Wild Kielder – Monitoring

Volunteer Role Description



Wild Kielder – Wildlife Monitoring; Volunteer Role Description

Volunteer Role: Wild Kielder – Monitoring
Name of Site / Venue: Wild Kielder/East Kielder
Date(s): November 2026 onwards

About us

Forestry England are the country's largest land manager, caring for the nation's forests for people, nature, and the economy. The foundation of our organisation is our world-class sustainable management of the nation's forests.

Forestry England has committed to establishing Wild Core Areas within our forest landscapes. A key tenet of Wild Core Areas is that they will be places of innovation to rebuild biodiversity through restoring natural processes, marking a shift from more prescriptive forestry and nature conservation.

Wild Kielder was chosen to be one of those areas and covers 6,336 ha of land, owned by Forestry England towards the northern end of Kielder Forest, lying roughly between Kielder village and the Scottish border, focused on the East Kielder forests and Kielderhead Moors.

Wild Kielder Vision Statement

Wild Kielder: together, we are reshaping the uplands on a vast scale for nature and people - creating a dynamic, resilient landscape rich in biodiversity, where sustainable, productive forests stand as its thriving heart.

Volunteer Role Description

We are looking for volunteers to support our monitoring across the Wild Kielder project area. Monitoring is essential to show that our interventions are having a positive impact on nature, people and the climate. Monitoring ranges from checking camera traps and recording species (including pine marten, red squirrel and badger), to collecting water samples, setting up timelapse photography points or undertaking Riverfly monitoring. As the project develops, additional monitoring opportunities may become available.

When?

Date(s): November 2026 onwards, at least until Spring 2029

What's involved?

Depending on the monitoring task, volunteers will work in pairs or small groups or join a project staff member to undertake monitoring tasks. Volunteering will primarily take place in the Wild Kielder project area (Wild Kielder | Forestry England) and will require driving to reach the site and short walks on forest tracks and some uneven ground.

Tasks could include:

- Visiting camera traps in the project area, changing batteries and SD cards and reviewing the footage.
- Utilise AI systems to review camera trap data.
- Undertaking fixed point photography or setting up/checking on timelapse cameras.
- Collecting water samples
- Taking part in regular Riverfly monitoring sessions which is a chance to contribute to UK wide citizen science data collection project, as well as monitor watercourses in the project area for invertebrate health Riverfly Monitoring Initiative (RMI) — The Riverfly Partnership
- Various further monitoring tasks decided by the project team.

We'd like you to

- Enjoy working as part of a team
- Be reliable and enthusiastic
- Be happy to undertake any training offered
- Enjoy working in the outdoors and work in all weather conditions
- Be able to travel to the project area (or a nearby office to collect an Forestry England vehicle)
- Have a level of fitness sufficient to undertake the tasks

We will

- Provide appropriate training for all tasks you might undertake
- Provide any equipment required
- Provide you with appropriate equipment/tools for your health and safety
- Provide volunteering uniform
- Make a vehicle available if required
- Re-imburse genuine out of pocket expenses which includes travel expenses beyond your reporting station.
- Provide a volunteer parking pass after 35 hours of volunteering.

Who to contact?

Rachel French – Wild Kielder Wild Area Officer
07552706895
Rachel.french@forestryengland.uk

Richard Guy – Nature Recovery Manager

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07393 760988
richard.guy@forestryengland.uk

How to apply

If you are interested in volunteering for this volunteer role, please complete the Expression of Interest form public.forestryengland.uk/EOI/

Make sure when applying, you type Wild Kielder - Monitoring as the role which you are interested in. For the Forest, please type East Kielder. Then complete the remainder of the form as required.

Future opportunities

If you have more time to offer, or interested in practical restoration work, there may be further opportunities to volunteer across this project.

For more information about volunteering for Forestry England please visit our website **www.forestryengland.uk/volunteering**

Thank you for your interest