

Essex Wildlife Trust

Volunteer Role Description



Job title Volunteer Warden (Maldon Wick)

Volunteer Manager Landscape Conservation Area Officer.

Role purpose

Essex Wildlife Trust has 87 Nature Reserves, two Nature Parks and manage 8,400 acres of land. Our 62 Volunteer Wardens have a keen interest in wildlife and record interesting or unusual sightings, and keep an eye on a particular reserve and report any issues they find back to the Trust, as well as talking with visitors and sharing information about the reserve and the Trust.

Volunteer Wardens run the local volunteer work party for the reserve.

Reserve details

Maldon Wick nature reserve is an 15 acre site consisting of one-and-a-half miles of the former Maldon to Woodham Ferrers railway line, most of it on embankment. The northern 250m of the embankment has been isolated by the Maldon southern link road. A meadow with a large pond was added to it later.

The reserve has earned a reputation for its butterflies, 28 different species having been recorded since it was established. They include purple, green and white-letter hairstreak, and large numbers of speckled wood and ringlet. Also, 17 species of dragonfly have been recorded in the meadow.

The central trackway is kept open, and we have has created small clearings on the slopes, felled some trees and coppiced others. As a result, flowering plants have increased dramatically. These include primrose, moschatel, sweet violet, field scabious and wild strawberry. It also has spindle and wild service trees. There are many breeding birds, sometimes including nightingales.

Time commitment

Ideally able to visit the reserve on a weekly basis and run regular volunteer work parties.

Location

Maldon Wick Nature Reserve, Limebrook Way, Maldon, CM9 6YR.

Role description

- To assist in the management of the reserve by regularly visiting, patrolling and inspecting the reserve - effectively being the Trust's eyes and ears on the ground.
- Communicating and reporting any issues with the reserve to the Volunteer Manager.
- Independently following appropriate guidelines for safe volunteering practices.
- Talk to visitors, make people feel welcomed and provide information during their visit.
- Litter picking.
- Thank visitors for walking dogs responsibly.
- Dealing with problems as appropriate (i.e. talking to people who are conducting improper activities on the reserve)
- Ensure inspections are conducted in a safe manner, ensuring compliance with Trust policies (i.e. lone working, risk assessments, health and safety, codes of good practice).
- Perform a yearly audit for the site to inform the site management plan.
- Communicate with the volunteer manager and other work party volunteers to promote mutual respect and high levels of safety.
- Run volunteer work parties to carry out habitat management and monitoring.
- Monthly Weekend work parties carry out work on the sites guided by the Annual action plans for the reserves.

Volunteer Wardens are provided with training for the role.

Specialist knowledge and experience

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Knowledge of /or interest in wildlife and an interest in working for a charity which is determined to protect wildlife for the future and for the people of Essex.
- Comfortable working independently.

Why volunteer and why this opportunity?

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 Volunteer Wardens.

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.

Special conditions

- All Essex Wildlife Trust volunteers are required to complete any essential training.
- May require lone working. Volunteers must be comfortable with lone working and be aware of the Trust's lone working procedures.