for people who are happy to be contacted at short notice to come and help.

Your role will be varied. You could be out on the seagrass beds surveying, collecting or planting seagrass, helping in our seagrass seed storage facility, or even crafting small bags to put seeds in.

No experience is needed other than a desire to get involved, though tasks may be muddy. Some activities will involve a long 30–45-minute walk over sandy and uneven terrain.

Other activities involve moderate heavy lifting, though this can be adjusted if necessary. Role not suitable for under 16s or wheelchair users.

What's in it for you?

- Full training for all the tasks carried out as part of seagrass restoration volunteering role
- Development of teamworking, communication and engagement skills
- 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
- Opportunity to increase your knowledge of marine wildlife species and habitats
- Opportunity to help CWT raise awareness of wildlife and conservation

What's Involved?

- Opportunity of visiting Roa Island in the Walney Channel.
- Carrying out seagrass beds surveying
- Collecting or planting seagrass
- Helping in our seagrass seed storage facility
- Crafting small bags to put seeds in

Who would suit this role?

This role will suit anyone interested in volunteering with Cumbria Wildlife Trust, who loves marine wildlife and wants to make a real difference. It would especially suit those who:

- A passion for nature and being outdoors, in all weathers
- Are reliable, punctual and committed to this role.
- Capable of following instructions and on occasions work with minimum supervision
- Have an ability to follow given health and safety guidelines
- Have a reasonable level of fitness
- Working in an intertidal environment and adhering to the hazards this brings.
- Previous knowledge of the marine environment and British wildlife would be beneficial. Training and comprehensive guidance will be given.

Extra information

Your place	Roa Island in the Walney Channel, near Barrow
Time commitment	Flexible role. Happy to be contacted at short notice to come and help
Volunteer Coordinator	Amber Gould, Marine Conservation Officer for Cumbria Wildlife Trust, via volunteering@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk
Staff Contact (if different)	
Training/Resources	No experience is needed other than a desire to get involved, though tasks may be muddy
Other Requirements	Role not suitable for under 16s or wheelchair users

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