



## Volunteer Role Description: Biodiversity Surveys

**Role:** Biodiversity Surveying

**Purpose of Role:** To collect and share information on local wildlife and the environment

**Location:** Various locations across the Tees Valley including our nature reserves

**Volunteering Hours:** Variable, from 15 minute Butterfly Counts to 24 hour Bioblitzes! It completely depends on the time you have to spare

**Duration:** Ongoing, often seasonal and project-based

**Availability:** National surveys are often advertised separate from the Trust and we encourage everyone to take part in these, but if you would specifically like to conduct surveys for us, please contact our Volunteer Development Officer, Jen Hagan

**Reporting to:** An appropriate Project Officer will be allocated depending on the surveys to be conducted

**Special Requirements:** Survey work can involve being outdoors for some time on different sites, so appropriate clothing and footwear is required. Maps of sites, specific recording sheets and any other equipment will all be supplied by the Trust where needed.

**Skills / Qualifications/Health criteria:** Biodiversity survey volunteers do not need to have any prior knowledge or experience as all training will be provided. However, due to the nature of this work volunteers should possess good observational skills, basic literacy and numeracy skills. This role does not involve any strenuous work. We can often offer assistance to survey volunteers on-site through organised activities, please check our website or contact us to find out about planned survey events and projects, or if you would like to get involved but require additional support. Surveying can take place as part of a group, and in this case volunteers will benefit from having good communication skills.

**Personal Qualities:** Although this role does not principally involve working with the general public volunteers can come in contact with the public using our nature reserves and therefore we expect them to be polite and helpful wherever necessary, acting as representatives of the Wildlife Trust. As already stated, this work can involve working in a group, where communication skills will be helpful, but can also involve a lot of solitary work too and it is important that survey volunteers are aware of and comfortable with this. Naturally we also want all volunteers to have an interest and enthusiasm for conservation!

**Main Duties:**

- Identifying a range of plant and animal species accurately
- Using spotting sheets, guide books, indexes, equipment e.g. binoculars
- Recording observations including numbers, behaviours and images
- Attending certain sites at a particular time of day
- Submitting findings to the Wildlife Trust/other agencies e.g. Butterfly Conservation Trust

**Potential Risks:**

We expect all volunteers to use specialist equipment only when trained fully to do so (and in line with risk assessments), to be aware of others and their environments and also to contribute to general good housekeeping (keeping all working environments free of hazards). We have fully trained first aiders, first aid boxes, accident recording procedures and a health and safety policy which is available for all volunteers to read in the administration office or can be sent electronically.

**Other Notes:**

This role is an excellent way to start training for a conservation career, plus it is important that all volunteers know how important this work is to all areas of conservation. The data collected can be used locally, regionally and nationally leading to better understanding and care of our environment and its wildlife, as well as contributing to new projects, more funding and generating wider interest in the area.