VOLUNTEER

CASE STUDY

PAUL WHITAKER

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VOLUNTEER- CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST

PAUL'S VOLUNTEER ROLE

Volunteering is at the core of everything Cumbria Wildlife Trust (CWT) do for wildlife, people and places. They value every volunteer for their contributions, however big or small. CWT also know volunteering can help people to take action for nature and themselves.

In recent years, I have become more aware about the decline of curlews and other local flora and fauna. I have thought more about the options on what I can actually do to help nature recover.
Fortunately, there are opportunities for volunteering, fundraising and learning new skills at workshop events avaliable all year round from conservation organisations like the Cumbria Wildlife Trust (CWT)

Paul attended a workshop event in 2022 and started volunteering the following year. Paul lives in the 'green triangle' of South Cumbria, North Lancashire and North Yorkshire and has had lots of opportunities volunteering for lots of different conservation organisations and groups.

One day I saw a CWT volunteering advert showing an eye-catching shot of a volunteer party against a backdrop of beautiful Cumbrian countryside. The advert asked, "Is volunteering for you? Think about it ...not only would you be able to make a difference to the work of the Cumbria Wildlife Trust... there is something in it for you too..."
I signed up and have continued volunteering with CWT ever since.

Paul has always enjoyed being outside, surrounded by the sights and sounds of wildlife. The call of a curlew bird flying overhead during a South Lakeland walk always puts a spring in his step!

Paul's volunteering experience has been unique and interesting. He has been wildflower plug planting at a grasslands project site above Windermere; red squirrel surveying at Grasmere; transplanting wildflower seedlings at the Gosling Sike nursery, and has had an ongoing role helping out the volunteering team, based out of the Plumgarths office.

CWT are great at helping people learn the skills they need to take positive action at home. In 2022, I attended a wildflower propagation workshop at Gosling Sike nursery to learn how to grow threatened native heritage wildflowers. I have also learnt invaluable administrative skills from the Volunteering team, and I have already had to learn to identify native upland tree species, their seeds and seed processing.

Paul enjoys volunteering and has picked up many skills since starting his volunteering journey

My greatest enjoyment is the satisfaction of completing the day's task. I know that, even in a small way, I have helped CWT restore a little more space for nature. All my volunteering has been achieved working with friendly CWT staff and fellow volunteers who share my passion. Oh, and did I mention it is all in the beautiful Cumbrian Countryside?

For people who are thinking about volunteering but are a bit nervous about joining in Paul says " Volunteering opportunities are so varied, there will be something that you will enjoy"

WHAT DOES CWT VOLUNTEERING MEAN TO PAUL?

NEW SKILLS

MAKE FRIENDS

HELP NATURE

LEARN ABOUT WILDLIFE

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

MENTAL HEALTH