

**Volunteer Role**: Great Fen Voluntary Officer

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| **Support Person** | Henry Stanier, Great Fen Monitoring & Research Officer, The Countryside Centre, Chapel Road, Ramsey Heights, Cambridgeshire PE26 2RS. [Henry.stanier@wildlifebcn.org](mailto:Henry.stanier@wildlifebcn.org) |
| **Role Purpose** | As part of the Great Fen Restoration Team, you will gain knowledge and experience in conservation activities through all four seasons in the Great Fen, one of the most important habitat restoration projects in Europe, diverse in wildlife and wildlife habitats, including new ditches, ponds, scrapes, meres, meadows and reedbeds.  Through weekly volunteering, 4 days a week from the beginning of September 2018 to the end of August 2019 incl., you will be involved for half of your time with planning and undertaking restoration management and half your time with restoration monitoring.  It is an exciting time in the Great Fen, our monitoring and management activities, combining to manage the water levels and the vegetation structure and witness the resulting increase in wildlife. |
| **Specific Tasks** | Participate in practical habitat management tasks including installing/repairing post and rail fencing, stock fencing, boundary clearance, mowing and raking. Also, step, stile, gate, hide and bridge building, signage, way-marking, water level management, and training in and use of brush-cutter and chainsaw.  Assist staff with preparation for the restoration volunteer team (e.g. completing risk assessments, tools maintenance and site preparation work).  Monitoring will include breeding and wintering bird transects, bird ringing (early mornings), aquatic and terrestrial plants surveys, aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, amphibians (evenings) water voles, small mammals, bat surveys (nights), use of remote detection equipment (including trail cameras), water quality sampling, ground water monitoring, fixed-point photo-monitoring, drone photography.  Monitoring tasks will also include regular work using laptops/desktops for data handling, manipulation and analysis, incl. bat sonogram analysis, and posting website sightings. |
| **Skills and Qualities Needed** | Volunteers will come from a wide range of backgrounds and will have many different qualities and skills. Essential skills and qualities for this role are:   * Hold a current UK driving licence and own transport. * Understands and responds to Health and Safety needs. * Good team player with the ability to foster collaborative working and a positive attitude. * Good oral and written communication skills and the ability to engage a variety of audiences. * Competent user of Windows/Microsoft Office based computer software, including Word, Excel, and Outlook. * Self-motivated, flexible and willing to work hard outdoors in all weathers. * Willingness to develop practical and ecological skills. * Physically capable of using hand tools, power tools and machinery. * Treat people with respect and be tolerant of diverse backgrounds, views and approaches.   Desirable skills for this role are:   * Some experience in practical management of nature reserves or similar green spaces. * Some experience of habitat and/or species surveying. * A good general knowledge of British natural history. * Basic understanding of the principles of ecology and the practices of nature conservation. * Knowledge of ecological sampling techniques and importance of data integrity. |
| **Commitment** | Weekly volunteering. Minimum of 4 days a week from September 2018 to the end of August 2019 incl. Limited (capped) expenses for travel available. |
| **Support and Training** | The volunteer will be given regular one to one guidance and support. During this support, any relevant training that may be required will be identified and the volunteer will be offered suitable training to meet their needs. |
| **Expectations of WTBCN Volunteers** | 1. Willingness to abide by the Wildlife Trust BCN’s Policies and Procedures. 2. Willingness to use support systems. 3. Co-operation with administrative tasks *e.g. filling in expenses forms.* 4. Commitment to attend on-going training. |
| **Location of volunteering** | Great Fen Living Landscape project area, between Huntingdon and Peterborough (incl. Corney’s Farm, off the B660 between Holme and Ramsey St Mary’s, Cambridgeshire and the Countryside Centre, Chapel Road, Ramsey Heights, Cambridgeshire, PE26, 2RS). |

Task Description Updated: *Insert Date*