



### Wings in the Woods Volunteer Role Profile

#### **What are we asking you to do?**

The main aim of this project is to monitor and increase our understanding of some of the rarest butterfly and moth populations in the UK. Volunteers are not only essential in helping to monitor existing known populations, but also to discover new populations of the insects, and suitable habitats within the Rusland Horizons Landscape Partnership Scheme Area. The range of tasks varies from an occasional or regular survey work, to helping with planting primroses, the food plant for the Duke of Burgundy butterfly, to increase the area and value of their habitat.

**Expectations:** You must be willing to join Butterfly Conservation in order to regularly take part in surveying, monitoring or practical tasks. There is a special offer of a free One Year Membership for Rusland Horizons volunteers.

#### **Key Tasks**

Training will be provided to enable you to carry out any tasks that you would like to do which may include any or a range of the following;

1. Support Butterfly Conservation staff or Cumbria Butterfly Conservation Branch volunteers to carry out surveys and monitoring of specific butterflies or netted carpet moth. These surveys take place at specific times of year depending on species, and usually in warm dry weather, in the middle of the day. Habitat assessments will also be carried out early in the season. Many of the sites are over rough ground, a long walk from roads, and uphill, so some level of fitness and walking experience is needed, as well as suitable footwear and clothing. Surveys in Grizedale Forest, however, can be done on well surfaced roads and paths, by bicycle or from a car.
2. Support staff or other volunteers in carrying out practical works such as primrose planting, bracken or scrub control.
3. Raise awareness of butterflies and moths by helping with public events or talking to visitors at Grizedale and other sites.
4. Take part in the Big Butterfly Count and encourage others to get involved in surveys and monitoring.
5. Contribute to the development of Rusland Horizons volunteering to help develop and improve volunteering by participating in feedback sessions and celebration events.

6. To work positively with staff, partner organisations and volunteers to promote the work and role of Rusland Horizons.
7. Any other duties as reasonably requested.

### **Practicalities**

1. **Expenses:** Expenses are paid for travel costs only, incurred as a result of volunteering with us. The current rate is 29p per mile to a maximum of £10 per day.
2. **Supervisor:** Hilary Smith, Butterfly Conservation, Wings in the Woods Project Officer
3. **Time commitment:** Maximum would be half a day a week between April and September for a regular butterfly survey walk, (part of the national Butterfly Monitoring Scheme) to occasional days, depending on tasks.
4. **Training and support:** Training in necessary skills and Health and Safety will be provided by Butterfly Conservation staff. This may be formal (Training Workshop, or informal on site). Continued support throughout project will be provided by Hilary Smith.

### **Knowledge, Skills and Experience**

**These will depend on the activities that you would like to be involved with.**

- An interest in butterflies and moths, and their conservation.
- Willingness to learn and take part in relevant training opportunities.
- Able to work effectively and safely on your own (if necessary) and within a group.
- Physically able to participate in the activities selected (see above). Some activities are suitable for everyone.
- Able to relate openly and confidently to a wide range of people and be willing to approach members of the public to offer information in a friendly manner
- An interest in Rusland Horizons and willingness to understand their aims, objectives and vision, and share them with others.

**This role is intended as a gift relationship between volunteers and the organisation, it is binding in honour and trust only and not intended to be legally binding.**