



Assistant Centre Manager

Abberton Reservoir and Fingringhoe

We are looking for an Assistant Centre Manager to join us, working from our idyllic Nature Discovery Centres, with a work base at Abberton Reservoir, Layer-de-la-Haye, Colchester.

About Essex Wildlife Trust

We are the County's leading nature conservation charity, committed to protecting wildlife and inspiring a lifelong love of nature and one of the largest Wildlife Trusts in the UK.

This is the most important decade in the history of nature conservation and an exciting time to be joining us. If we are to tackle the climate crisis and the ecological crisis, we need the best people to rally around environmental protection.

Our values are Impactful, Collaborative, United and Proactive.

Disclosure and Barring Service

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.



Love Essex · Love Wildlife

From
Home to
POND
POND
In pond at your 2 ponds, including
bath, light
If you have a tank you may like all
sorts of (optional) items.
Keep an eye out for: **88**
Smooth rocks Doves
Doves Grass seeds
Frogs

The Role

Our Nature Discovery Centres offer visitors a warm welcome and the opportunity to find out about the wildlife at the sites whilst enjoying hot and cold refreshments and a gift shop, run by a friendly team and wonderful volunteers who are passionate about providing fantastic customer service to our visitors.

As an Assistant Centre Manager, the position deputises the Site Manager in delivering the day-to-day operations, managing of staff and volunteers, engaging with visitors to ensure a positive visitor experience and the promotion of donations and membership for Essex Wildlife Trust. The Assistant Centre Manager is responsible for supervising Centre Assistants and Visitor Centre Volunteers.



Credit: Elliott Neep



Working as part of a visitor centre team, the post holder will need to be a team player who can engage in a welcoming and professional way with our visitors both in retail and food and beverage - ensuring excellent customer service is always at the forefront. The successful applicant will be using the till, preparing and serving hot and cold refreshments, clearing tables, restocking retail stock and engaging to customers.

We are looking for a friendly individual with an interest in customer service to join Essex Wildlife Trust in this visitor engagement role. Our profits from the Nature Discovery Centre's are used to fund the conservation, educational and other work key of the Trust.

Benefits include free life assurance, branded uniform, parking and enhanced annual leave and sick pay provisions increasing with length of service.



Job Description

Service Delivery

- Meet and greet at all stages of the visitor interaction
- To work within a team delivering centre targets for all areas of the centre
- Ensure all front of house areas are well presented, tidy and promote a quality centre experience for visitors
- To promote retail and food and beverage offers to maximise the customer experience
- Ensure the day-to-day management of front of house is efficient and offers a smooth running for visitors
- To undertake administration tasks to support the smooth running of the centre
- To ensure the centre maximises opportunities to recruit new EWT members and increase levels of donations through promotion of round-up, donations and membership
- Ensure the highest standards of hygiene for the front of house and food and beverage are achieved at all times, following daily cleaning schedules.

People

- Work as a key team player
- Have the ability to deal with visitor enquiries in an efficient and professional manner
- Ensure the safety of staff, volunteers and visitors by complying with all legal and EWT policies and procedures relating to hygiene, health and safety, fire and security.

Problem Solving/Innovation

- Respond, and efficiently resolve problems as they arise.
- Encourage, listen and respond to all visitor feedback.
- Listen and respond to all visitor and team feedback in a positive way
- Report any issues, problems, complaints, and feedback to the duty manager.

Planning/Organising

- Adhere to Health and Safety, COSHH procedures and safe systems of working
- Receiving Centre deliveries and Goods Out
- Record wastage accurately and in a timely manner
- Correctly follow all food and beverage process and procedures
- Correctly follow all EPOS process and procedures
- Assist with regular centre stock takes and comply with all stock control recommendations.

Communication

- Interact with our visitors at every opportunity promoting the centre
- Attend team and staff meetings as required
- Communicate across the team of staff and volunteers
- Promote the work of Essex Wildlife Trust whilst working in the Nature Discovery Centre.

Additional Information

- The Nature Discovery Centre is open every day, with the exception for Christmas Day and Boxing Day
- Working five days out of seven, to include regular weekend working. The post holder will be working weekdays, weekends and Bank Holidays
- Expectation of covering other Nature Discovery Centres as required
- 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.
- There may be occasions where travel is required to attend meetings and events at our Essex Wildlife Trust sites, including supporting other Nature Discovery Centre (with mileage paid for additional travel).
- The post holder has a responsibility to safeguard and to work in a way that promotes the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.



Person Specification

- GCSE grade A-C/9-4 in Maths and English (or equivalent)
- Experience in either a retail, hospitality or a visitor centre role
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Able to be adaptable
- Good administrative and IT skills (Microsoft Office Suite)
- Strong organisational and delegation skills
- A team player with a 'can-do' attitude
- Self-motivated with a focus on providing an excellent customer experience
- Able to communicate and collaborative effectively to a wide range of stakeholders
- Uphold the Trusts' values of Inspiring, Collaborative, United and Professional

For more information about our Nature Discovery Centres, please visit essexwt.org.uk/nature-reserves.

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact Jow@essexwt.org.uk or jobs@essexwt.org.uk.



Terms

The position is a permanent role working 37.5 hours per week between Monday and Sunday on a rota basis to include weekend and bank holiday working. The starting salary is £25,243.05.

Annual leave entitlement starts at 26 days per annum increasing annually to 29 days plus bank holidays (pro-rata for part-time staff). We provide company sick pay increasing with length of service, an employee assistance programme, a combined 8% contribution pension scheme, staff social days, colleague nomination scheme and discounts in our Nature Discovery Centres.

How to Apply

Please complete an application form via our website by 9:00am on 16 April 2026. The interviews will be held on 23 April 2026.

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

Jo Wray
Site Manager

