

# Little Ouse Headwaters Project

[www.lohp.org.uk](http://www.lohp.org.uk)



## Restoring the Little Ouse at Blo' Norton - October 2013

### Part 2 Who did what?

Project manager - Nigel Holmes

Photos: Nigel Holmes, Chris Gay, Arthur Rivett, Reg Langston, Peter Hughes,  
Penny Hemphill, Nigel Clark, Helen Smith, Nicky Rowbottom

# 1. Important preparation . . .

Before the digger started there were some things that had to be done....

What are  
they doing?  
Can you guess?



Penny Hemphill, Suffolk Wildlife Trust & Julia Massey Environment Agency



Clue: We're ecologists.

We study animals and plants in their habitats, and help to protect uncommon species.

Sometimes we get wet!



Penny Hemphill, Suffolk Wildlife Trust & Julia Massey Environment Agency

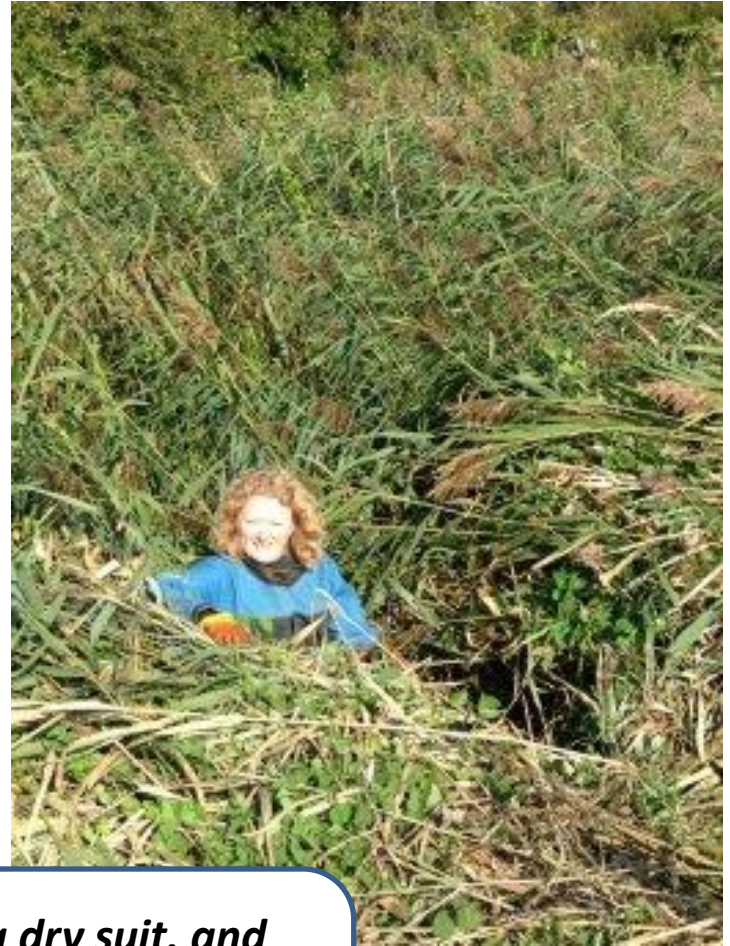
They're checking  
for water voles!



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# Penny Hemphill of Suffolk Wildlife Trust explains how . . .



*First you put on a dry suit, and  
slither down on your bottom into  
the river and hope you don't go  
in much above your waist.*





***Then you grovel about in the vegetation searching for water vole burrows with your finger tips.***







***If we found any burrows we put hazard tape up to show the digger driver where to avoid.***

***Can you see the tape in this picture?***

***The worst bit was getting out at the end – it's very muddy – trying to pull your feet out can be very hard.***







*In 2008 we found just one or two signs of water voles along here. This time they were all the way along.*

*I've never found so many signs of voles on a stretch of main river. It's amazing.*

*Now - we hope - we've made it even better for them.*



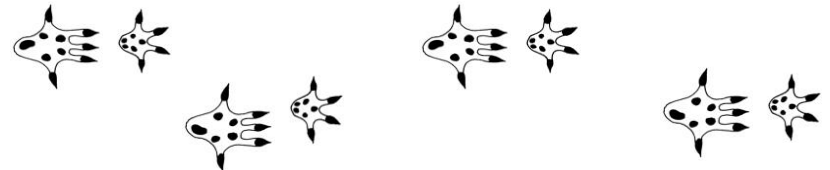


# Vole signs *you* can look for

Pieces of grass ,  
chopped up ready to eat



Vole poo – very small and neat  
(like Guinea pig poo)





## 2. Doing the digging . . .



Engineer Nigel Holmes discusses the work with the digger driver



The engineer shows the driver where to dig





Trevor Butler carefully drives the digger to the right place . . .



... and skilfully uses the machine's bucket to move the mud



# Which job would *you* like to do?



The **ecologists** had to look for signs of water voles and mark where they were to keep them safe during the works.



The **river engineer** had to draw up the plans, decide what to do and discuss it all with the LOHP. He had to show the digger driver where to dig and make sure the whole project was successful.



The **digger driver** had to get the digger to the right places (safely) and follow the engineer's instructions about moving the mud and reeds.

Lots of different people,  
working with nature,  
have made the Little Ouse  
what it is today.

What will it be like tomorrow?

Keep an eye on the river.

You never know  
what you'll see there!

