



Little Ouse Headwaters Project
Ellie Beach – Conservation Manager
Thelnetham Windmill, Mill Road,
Thelnetham, Diss, IP22 1JS
Email: ellie.beach@lohp.org.uk
Phone: 07919 912045

To find out more, become a member or donate visit www.lohp.org.uk

LOHP Annual Report for Annual Parish Council Meeting

2025/26 was another busy year for our volunteers undertaking practical conservation work and monitoring to manage our reserves. We have had a lot of new volunteers join us and we are working closely with local councils to provide corporate volunteering days.

Our monitoring and surveying volunteers run monthly Riverfly Monitoring, looking for special invertebrates on the Little Ouse River at Hinderclay Fen and Scarfe Meadows to keep a check on the water quality. Bird ringing continues annually on Hinderclay Fen.

In November 2025, we were lucky enough to purchase an additional reserve in Blo' Norton, Prince Freddy's Meadows which was part of the Blo' Norton Hall Estate. It comprises woodland, grazing meadow and 900m of riverside meadows. We have an appeal running to raise funds for the restoration of the reserve <https://www.lohp.org.uk/prince-freddys-meadows>. Currently there is no public access to the reserve, but we are undertaking regular guided walks – please get in touch if you are interested.

Also in November, we had a surprising new visitor, a Beaver <https://www.lohp.org.uk/latest-news/page/5>. It hasn't been recorded on our wildlife cameras for a while and we haven't found recent signs of activity, so it may have moved on, but earlier signs of its activity are still visible.

The Shorthorn cattle have been doing a great job grazing our reserves over the last year and have just returned for this season. We will be having some sheep join us soon. Visitors are reminded that it is a legal requirement to keep your dog under close control/on a lead when in areas with livestock and at this time of year there are also lots of ground nesting birds.

We are into year 4 of providing supplementary feeding stations for Turtle Doves, as part of the RSPB Operation Turtle Dove Project. We have feeding stations set up with two local landowners and on our reserve Reeves Meadows. We had one sighting last year, maybe this is the year that Turtle Doves return to the area to breed. If you think you might have an area suitable for Turtle Doves, then please get in touch.

Improving access - Norfolk County Council has the funding in place and is hoping to start construction on a new footbridge over the Little Ouse, connecting Blo' Norton Footpath15 in Norfolk with Hinderclay Footpath18 in Suffolk, later this year. More information will be circulated by them as the process continues.

We held our second LOHP Spring Plant and Craft Fair 2026 on Sunday 12th April at the Lophams Village Hall. It was a great success raising funds for Prince Freddy's Meadows Appeal. Our 'Art in Nature' Exhibition will be held on 30th and 31st August at Hinderclay Village Hall. We will be attending lots of events locally this year so do pop along and say hello or join us on one of our guided walks which can be found listed on our website. Hope to see you there.

Ellie Beach
LOHP Conservation Manager

April 2026

