



## **Cumbria Seed Bank Support Volunteer Role Description**

### **About the 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 the Cumbria Seed Bank Project?**

Working with the Lottery Heritage Fund, this is a special outreach project with the Kew Millennium Seed Bank, designed to gather and store plant species in Cumbria to protect the genetic diversity of vulnerable species, along with restoring endangered wildflower meadows.

This unique project aims to train people in these vital heritage skills to ensure these endangered meadows can get the restoration boost they badly need.

### **What is a Cumbria Seed Bank Support Volunteer?**

We are looking for volunteers who will help inspire young people to learn all about wildflower meadow restoration, why it's so important, how we are doing it and all the 'behind the scenes' work at our Cumbria Seed Bank.

By getting involved you will be at the forefront of delivering this unique project out in the field, through ID surveys and seed collecting and storage, to propagation in the nursery and plug planting.

You will join a friendly and dedicated team of volunteers and staff, meeting and greeting young volunteers, providing information on the site's wildflowers and promoting the work of the Cumbria Wildlife Trust.

### **What's in it for you?**

- Becoming part of a friendly and dedicated team of volunteers and staff, at Gosling Sike, Carlisle.
- Getting out and about in nature. Initial work already done by Kew indicated that meadow habitats inspired the highest connection with nature. That means that those who spent time in meadows showed fewer symptoms associated with anxiety.
- Passing on your wildflower knowledge to other people and helping them get enjoyment through contact with nature
- Learning new conservation and people skills
- Having opportunities to learn how the seeds, nursery and planting is managed

## What's involved?

- Greeting volunteers on arrival at the nursery and assisting in setting up the sessions
- Spending time in the nursery and surrounding areas, working with new volunteers to build up their confidence and skills
- Assisting with the tidying, and opening up/closing of the site

## Who would suit this role?

This role will suit anyone interested in volunteering with Cumbria Wildlife Trust, who loves sharing their passion for wild places and is a people person. It would especially suit those who:

- Are aged 18 or over
- Have good communication skills and can greet visitors in a cheerful manner
- Have a natural enthusiasm for nature and the wildflowers of Cumbria and want to help volunteers build knowledge and skills
- Enjoy working in an outdoor environment (in all weathers!)

However, please note that you don't need to have all of these interests or skills to undertake this volunteering role.

## Extra information

Your place	Gosling Sike, Houghton Road, Houghton, Carlisle CA3 0LD W3W: <a href="#">Including.fame.shorter</a>
Time commitment	We are looking for volunteer helpers who would be able to come down once a week for 2-3 hours
Volunteer Coordinator	Ruth Alcroft, Volunteer Coordinator <a href="mailto:volunteering@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk">volunteering@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk</a>
Staff Contact (if different)	Dan Richards <a href="mailto:DanielR@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk">DanielR@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk</a>
Training/Resources	Volunteer handbook and Trust induction. An induction and health and safety training will be provided. Volunteers are able to receive travel expenses of 0.45p per mile agreed in advanced with their staff contact.
Other Requirements	A site induction and orientation will be provided.

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