

Volunteer Role Outline

Role title
Volunteer Hedge Surveyor
Group name
Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and the Ray (RBOR) Team
Based at location
You will be assigned two farms to survey, located between Oxford, Bicester, and Aylesbury.
Purpose of the role
Conduct hedgerow surveys as part of the Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and the Ray (RBOR) project. The data you collect will help us to understand the condition of hedges in the area and inform where we focus hedge restoration work to improve habitat quality and connectivity across the landscape. By becoming a volunteer hedge surveyor, the data you collect will focus hedgerow management work across the BOR area which will directly contribute to nature's recovery.
Type of work in which you will be involved
<p>You will carry out hedgerow surveys at farms in the BOR area, collecting data on the condition of the hedge. This will involve walking the length of the hedgerow and filling in a survey form as you go, answering questions about species composition and taking some very basic measurements. We will then ask you to send us the data from the survey.</p> <p>You can carry out the surveys alone, with friends or family, or with another volunteer. The sites will be on private farmland in rural areas, so access to a car will be essential. We are holding a training day at BBOWT's Meadow Farm site on Sunday 29th March 2026, where we will teach you the survey methodology and practice on some of our reserve hedges.</p>
Experience &/or qualifications needed
<p>No previous experience of conducting habitat, or wildlife surveys Hedgerow plant 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 demeanour</p>

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

Surveys must be conducted between **April and July 2026**. Each volunteer is expected to survey two sites over this period. Volunteers are expected to liaise with their site's landowners to find a day 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 it with you.

Benefits to volunteer & possible training opportunities

- The chance to actively participate in supporting BBOWT's inspiring RBOR project, helping to put nature into recovery.
- Hedge Management: You will learn about the hedge management cycle and gain knowledge of what is required to keep a hedge healthy
- Survey methodology: Learn to conduct hedge condition surveys
- Hedgerow species ID: Learn to identify common hedgerow trees, shrubs and margin plants
- Data collection & handling: Recording data on paper and uploading to a website
- 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

