

## Volunteer Role Outline

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| <b>Role title</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Volunteer Hairstreak Butterfly Surveyor</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Group name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and the Ray (RBOR) Team                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Based at location</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| You will be assigned one farm to survey, located between Oxford, Bicester, and Aylesbury.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Purpose of the role</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p>Conduct hairstreak butterfly surveys as part of the Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and the Ray (RBOR) project.</p> <p>The data you collect will help us to understand the distribution of hairstreaks in the area and inform where we focus work to improve habitat quality and connectivity across the landscape. We hope that this project will result in the increase of hairstreak numbers and their range in the BOR area. The data you collect will therefore directly contribute to nature's recovery.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Type of work in which you will be involved</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p>You will carry out hairstreak butterfly surveys at an assigned farm in the BOR area, recording the number of individuals seen. We ask that you conduct 3 surveys in total, consisting of one nighttime and two daytime surveys.</p> <p>You will use UV to look for glowing butterfly larvae of Black and White-letter Hairstreak at night, walking the length of hedgerows and recording how many you see. The daytime surveys will focus on looking at hedgerow margins and oak trees and recording any adult Green and Purple Hairstreak you see. You will be expected to record your findings on iRecord.</p> <p>Nighttime surveys must be carried out in pairs. This can be with a friend or family member, or we can pair you with another volunteer. The sites will be on private farmland in rural areas, so access to a car will be essential.</p> <p>We are holding a training day at Horton cum Studley Millennium Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026, in the evening, where we will teach you about the hairstreak species and show you how to survey with UV.</p> |

### Experience &/or qualifications needed

No previous experience of conducting habitat or wildlife surveys necessary  
 Hairstreak butterfly species ID useful, but not essential  
 Confident organising surveys with landowners  
 Confident uploading survey responses online and emailing them to staff  
 Ability to follow detailed instructions  
 Ability to follow health and safety guidelines  
 Interested in wildlife and nature conservation and/or citizen science  
 Friendly attitude

We welcome volunteers of all abilities; however, this role involves moving across mixed and often rough terrain. Please let us know about any access needs when you apply so that we can match you to more accessible sites.

### Times/days we would like you to be available

Volunteer surveyors are asked to complete their assigned surveys independently, within the following time frame and schedule:

UV surveys for Black and White-letter Hairstreak must be conducted between **April – June 2026**. Daytime surveys for Green Hairstreak must be conducted between **April – July 2026**, and daytime surveys for Purple Hairstreak must be conducted **end of June – August 2026**. Volunteers are expected to liaise with their site's landowner to find a date and time that is suitable.

Note: If you cannot commit to this number of surveys or the specific time slots but are still interested in being involved, please let us know and we can discuss with you.

If you enjoy this role, there will be an opportunity to survey for Brown Hairstreak eggs in the winter of 2026/2027.

### Benefits to volunteer & possible training opportunities

- The chance to actively participate in supporting BBOWT's inspiring RBOR project, helping to put nature into recovery.
- Increased knowledge on hairstreak habitat: You will learn about habitat requirements of all hairstreak butterfly species
- Survey methodology: Learn to conduct UV nighttime surveys and daytime surveys
- Hairstreak species ID: Learn to identify all 5 hairstreak species
- Data collection & handling: Recording data on iRecord
- Communication: Interacting with landowners, volunteers, and staff
- Access our free volunteer walks and talks programme.

- Be part of a volunteer community and access our Volunteer Hub.
- Discounts on food and beverages at BBOWT visitor centres, on some BBOWT adult learning workshops and with partner retailers.

**Person to whom you will be responsible**

BBOWT's RBOR Nature and Greenspaces Officer who will offer support and advice as well as informing you of any courses/events of interest.

**Expenses payable**

No

**Interview, References or DBS check required**

None

