



ROLE DESCRIPTION Voluntary Warden

What do Voluntary Wardens do?

Little Ouse Headwaters Project (LOHP) Voluntary Wardens are the eyes and ears of LOHP. By visiting their chosen site regularly, they can observe any changes on the sites, engage with local people and can get involved with any monitoring/surveying or practical work as they wish.

Why not come along and meet us and find out more about LOHP and see whether being a Voluntary Warden 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?

Voluntary wardening will take place on your chosen site* which is either owned or leased by LOHP 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).

*Some sites already have Voluntary Wardens so you may be offered an alternative site as close to your first choice as possible; in some cases, some sites have more than one Voluntary Warden who work closely together.

Volunteers can give as much or as little of their time as they like from a few hours a month, to weekly or even daily visits to their site. Activities undertaken on site vary from site to site and person to person, you can get involved as much or as little as you want.

Voluntary Warden activities can include just regularly walking around the site, checking the paths and reporting any problems (such as branches overhanging the paths, gates not closing properly). If you want to get more involved in your site other activities could include litter picking, monitoring water levels, stock checking, monitoring/surveying, community liaison, guided walks and events.

What to wear/bring?

Please wear suitable clothing and sturdy footwear for visiting your site. Protection against the weather such as sun cream, a hat or a waterproof is advisable, along with a fully charged mobile phone.

LOHP supplies protective clothing such as goggles, hard hats, and gloves if required which must be worn as advised. Any tools and equipment required for the activity are also supplied (e.g. litter picker and bags).

Voluntary Wardens report directly to the Conservation Manager or designated Trustee.

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 train in first aid and various habitat management skills and in turn support and develop new volunteers.

First aid

We recommend you carry your own first aid kit if out on site. 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 Voluntary Warden volunteer opportunities or you are ready to get started as a volunteer, please get in touch:

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

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

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