



Volunteer Role Description

- Role title:** Great Fen Monitor (Wildlife Trust BCN Volunteer)
- Role Purpose:** Implement survey and monitoring methodologies as part of a team, using and developing species identification and other skills, in the Great Fen www.greatfen.org.uk
- Accountable to:** Henry Stanier, Great Fen Monitoring and Research Officer (Great Fen Restoration Team) as a volunteer for the Wildlife Trust, lead partner in the Great Fen project. Contactable on 07734 478467 or Henry.Stanier@wildlifebcn.org
- Location:** 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).
- Hours:** 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.
- Applications:** Applications should be made on a volunteer application form. CVs will not be considered. Forms should be emailed to henry.stanier@wildlifebcn.org

Benefits:

- Develop skills and experience of survey and monitoring methods and equipment in the Great Fen.
- Volunteer alongside like-minded members from the local community.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the Great Fen Living Landscape.
- Free booking on up to five Wildlife Training Workshops a year. These are reasonably priced public courses for adults covering a wide range of topics including species identification and photography.
- Free attendance on additional training organised. These sessions are designed specifically for volunteers to help support and develop the skills they use while volunteering.
- Regular email updates on Great Fen monitoring activities and wildlife sightings.
- Free attendance at the monitoring conferences as and when organised.

Closing date: N/A

The Great Fen will be an enveloping landscape of 3,700 ha around Holme Fen and Woodwalton Fen National Nature Reserves. By buying and restoring farmland, the Great Fen will join together the two reserves, recreating a range of wetland features with unprecedented conservation benefits for wildlife.

The Great Fen is a long term project and is delivered by a partnership of five organisations, each bringing their own expertise: Environment Agency, Huntingdonshire District Council, Middle Level Commissioners, Natural England and the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire.

Great Fen Monitors are volunteers in the Great Fen Restoration Team, who will help to monitor the restoration of the Great Fen. For more information about the Great Fen see the website www.greatfen.org.uk

Role description/key responsibilities:

- Surveys gathering biological and other types of data as part of long-term monitoring, in and around the Great Fen, on weekdays, evenings and weekends.
- Gathering 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 gathered, converting it into an electronic format.
- Provide brief reports of monitoring fieldwork for website 'wildlife sightings' page or similar.

Also help to:

- Provide cover for other volunteers when they cannot 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 yourself), as part of monitoring or general requests for images for presentations, publications and displays.
- Assist with related public engagement activities.
- Carry out activities as requested by the Great Fen Ecology and Recording Officer.

This role description cannot cover every issue or task that may arise. The responsibilities listed above suggest what may be available to the Great Fen Volunteer. The exact work programme will be based upon the specific interests of the successful candidate and work available at the time.

Role holder profile:

Essential:

- Desire to support the Great Fen through volunteering.
- Willingness to learn and develop skills relevant to the voluntary tasks.
- 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.).
- Species identification skills as applicable (e.g. ability to identify common birds by their songs).
- Hold a current driving licence and be able to use own vehicle to get to the Great Fen.

Desirable:

- Experience of similar work.
- Willingness to mentor others.
- Relevant training and/or experience in species identification skills to learn new ways of doing things and to acquire new areas of knowledge.

Measurements of success:

- Able to communicate effectively with staff and other volunteers.
- Completes tasks on schedule and to agreed standards.
- Manages own time effectively.
- Works well as part of a team.
- Able to lead a group of volunteers in a task (in some cases).

- Contributes ideas for improvements in working practices.

Training offered: The Wildlife Trust organises an extensive programme of Wildlife Training Workshops run by specialists, that the Volunteer may attend free of charge:
<http://www.wildlifebcn.org/trainingworkshops>.

On-the-job training will be offered in the following areas, depending on experience:

- Species identification.
- Ecological recording and survey techniques.
- Abiotic monitoring techniques.
- Data handling and analysis.
- Community engagement including interpretation materials.
- Health & Safety and Risk Assessments.

Other opportunities for gaining experience in this Wildlife Trust may be available, depending on the interests of the individual.

Notes: The Wildlife Trust is a wildlife conservation charity that works for a better future for all kinds of wildlife across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. Our mission is to protect and improve habitats and wildlife in our local area as well as helping people to enjoy and understand their local wildlife.