

Greater Manchester Ecology Unit

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Principal Ecologist:
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Greater Manchester
Ecology Unit

Your ref :
Our ref : 0999
Doc ref : SA21-2
Contact : Stephen Atkins
Date : 21st February 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: CARBON LANDSCAPE CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT - LAND ACCESS PERMISSION REQUEST FOR CITIZEN SCIENCE SURVEYS

The Carbon Landscape Citizen Science Project, supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund, is training skilled volunteers to carry out surveys of birds, dragonflies, plants and water voles across the Carbon Landscape Programme area which includes some of the most ecologically important habitats in Salford, Warrington and Wigan.

We hope that most of the surveys can be conducted from public rights of way, but we would also be very grateful for your permission for access onto your land, where required, for the purposes of this project which will monitor the distribution of key species across the landscape. The data collected will be used to support the conservation of declining species including farmland birds, water vole and willow tit.

Most of the surveys involve either walking around the edges of fields, across uncultivated land or along the edge of water courses. All our citizen scientist volunteers have been provided with a Surveyors Code of Conduct, a copy of which is attached. This will ensure that they inform you in advance of the proposed survey visit, respect your rights as the landowner and take care when walking across your land to avoid damage to crops and close gates behind them.

If you are willing to grant permission for access onto your land, would you kindly complete the attached form and confirm that the map supplied correctly shows the boundary of your land ownership or tenancy. The documents should be scanned and emailed to carbonlandscape@gmwildlife.org.uk or alternatively posted to Stephen Atkins at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit. A stamped addressed envelope is enclosed.

Our ultimate aim is for the wildlife information collected by our volunteers to be used to support species conservation. You could make an important contribution to conservation through Countryside Stewardship which is a government program that provides financial incentives for farmers and land managers to look after their environment. Here are some examples:

- Conserving and restoring wildlife habitats (leaving over winter food for farmland birds like stubble or rye-grass seed set)

GMEU provides an ecological advisory service to and on behalf of the ten district councils of Greater Manchester
The Unit is attached to Tameside as lead authority.

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- Flood risk management (maintenance of water bodies)
- Habitat creation and management (management of hedgerows)
- Reducing widespread water pollution from agriculture (preventing run off and soil erosion)
- Keeping the character of the countryside

If areas of your land qualify for Countryside Stewardship, would this be something that you would consider entering into in the future?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/countryside-stewardship-get-paid-for-environmental-land-management>

If you would like further information about the Citizen Science Project, or would like a summary of the results from your land when they become available, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Yours faithfully

Derek Richardson

Principal Ecologist

Should you have any questions, or wish to discuss, please contact GMEU or Carbon Landscape.

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