



NORTH PENNINES

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Volunteer Role Description

Organisation Name	North Pennines AONB Partnership
Organisation Overview	<p>The North Pennines AONB Partnership is an alliance of statutory agencies, local authorities and voluntary or community organisations which care about, and for, the area.</p> <p>The AONB Partnership is the body responsible for co-ordinating efforts to conserve and enhance the North Pennines. The AONB Partnership staff unit is based in Stanhope.</p>
Role Title	Nectarworks Roadside verge surveyor
Location	North Pennines AONB
Responsible to	Ruth Starr-Keddle
Purpose of role	<p>The North Pennines AONB has many flower-rich roadside verges, however it is impossible to survey the whole area. The North Pennines AONB Partnership is keen to find volunteers in the community who would like to monitor a local roadside verge.</p> <p>Volunteers would undertake botanical surveys of local roadside verges, and/or undertake a management diary of local roadside verges.</p>
Description of tasks	<p>Monitoring could be undertaken by walking along the roadside verge and recording as many plant species as possible (mainly wildflowers, plus grasses, sedges and rushes if possible). Volunteers should record the survey date, the time it took to do the survey, a list of plant species, plus the length of roadside verge surveyed with a grid reference.</p> <p>Further detailed monitoring could be undertaken by doing three to four quadrats (1 m x 1 m squares) per 100 m stretch, recording all of the plant species found</p>

North Pennines AONB Partnership Weardale Business Centre The Old Co-op Building
1 Martin Street Stanhope Bishop Auckland Co. Durham DL13 2UY

info@northpenninesaonb.org.uk

+44 (0)1388 528801

www.northpennines.org.uk





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	<p>(wildflowers, grasses, sedges and rushes) onto a survey sheet and estimating percentage cover (%).</p> <p>Volunteers could undertake ‘management diaries’: these would take the form of recording the date of when key plant species are flowering and setting seed (such as northern marsh orchids) and recording the date of when the roadside verges get cut (i.e. were the flower heads removed or had the flowers set seed by the time the verge was cut). It would be helpful if further details could be recorded such as whether the arisings (cuttings) were removed or whether they were left on site.</p>
<p>Time commitment</p>	<p>This is entirely down to the interests of the volunteer.</p>
<p>Skills & Qualifications</p>	<p>Basic skills in botany would be needed if undertaking a walk along a roadside verge to record the plant species.</p> <p>The ability to identify grasses, sedges and rushes would be desirable if undertaking to record some quadrats (1 m x 1 m squares).</p> <p>No additional skills would be required to undertake a management diary.</p>
<p>Training & Support</p>	<p>There will be two training sessions for volunteer botanists in early to mid-June 2016. Dates and venues to be confirmed:</p> <p>Wildflower identification refresher course: This course is designed for new or less confident botanists who would like to have a refresher in wildflower identification. The morning will be spent identifying wildflowers of flower-rich grasslands. The afternoon will be spent walking through North Pennines habitats.</p>



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	<p>Grasses, sedges and rushes refresher course plus training in survey skills: The morning will be spent identifying grasses, sedges and rushes. The afternoon will be spent surveying steep species-rich banks, demonstrating the use of quadrats (1m x 1m square), G.P.S. and a habitat mapping exercise.</p> <p>New and less confident botanists will be paired up with experienced botanists and there will be the opportunity to have an additional field training day with Ruth and/or experienced botanists.</p>
Reimbursement of expenses	Out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed: Mileage costs @ 40p per mile or public transport expenses incurred
Benefits to volunteer	The opportunity to develop new and existing skills and gain experience volunteering with the AONB Partnership
Application procedure	Please email Ruth
Contact information	Ruth Starr-Keddle, Nectarworks Project Officer: ruth@northpenninesaonb.org.uk