

## Role description:

The Volunteer Hills Ranger role is available to long-term BHP volunteers who have shown particular commitment and dedication to the BHP. A Volunteer Hills Ranger acts as the 'eyes and ears' of the Belfast Hills Partnership at the various properties within its operational boundary and will report anything of importance on their designated site.

## Purpose:

As a Volunteer Hills Ranger, you will be assigned to a site across the Hills, from Slievenacloy to Carnmoney. On a monthly basis, you will walk a prescribed route throughout the assigned site to check for anything of interest or out of place. The purpose of this is to help site managers and the BHP keep the Hills in check.

## Tasks and duties:

As a Volunteer Hills Ranger, you will walk your designated site at least once a month. You will be on the lookout for anything dangerous, damaged, out of place, or of particular interest: for example an uncommon plant species. You will record these on a survey sheet and pinpoint the location using a GPS handset so it is easily found. You will then report, via email, the information back to the site manager and BHP to ensure action is taken.



**Greater Butterfly Orchid**

## When:

All year round – Volunteer Hills Rangers are expected to send a report once a month. This requires the site to be walked at least once a month.

## Location:

The Volunteer will be assigned a site anywhere in the Hills: we try to match the site to be convenient to you.

## Why volunteer:

- Help protect your local environment
- Gain responsibility for an area
- Keep fit without the gym
- Learn new skills
- Gain valuable experience
- Feel a sense of ownership to your site

## Who will you volunteer with:

The Volunteer Hills Rangers are managed by our Volunteer Officer. You are required to carry out your duties alone or in pairs. There is a Lone Working Volunteer Policy which is followed by the BHP

and volunteers who work alone. Whilst carrying out your Volunteer Hills Ranger duties, you will likely be approached by the public.

### **Support, supervision and training:**

To be considered a Volunteer Hills Ranger you will have completed or be in the process of completing the core elements of ranger training, which include:

- GPS and mapping
- Biological surveying
- Practical conservation skills
- Walking in the Hills training

As part of your support, you will receive regular meetings with the Volunteer Officer to discuss your role as Volunteer Hills Ranger. The meetings will cover how you are getting on and if you have any issues or training needs. It will also give you the opportunity to request training or let us know if anything can be improved or changed to make the experience as a Volunteer Hills Ranger the best possible. Volunteer feedback and input is always welcome and is treated with respect and enthusiasm by the Volunteer Officer. You may also request a reference from our Volunteer Officer.

### **Commitment:**

To be considered a Volunteer Hills Ranger, you will have already gifted 20 days of your time to the Belfast Hills Partnership as a Conservation Volunteer. As a Volunteer Hills Ranger, you will need to be able to commit to walking your assigned site at least once a month, although you can decide when. You will also need to write a monthly report (you will be issued with a survey sheet) which you will then send to the site manager and BHP.

### **Skills needed:**

You will need to be trained or training in:

- GPS and mapping
- Biological surveying
- Practical conservation skills
- Walking in the Hills

### **What to bring:**

As a Volunteer Hills Ranger, you will need to be prepared for all weather possibilities. You must wear clothing suitable for all weathers, layers and waterproofs are essential. A rucksack with a personal first aid kit, water, a map of the site, charged mobile phone and a GPS handset if you own one, if not, we can provide one to loan for your ranger duties.



## We provide:

Each Volunteer Hills Ranger will be given a soft-shell jacket, emblazoned with the Belfast Hills Partnership logo on the chest and arm. It will also have 'Hills Ranger' embroidered across the shoulders, so that you may be clearly identified. We will also loan a GPS handset for your ranger duties, to be returned on arranged dates.

Although we would like to, we currently cannot afford to cover expenses for volunteers. Volunteers will be notified of any future changes to this policy.

## Insurance:

As a volunteer you will be covered under Belfast Hills Partnership Employer's Liability insurance whilst actively engaged with a Belfast Hills Partnership task or activity.



If you are interested in the role, have the necessary skills and are able to commit to the role, or would like to find out more, please contact:

Email our Volunteer Officer at:  
[lisa.critchley@belfasthills.org](mailto:lisa.critchley@belfasthills.org)

Or call:  
02890 603 466

**Get involved!**