

Ranger at Abberton Reservoir

Thank you for your interest in the role of Ranger at Essex Wildlife Trust. We have an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic and passionate Ranger to join us at our idyllic Nature Discovery Park on the Abberton Reservoir near the village of Layer de la Haye, Colchester.

The reservoir is important for its breeding cormorants, wintering and moulting waterfowl and migrating birds. It is an internationally important wetland, designated as a Ramsar site, Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Protection Area. The Trust's discovery park is an excellent location for avid bird watchers with picturesque views over the reservoir.

The site lies close to east-coast migration routes and, with its surrounding envelope of pasture and tree plantations. Up to 40,000 ducks, swans and geese visit each year. The top seven species are Wigeon, Teal, Mallard, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Coot and Black-headed Gull. Added to this there can be hundreds of Shovelers, Gadwall, Goldeneye, Pintail and Great Crested Grebe.

The Ranger plays a vital role in the management of the site, conducting and coordinating targeted wildlife recording and monitoring together with health and safety surveys including tree inspections and deer impact surveys, working closely with Essex & Suffolk Water in the conservation management work.

The ideal candidate will be passionate about nature and habitat management to enhance conditions for wildlife. We are looking for a suitably qualified, self-motivated individual who enjoys engaging with the public to deliver optimum management of the reserve for its wildlife value and visitor experience.

For further information or an informal discussion about the role, please contact me at jow@essexwt.org.uk.

The position is a permanent role working 37.5 hours per week between Monday and Sunday (five out of seven days) including alternative weekends.

Essex Wildlife Trust are the county's leading conservation charity, committed to protecting wildlife and inspiring a lifelong love of nature; and we would love you to join our committed and enthusiastic team. Our values are **Inspiring**, **Collaborative**, **United** and **Professional**.

Essex Wildlife Trust is committed to equal opportunities and maintaining a safe and secure environment for all children and young people. Therefore, the successful applicant for this position will be subject to pre-employment checks including a Disclosure and Barring Service check. Please note, it is an offence to apply for this position if barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.

To make an application, please complete an application form via our website by 9:00am on Thursday 11 August 2022. The interviews are arranged for Thursday 25 August 2022.

Thank you for your interest in this role. I look forward to receiving your application.

Yours faithfully



Jo Wray
Site Manager (Abberton)

Essex Wildlife Trust

Job Description

Job title: Ranger

Location: Abberton Reservoir Nature Discovery Park



Job purpose

To manage and enhance Abberton Nature Discovery Park for the benefit of wildlife and people. This involves positive conservation management of woodland, meadows, lakes, scrub and grassland. To be a part of the Visitor Centre Team creating, supporting, and running an engaging visitor offer that promotes Essex Wildlife Trust's work and values.

Key tasks

Service Delivery

1. To always work to the Trust values - Inspirational, Collaborative, United and Professional.
2. To manage Abberton Nature Discovery Park effectively by ensuring that the management works are carried out in line with the Agri-environment scheme agreement, management plan and SSSI objectives.
3. To provide an accessible, safe, and enjoyable nature discovery park.
4. To ensure H&S best practice is adhered to, ensuring all operations taking place on site follow Essex Wildlife Trust's codes of best practice.
5. Take a pro-active approach to site security, repairing and maintaining the reserve infrastructure
6. To ensure visitor access and inclusivity is continuously being considered and improvements made, to provide opportunities for all to visit.
7. Carry out/coordinate the repair and maintenance of reserve machinery and equipment
8. Conduct and coordinate targeted wildlife recording and monitoring together with health and safety surveys including tree inspections and deer impact surveys
9. Work closely with key partner organisation
10. Work with the fundraising team to devise and implement projects that lead to enhancing and protecting Abberton Nature Discovery Park for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Planning and Organising

11. Work with the Landscape Conservation Area Manager to coordinate the production and implementation of a site management plan
12. Carry out regular Health and Safety audits, produce reports and prepare and submit funding claims
13. To prepare, administer and control income and expenditure budgets
14. To comply with wildlife and other set legislation
15. Contribute to a program of events, walks, and talks in conjunction with the Nature Discovery Centre and Education Teams

People

16. Ensure Staff and Volunteers are adhering to health and safety practice through the implementation of appropriate risk assessments, ensuring compliance with all relevant legislation
17. To recruit and manage a group of volunteers to support the management of the site

18. Work with the volunteer development team to ensure volunteers have appropriate training and resources to carry out their role(s)
19. To provide support to other Reserves within the Northeast and beyond where required.

Problem Solving and Innovation

20. Deal with issues and resolve conflicts from members of the public in a timely manner
21. To overcome any issues that arise with practical habitat management
22. To ensure we continue to maintain/improve relations with key partners and contractors
23. Balance the needs of the various user groups with the conservation management of the site
24. Organise the maintenance and repair of machinery and equipment
25. Ensure the need for new equipment and resource is well planned.

Communication

26. To promote the reserve through agreed social media sites and websites. Working with the media, marketing, and centre teams to promote successes on the reserve
27. To provide an extensive programme of walks to the public, that will support and promote the Trusts values, aims and objectives
28. To provide good interpretation of the reserve through appropriate site interpretation/signage
29. To promote Living Landscapes to the public, neighbours, and stakeholder groups
30. Work with site partners and management committees to negotiate any changes to site management.

Person specification

Essential

1. Degree or HND in Conservation, Biology, or similarly related discipline and/or experience in making land management decisions to benefit wildlife and people
2. Experience of managing staff and/or volunteers
3. Understanding of wildlife and other land-based legislation
4. Proven IT skills in Microsoft Office, particularly Word, Excel and Outlook including the ability/experience of producing/managing financial reports and budgets
5. An understanding of grassland ecology
6. Experience undertaking wildlife surveys
7. Passion for wildlife and the conservation of habitats and green spaces within Essex

Desirable

8. Experience of grassland and woodland habitat management, including conservation grazing
9. NPTC/LANTRA certification for tractor driving, brush cutter, chainsaw, tree inspection and deer impact survey

Additional information

- The role entails some evening and weekend working including Bank Holidays.
- The role requires an interest in working for a charity that is determined to protect wildlife for the future and for the people of Essex.
- The role requires the ability to drive, including a full driving licence and use of a vehicle, though pool vehicles may sometimes be available.
- The role is based at Abberton Reservoir Nature Discovery Park but may require regular travel across the county and beyond, with mileage paid for additional travel.

- The post holder has a responsibility to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children and young people.

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