

Dr Helen Smith

Helen has a long involvement in the Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens, heading the national Species Recovery Programme for one of the area's rarest species - the internationally endangered Fen Raft Spide - since 1991. Most of her career has been in aspects of wildlife conservation research, including with the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit in Oxford where she worked as a plant ecologist on agricultural ecosystems. She also has a long involvement in the voluntary conservation movement, serving on County Wildlife Trust and FWAG committees and as president of the British Arachnological Society. She is currently the Society's Conservation Officer and also President of the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society. She is an experienced public speaker and publishes in the scientific and more popular literature, including for BBC Wildlife magazine; she is the author of two books on spiders. As a founder member and trustee of the LOHP, she served as its first Hon. Secretary until 2009 and has remained closely involved in its committees.