

**Volunteer Role**: Great Fen Monitor

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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** | Help Implement the Wildlife Trust’s annual monitoring programme in the Great Fen ([www.greatfen.org.uk](http://www.greatfen.org.uk)), part of a team, using and developing species identification and other skills. |
| **Specific Tasks** | * Carry out fieldwork gathering biological and other types of data as part of long-term monitoring, in and around the Great Fen, on weekdays, evenings and weekends. * Gather data on birds, bats, small mammals, amphibians, terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates and plants weekends (see relevant methodologies for reference). * Submit causal recording of species, using forms provided. * Collate and input data, converting it into an electronic format. * Provide brief reports of monitoring fieldwork for website ‘wildlife sightings’ page or similar. * When convenient, provide cover for other volunteers if they are unable complete tasks. * Assist in training other volunteers, incl. guidance and training material for volunteer training. * Support the development and refinement of project methodologies. * Provide materials, such as photographs (credited to the photographer), as part of monitoring or general requests for images for presentations, publications and displays. * Assist, where possible, with related public engagement activities. |
| **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:   * Relevant training and/or experience in species identification skills (e.g. ability to identify common birds by their songs). * Willingness to learn and develop new skills relevant to the tasks necessary to deliver the monitoring programme. * Willingness to work alone and as a team. * Ability to work with a range of people from different age groups, backgrounds and levels of experience. * Be approachable, open, polite and helpful to others. * Ability and willingness to adapt to the changing nature of the Great Fen, which involves a dynamic restoration process (e.g. changing resources, wildlife and access etc.) and, therefore, a dynamic monitoring programme. * Communicate using email etc., on a regular basis concerning progress with tasks (e.g. fieldwork). * Plan ahead and sign up to activities in annual programme of ‘teamwork’ dates. * Trustworthy with confidential wildlife information such as rare species or breeding locations and roosts. * Comfortable with working in close proximity to livestock (e.g. cattle and sheep etc.). * Hold a current driving licence and be able to use own vehicle to get to the Great Fen. * Willingness to mentor others. |
| **Commitment** | A commitment to long-term volunteering, with an average of eight days (60 hours) a year, to carry out ongoing survey and monitoring fieldwork, plus additional time to collate data gathered and produce brief reports throughout the year. |
| **Support and Training** | The volunteer will be given guidance and support on a one-to one basis and as part of a group. 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 timesheets. 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). |

Task Description Updated: *Insert Date*