



Orchards East - Survey Volunteer

Introduction

Orchards East is an exciting environmental and cultural project covering six counties in the East of England - Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Funded by the Heritage Lottery fund and based in the School of History at the University of East Anglia (UEA), it is devoted to the past, present and future of orchards in eastern England, and will last for three years.

The project extends initiatives already developed by Suffolk Traditional Orchards Group (STOG) and other partners, including the East of England Apples and Orchards Project (EEAOP).

A collaborative project working with existing county orchard groups, other interested groups and orchard owners, Orchards East hopes to stimulate interest and engage a wide range of new volunteers in all things orchard!

Role Description

Volunteer Surveyors will help Orchards East discover the number and extent of orchards in their local area; whether they are on a historical orchard site or planted recently; the varieties of fruit and nuts present; the size of the trees; and the potential of the orchard to support a diversity of wildlife.

The role can involve all or some of the following different aspects of a survey;

- Walking around your own, or neighbouring, parishes and recording details of the orchards present that you see from footpaths.
- Visiting specific orchards to record the numbers and sizes of trees and varieties of fruit and nuts present, as well as other features, such as ponds and hedges.
- Talking to owners about their orchard's history and recording details such as date of planting and changes of ownership.
- Recording the loss of old orchards.

Key tasks

These could include:

- Recording the presence and location of old and new orchards in your local area.
- Recording details of the numbers and varieties of fruit trees in specific orchards.
- Taking photographs of the orchard trees.
- Recording what the land is used for now if the orchard is no longer there.
- Returning the completed survey form to Orchards East so that the data can be added to the Orchard's East database.

Orchards East will offer training in identifying orchards, keeping safe while out and about, and how to use the survey pack. The pack includes a detailed map of the parish showing historical and new sites, blank survey forms to be completed and background details about the project.

This role will suit people who..... enjoy variety, like to understand their local area, are happy to work on their own or with one or two other people and are interested in contributing to a community science project.

What's in it for you?

- The chance to learn more about your local area and its past.
- An opportunity to be part of a friendly, supported team.
- The satisfaction of contributing to a large-scale project which may inform conservation and planning decision making.

Volunteer requirements

- Interest in and enthusiasm for orchards.
- Physically active, able to walk your local area.
- The ability to read a map.
- The ability to complete the survey form (it's fine to ask questions if you're not sure how!)

Hours when the volunteering would take place

As and when the volunteer has free time. The commitment could be an hour or so a week for a couple of weeks or more if the volunteer wishes to undertake further surveys throughout the 3-year period of the Orchards East project.

For more information contact: info@orchardseast.org.uk or g.broad@uea.ac.uk