

Ranger

Thameside Nature Discovery Park

We have an opportunity for a passionate individual to join us at Essex Wildlife Trust as a Ranger at our Thameside Nature Discovery Park in Thurrock.

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 are one of the largest Wildlife Trusts in the UK managing over 3,000ha.

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](#).



The Role

Thameside Nature Park in Thurrock is a unique and vibrant nature reserve. Located on the site of the former Mucking Marshes Landfill, it has been transformed into a thriving natural habitat. The park spans over 120 acres and offers stunning views of the Thames Estuary.

Working within a small team, multi-disciplinary team from Thameside Nature Discovery Centre, the Ranger is responsible for planning, implementing and coordinating practical conservation land management at Thameside Nature park, enhancing the park's, grassland, scrub, ponds, lakes and woodland through conservation efforts, supported by a part time assistant ranger and a group of dedicated volunteers. Key responsibilities include the development and implementation of the site conservation management plan, conducting repair and maintenance work, coordinating wildlife monitoring and surveys, line management of the assistant ranger, supporting the Nature Discovery Team as required. The full job description is available in the 'Role Information Pack' on our website.

We are seeking a passionate, self-motivated individual with a strong interest in habitat management and wildlife conservation. The ideal candidate enjoys working with the public and is able to collaborate effectively with a small team to manage the reserve, improving both its wildlife value and visitor experience, while promoting access to nature.

About Thameside Nature Park

Thameside Nature Park is home to a wide range of wildlife, including rare and protected species. Notably, the park supports barn owls, adders, water voles, harvest mice, skylarks, cuckoos, and the shrill carder bee. Grazing cattle help maintain the grassland habitats, which are rich in rare butterflies, moths, and bees and other invertebrates.

In addition to its ecological importance, the park provides an excellent visitor experience with a visitor centre, walking trails, and opportunities for wildlife observation. It is a place where conservation, education and community engagement come together, making it a great spot for nature lovers, families, and anyone interested in the outdoors.



Job Description

- To implement the annual programme of habitat management work for the Thameside Nature Park prioritising the favourable condition of key habitats and species.
- Carry out infrastructure maintenance and repairs across the reserve, as may be required by agreed work programme priorities.
- To contribute to the regular updating of the long-term reserve management plan, and to liaise with colleagues including the provision of ideas and proposals for adaptations or improvements to those plans.
- To assist the Reserves Manager and Senior Ranger in ensuring cross-compliance and the adherence to statutory and legal requirements, including SSSI and Countryside Stewardship schemes.
- To plan and supervise work to ensure the integration of all health and safety (H&S) requirements whilst ensuring that the assistant ranger and volunteer work parties understand and comply with appropriate H&S measures.
- To carry out regular site safety and tree safety audits and to expedite all follow-up actions for the effective management of risk.
- To coordinate reactive volunteer deployment and to help undertake reserves' tree and infrastructure hazard inspections following extreme weather events, including storms.
- To assist the Conservation Evidence (CE) team with undertaking survey work to contribute to improving the effectiveness of reserves' conservation management at Thameside Nature Park.
- To maintain effective working relationships with Enover and other neighbouring landowners of the nature reserve and assist the conservation team and managers in enhancing links with the surrounding local communities.
- To assist the Site Manager, Reserves Manager (south) and other senior managers to ensure positive working relationships and clear channels of communication with lessors, utilities' companies and other stakeholders on the Trust's reserves.
- To maintain of good relations with licence holders and to ensure any licences are undertaken in accordance with the agreements, bringing any breaches or problems with enacting agreements to the attention of the Senior Ranger/Reserves Manager as required.
- To assist with the updating of the assets register for the area of responsibility and assist in the procurement, maintenance and if appropriate, safe and sustainable disposal of machinery and equipment.
- To monitor the condition of all PPE issued ensuring that it is up-to-date and fit-for-purpose and to feedback long-term requirements to assist the Senior Ranger/Reserves Manager in planning future provision.

- To manage day-to-day expenditure, using both purchase card transactions and purchase orders, to achieve conservation and infrastructure work for each reserve within the allocated budgets.
- Work with project manager, key partners, fundraising teams, and board committee to implement projects, negotiate management changes, and maintain strong relationships.
- Contribute habitat management and ecological updates to the report for the quarterly board meetings.
- Promote the reserve through social media, public programs, events, and interpretation, collaborating with the communication and marketing teams as appropriate.
- Work effectively with colleagues across the Trust and demonstrate the values of being Inspiring, Collaborative, United and Professional.
- Demonstrate and develop skills, attitudes, and behaviours in line with the Trust's Leadership Competencies Framework.
- To carry out any other duties, including support Area Officers and Site Rangers, that are within the scope, spirit and purpose of the role, and the contract of employment, as requested by the Site Manager, Senior Ranger, Reserves Managers, Head of Nature Reserves or members of the Senior Management Team (SMT).

Additional Information

- The role is likely to entail evening and weekend working.
- The role requires an interest in working for a charity that is determined to protect wildlife.
- The ability to drive, including a full driving licence and use of a vehicle.
- The role is based at Thameside Nature Discovery Park but may require travel across the county and beyond, with mileage paid for additional travel.
- Should the role involve working with children and young people (for example during volunteer work parties), a criminal records check may be required in advance.
- 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.



Person Specification

- Degree or HND in nature conservation, ecology, environmental science and/or equivalent work experience (including essential practical field experience) in one of those subjects.
- Practical land management experience, including the use, deployment, and maintenance of a range of land management machinery, equipment, and materials.
- Evidence of current or recently held NPTC/Lantra (or suitable equivalent) training certificates for a range of land management machinery and equipment, including but not exclusively tractor driving, 4x4, trailer towing (desirable), brush-cutter and felling and cross-cutting chainsaw operation. Where current desirable certificates are not held, the post-holder will be expected to obtain the range of up-to-date training certificates within the probation period, with the full support of the Trust.
- Demonstrable general knowledge of some UK terrestrial, freshwater, or coastal habitats and a range of habitat conservation issues, and survey methods for these.
- Experience of timetabling, communicating, implementing, and reporting on work programmes through spreadsheets or other planning software/methods.
- Experience of tree safety assessment experience and/or qualifications (desirable) and experience of ground level tree assessment for bat roosts (desirable).
- A knowledge of health & safety procedures, their implementation and assessment, including undertaking risk assessments, producing method statements, and the effective deployment and maintenance of a range of protective equipment.
- Knowledge of managing budgets and purchase card accounts.
- Experience of the day-to-day supervision of contractors on conservation sites.
- Experience of day-to-day volunteer management, leading work parties and organising volunteer work programmes.
- Demonstrable IT skills with Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, GIS and associated app platforms
- Experience within, or understanding of, the voluntary and charitable sector.
- Good organisational skills and the demonstrable ability to handle multiple tasks and meet deadlines.
- Good verbal and competent written communication skills, with a demonstrable ability to prepare short reports and action plans.

- Proactive and enthusiastic, with a willingness to take responsibility for tasks.
- Can work both individually without supervision and cooperatively within a team environment.
- Has a demonstrable passion for wildlife and landscape conservation.



Terms

The position is a permanent role, working 37.5 hours per week (5 days). The starting salary for this role is £27,173.17.

Annual leave entitlement starts at 26 days per annum increasing annually to 29 days plus Bank Holidays. 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

To apply for this opportunity, please submit an online application via our website by 9:00am on Monday 31st August 2026. Interviews will be held at Thameside Nature Park on Tuesday 15th September 2026.

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

Thomas Fuller
Site Manager