



ROLE DESCRIPTION

Monitoring/Surveying Volunteer

What do Monitoring/Surveying Volunteers do?

Little Ouse Headwaters Project (LOHP) Monitoring/Surveying Volunteers are involved in a wide range of surveys and biological monitoring including botanical surveys, riverfly monitoring, dipwell and water level recording, fixed point photography, mammal surveys (water vole, otter etc), reviewing trail camera footage, sorting images and much, much more.

Monitoring/surveying can take place across a range of sites with varied habitats. Due to the sensitive nature of the sites some surveys be restricted during the main breeding season for birds (April to June inclusive).

Why not come along and meet us and find out more about LOHP and see whether being a Monitoring/Surveying Volunteer is for you.

If you decide you would like to volunteer for LOHP, you will be asked to fill in a Volunteer Registration Form (which can be sent electronically) supplying relevant personal information such as related experience or any medical conditions which might affect the type of work offered. However, experience is not necessary as training is provided. Ask if you require further support and we will try to assist, where practical.

Volunteering is a social event and there are usually plenty of opportunities to mingle and chat with other volunteers. There are two organised annual social events one during the summer and one around Christmas time. These are enjoyable get-togethers and a chance for us to thank all the volunteers for their hard work. Previous events have included guided walks around nature reserves, mini-conference, talks, and BBQs.

The LOHP newsletter, website and social media enables volunteers to keep up to date with projects and to find out what else LOHP has been working on recently.

Where and When?

Monitoring/surveying takes place on LOHP owned and leased land along the Little Ouse on the Norfolk and Suffolk border currently between Garboldisham and Redgrave and Lopham Fen National Nature Reserve which is managed by Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT), and on some other local sites. We also work closely with neighbouring landowners on their sites such as SWT.

Details of group activities including times and locations will be discussed with the volunteer on/prior to joining and details will be emailed out a few days before the activity to all volunteers who are on the circulation list. If you do not have access to email, telephone the contact given below. Volunteers can give as much or as little of their time as they like.

What to wear/bring?

Please wear suitable clothing and sturdy footwear if monitoring/surveying outdoors. Protection against the weather such as sun cream, a hat or a waterproof is advisable, along with a fully charged mobile phone.

Equipment required for the activity will be supplied.

At the site

Please bring with you any refreshments you may require. Toilet facilities are not usually available. All volunteers are advised to carry their emergency contact card/bracelet, issued when they started. If you are visiting the site alone make sure you have told someone where you are going, what you are doing and when you will be back (Buddy System); so that they can alert the emergency services if you don't get in touch within an agreed timeframe.

LOHP support and benefits

Your LOHP member is the point of contact should new volunteers have any questions or if any problems arise. Where possible new volunteers will be paired up with those who are more experienced to provide support.

There are training opportunities for volunteers to further their skills depending on the abilities and interests of the individual and the requirements of LOHP. Volunteers can then help to support and develop new volunteers.

First aid

We recommend you carry your own first aid kit if out on site or make arrangements with whoever is managing your project. If you have an accident, however small, or even a near-miss, please let us know so we can keep a record of the incident and ensure appropriate treatment. Recording near-miss incidents helps us to prevent future accidents.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about our survey and monitoring volunteer opportunities or you are ready to get started as a volunteer, please get in touch:

PHONE 01379 898009 (Rowena Langston) or
01379 898009 (Reg Langston) or
07919 912045 (Ellie Beach - Conservation Manager)

EMAIL rowena.langston@lohp.org.uk or
reg.langston@lohp.org.uk or
ellie.beach@lohp.org.uk

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