



Essex Wildlife Trust Visitor Centres
 Abberton Reservoir: 01206 738172
 Bedfords Park: 01708 748646
 Chafford Gorges: 01375 484016
 Fingringhoe Wick: 01206 729678
 Hanningfield Reservoir: 01268 711001
 Langdon: 01268 419103
 Thorndon: 01277 232944

Essex Wildlife Trust is a conservation charity, established in 1959 to protect wildlife for the future and for the people of Essex. We have 7 visitor centres, 87 nature reserves and 1 nature park across the county.

Through a conservation project called Living Landscapes and Living Seas we are broadening our reach, working with other landowners, partner organisations, companies, local communities to help us achieve conservation of our wildlife countywide across land and sea.

This approach if considered by everyone will ensure wildlife is able to move, survive and

thrive across the county, not just in small pockets or nature reserves. The action of people in Essex is so important for this vision.

For further information on the areas of our work covered in this leaflet please contact your nearest visitor centre, take a look at our website www.essexwt.org.uk or contact the People and Wildlife Manager on 01621 862991.

You can also join the junior branch of The Wildlife Trusts. Visit www.wildlifewatch.org.uk and have fun helping to protect wildlife.



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ESSEX
 Wildlife Trust

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 Registered Charity No 210065

Outdoor Fun & Learning

with Essex Wildlife Trust



ESSEX
 Wildlife Trust

take the opportunity to get outside, get involved, have fun and learn

"This is great fun, I could do this every day." Kate, 8



- Weekend and school holiday activities
- Wildlife birthday parties
- Activities for under 5's
- Community events
- Youth organisations and group activities
- Outdoor learning for schools
- Forest school
- Courses and events for adults
- Volunteering

Leaflet supported by:
 Javalin Network Services (Platinum Corporate Members)
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For more than 50 years, Essex Wildlife Trust has run a diverse programme of events and activities giving the people of Essex the opportunity to become aware, understand and take positive action for the wildlife around them.

This programme has continuously developed and is delivered by a professional team of staff and volunteers, who always ensure an enjoyable, high quality and safe, experience.

Essex Wildlife Trust as a charity relies entirely on financial contributions from individuals through membership, donations and legacies. In order to support our work we request a donation for the various events and activities we provide. Please see our events guide, website and information in centres for requested donations. We thank you in advance for your support.



"This is the best school trip I have ever been on. I wish every day was like this."
Chloe, 10

Take part in a weekend or school holiday activity

There are events and activities for children and families to get involved with throughout the school holidays and on some evenings and weekends at our visitor centres and in your local community. These include family events for all ages, full day sessions for 8+ year olds (drop off and pick up), and the opportunity for young people to get involved in practical conservation sessions. Weekend and evening events include bat-detecting walks, astronomy workshops, reptile walks, seasonal themed events, orienteering, natural crafts, open days, opportunities to experience wildlife spectacles and even overnight camping events.

For dates and further information of these events please see our bi-annual events guides or visit www.essexwt.org.uk. Advance booking and donation is required for most events.

Book a birthday party with a difference

All our visitor centres offer wildlife-themed birthday parties for all ages. The sessions are packed with activities such as pond dipping, shelter building, treasure hunts, natural crafts and much more. After a great time outside you will have use of a room to provide your own party tea.

Come along to our activities for under 5's

Our visitor centres offer a fantastic range of weekly and monthly sessions for pre-school children and their families. They are a superb opportunity for little ones to experience the outdoor environment and through exploration and discovery, they will develop their sensory, physical, social and emotional skills. Great chance for parents to meet new people and experience the outdoors too.



Join us at a community event

Essex Wildlife Trust is active in a wide range of local communities, inspiring people to understand the importance of the wildlife in their surrounding landscape and coast, and what they can do to help. Our staff and volunteers attend community events and can support local people to improve an area for wildlife and people.

Providing outdoor learning for schools

A wide range of opportunities and activities are available for school and college groups, 4-18 years old. Our programmes compliment the National Curriculum while providing fun and inspirational outdoor learning. These can be delivered at our visitor centres and nature reserves or through a visit to your school or local outdoor space. We also provide training sessions for teachers.



Arrange an activity session for your organisation or community group

There are many opportunities for youth organisations such as Cubs and Brownies to get involved, through attending evening activity sessions at an EWT visitor centre and nature reserve or involvement with a local project, which can help work towards achieving an interest badge. Staff and volunteers arrange bespoke sessions for Children's Centres, physically and mentally disabled groups, adult groups, and many more to ensure every need is met where possible to engage a wide audience of people.



Delivering Forest School

Forest School sessions are delivered to school children and other community groups. The ethos of Forest School is to have regular (weekly) contact with a local woodland. At Forest School the group can safely discover, explore and enjoy the outdoor environment in a child-led way, allowing them to develop emotionally and physically and gain a life-long respect and understanding for the natural world.

Running courses and events for adults

As well as the opportunity to join local talks, guided walks and other events, Essex Wildlife Trust offers a programme of courses for adults, providing the opportunity to develop new skills and knowledge. Courses are run at various locations across the county and include bird feeding, otter and water vole surveying skills, and a range of wildlife identification courses. See our website or call 01621 862960 to be added to our mailing list.

Opportunities to become a volunteer

Many of our events and activities depend on a significant contribution of time and energy from volunteers. They support the staff team in many ways, from leading groups and events to developing ideas and new resources. We are always in need of new volunteers to help us with this valuable work. If you are interested please ask to speak to the Education Officer at your local visitor centre or call 01621 862991.

Many other volunteering opportunities exist within the Trust. For information contact the Volunteer and Staff Officer on 01621 862977.

Play - Learn - Explore - Discover - Value - Protect