

**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 |
| **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.
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| **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.
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| **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.
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| **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*