

Essex Wildlife Trust

Volunteer Role Description



Job title Work Party Volunteer (Roding Valley)

Volunteer Manager Nature Reserves Volunteer Manager

Role purpose

To participate in organised outdoor activities to help manage Essex Wildlife Trusts nature reserves for the benefits of wildlife.

Background detail

Essex Wildlife Trust has 87 Nature Reserves, two Nature Parks and manage 8,400 acres of land. Work Party Volunteers manage our nature reserves alongside the Volunteer Wardens and Essex Wildlife Trust Conservation team.

Volunteers will attend scheduled work parties and undertake practical conservation tasks such as coppicing, scrub clearance and maintaining infrastructure such as fencing and walkways. Hands on training will be provided on site including the use of any tools.

Location

Roding Valley Meadows Nature Reserve, Grange Farm Centre, Chigwell, IG7 6DP

Roding Valley Meadows reserve is the largest remaining species-rich water meadow in Essex with its famous display of wildflowers and wonderful mosaic of habitats consisting of wildflower meadow, floodplain meadow, hedgerow, scrub, ponds, fen and woodland. Cattle graze on the reserve throughout spring and autumn months.

You can expect to see Brown sedge, Kingfisher, Devils-bit scabious, Kestrel, Grass snake, Toad, Willow Emerald Damselfly, veteran oak trees and approximately 25 species of butterfly!

Time commitment

The Essex Wildlife Trust work party season runs from September until March to avoid disturbing wildlife during breeding season.

Tasks carried out on work parties derive from a pre agreed site management plan.

- Willingness to be outdoors for a 2-4-hour period.
- Must have an adequate level of fitness to participate, this may include walking on uneven ground, assisting lifting heavy tools and using tools with a repetitive motion.
- Will usually require own transport to site, on some occasion's volunteers may be willing to car-pool.
- Volunteers work at their own pace and be comfortable in taking breaks when needed.
- Some nature reserves will not have access to toilets and washing facilities.

Sturdy work boots or wellies is required and clothes you don't mind getting muddy and dirty, plus water and food.

Role description

- Working outdoors to assist management of Essex Wildlife reserves on a wide variety of conservation tasks.
- Following the annual site management plan.
- Utilising a variety of hand tools to help complete tasks.
- Ensure that the work carried out on reserves is efficient and the reserves are left safe and tidy for visitors.
- Following Essex Wildlife Trust Codes of Good Practice, and help promote these motivating and supporting other volunteers.

- To uphold the values of Essex Wildlife Trust and to discuss the aims of the Trust with the aim to getting new members.
- Adhere to procedures relating to hygiene, health and safety, fire and security and any other relevant risk assessment information.

Specialist knowledge and experience

- Listen to their work party leader and carefully following instructions and adhering to health and safety advice.
- Enthusiasm, a positive attitude and an ability to work well with people from a variety of backgrounds is essential.

Why volunteer and why this opportunity?

If you enjoy being outdoors, meeting new people and hands on conservation work, then this role could be the perfect opportunity for you. This role does involve a reasonable amount of physical activity, so will enable you to keep your fitness levels high, as well as helping your mental health and wellbeing.

You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are making a genuine contribution to nature conservation, and you might find it rewarding to safeguard nature in the area you are working to protect.

As well as the opportunity to make a significant contribution to a local wildlife charity, the role provides opportunities to develop skills and knowledge. It is also an opportunity to become part of a thriving community of committed volunteers. This opportunity will allow you to get to know your local community well and connect with other Essex Wildlife Trust members and volunteers in your area.

The work party is a great way to get outdoors, meet new people and learn new skills whilst helping nature flourish.

Special conditions

- Work Party Volunteers must be aged 18 or over.
- All Essex Wildlife Trust volunteers are required to complete any essential training.