

Field Surveyor Volunteer

What does the role involve?

The role will vary depending on the survey(s) you decide to help with including: walking set transect routes, checking reptile mats, FIT counts, visual soil assessments, grassland rapid assessments & checking mammals prints.

The role will offer an opportunity to develop species identification skills and spend time outdoors with a purpose whilst enjoying our beautiful green spaces. You'll contribute data towards the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) which is dedicated to maintaining a comprehensive ecological information hub. You'll also be contributing valuable data for a greater understanding of what impact the changes we are making in a farming practises are having on biodiversity. You'll also gain valuable volunteering and surveying experience which is helpful for pursuing a career in conservation.

Time required: Flexible hours between April – September annually

Tasks: Visiting our sites regularly from April to September as part of a rota system.
Following a set route and methodology.
Reporting data to TVERC (Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre) and UKBMS (United Kingdom Butterfly Monitoring Scheme)

Location: Bessie's Field, Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ (Near Castle Hill, Wittenham Clumps)

What skills and experience do you need?

Most of our volunteer roles do not require in-depth previous experience as we provide a full induction, but the following skills and attributes would make you particularly suited for this role:

- An interest in wildlife and enjoy spending time outdoors
- Species identification skills are ideal, but not essential
- Surveying experience is helpful, but not essential

There will be a rota available to sign up to. Initially, you will be supported until you feel confident doing the surveys on your own. Timings are flexible, you can fit the surveys in and around your availability but make sure the conditions are suitable for surveying (not windy or raining for example). The location of transects and quadrats will be shared with you during the training.

Pollinators:

- Butterfly transects will need to be carried out by a volunteer once a week until the end of September.
- There are 4 quadrats to do each week, until the end of September.

Birds:

- The bird surveys will need to be carried out once a month across the entire year. There are 3 transects to complete per month.

Habitats:

- There are 6 transects to complete annually. These are usually conducted in May and June. The training this year will therefore be in advance for next year's surveying, but you are welcome to practise in the meantime.

Soils:

- Visual Evaluation of Soil Score (VESS) will involve digging a small hole and looking at the soil structure.
- Earthworm counts. Between March and May.

Reptiles:

- There will be 20 refuges to check weekly between February and April and monthly between May and September.

Mammals:

- There will be 10 traps to set and checked every day for 5 days from April to October.

Our community

Being part of our community means connecting with like-minded people, learning new skills while sharing your own, spending time outdoors, and deepening your appreciation for the natural world.

Our fantastic team of staff and volunteers is passionate about the environment and dedicated to supporting Earth Trust — and their enthusiasm is truly infectious!

As a volunteer, you'll receive a weekly bulletin to keep you informed about new opportunities, news, and events. We also take time to celebrate your contributions, with an annual volunteer social and smaller get-togethers throughout the year.

Get in touch

For further information, or if you'd like to arrange an informal chat about the role, please contact our Volunteering and Culture Manager, Nicola Frost

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Email: Volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk