

# Assistant Ranger

Thameside Nature Discovery Park | Thurrock



**Essex**  
Wildlife Trust





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We have an opportunity for a passionate individual to join us at Essex Wildlife Trust as an Assistant 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.

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 is located atop the former Mucking Marshes Landfill in Thurrock. It is home to a variety of species, including barn owls, short-eared owls, water voles, harvest mice, skylarks, cuckoos, and the shrill carder bee. Local cattle graze the grasslands throughout the year. The park is classified as a Ramsar site, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and a Special Protection Area (SPA).

As an avian hotspot, Thameside Nature Park hosts overwintering and migratory bird species year-round, with internationally important populations of ringed plover and avocet, and nationally important populations of grey plover, dunlin, black-tailed godwit, and redshank. The grasslands are also rich in butterflies, moths, and bees. For more details on the reserve, visit <https://www.essexwt.org.uk/nature-reserves/thameside>.

The Assistant Ranger will work closely with the Ranger to manage and enhance the park's woodland, scrub and grassland through conservation efforts, supported by dedicated volunteers. Key responsibilities include assisting in the development and implementation of the site management plan, conducting repair and maintenance work and coordinating wildlife monitoring and surveys. 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.

[Read our latest Thameside Ecological Survey Report >](#)



# About Thameside Nature Park

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.

The reserve is home to a wide range of wildlife, including rare and protected species. Notably, the park supports barn owls, short-eared owls, water voles, harvest mice, skylarks, cuckoos, and the shrill carder bee. Grazing cattle help maintain the grassland habitats, encouraging biodiversity. The site is classified as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and a Special Protection Area (SPA), highlighting its environmental significance.

Thameside Nature Park is also known as an important site for birdwatching, with overwintering and migratory birds frequenting the area. Internationally important populations of ringed plovers and avocets, as well as nationally important species such as grey plovers, dunlins, black-tailed godwits, and redshanks, are commonly seen on the adjacent mudflats. The grasslands are also rich in butterflies, moths, and bees.

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

- Assist in managing Thameside Nature Discovery Park in line with agri-scheme agreements, SSSI objectives, and the Thameside Vision 2030.
- Assist with habitat management, including cattle grazing, wildlife monitoring, tree surveys, and maintenance of infrastructure, machinery, and equipment.
- Ensure visitor access is safe, inclusive, and continuously improved, while balancing the needs of different user groups with conservation priorities.
- Ensure adherence to Health and Safety best practices and the Trust's Code of Good Practice, conducting risk assessments, and ensuring compliance with wildlife and other legislation.
- To play an active role with the conservation volunteers, supporting the Ranger with coordinating and leading the volunteer work party opportunities and sessions at Thameside Nature Park.
- Work with key partners, fundraising teams, and committees to implement projects, negotiate management changes, and maintain strong relationships.
- Promote the reserve through social media, public programs, events, and interpretation, collaborating with media and marketing teams.
- Address public inquiries, resolve conflicts, and support management of other reserves in the area as needed.
- Any other reasonable ad-hoc duties

## Additional Information

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

## Person Specification

- Hold a genuine interest in nature (habitats and species) and conservation.
- Able to operate and maintain conservation equipment and arrange external servicing as required.
- Able to supervise and engage with volunteers.
- Able to maintain good relations with people in a friendly and tactful manner.
- Able and willing to handle livestock, and attend livestock training.
- Able to carry out risk assessments and comply with Health and Safety.
- Able to deliver work effectively in an active outdoors role.
- Able to lone work or be unsupervised, responsibly and safely.
- Have a resourceful nature, able to undertake a wide variety of practical and mechanical tasks.
- Able to maintain confidential information.
- Confident computer-literate skills (Microsoft Office).
- Willingness to obtain a criminal records check if required.
- Hold a relevant qualification in Countryside Management or related discipline (desirable).
- Practical experience undertaking land, conservation and access management (desirable).
- Hold NPTC/LANTRA certification for tractor driving, brush cutter or chainsaws (desirable).
- Experience handling livestock (desirable).
- Knowledge of wildlife ecology (desirable).
- Species identification skills (desirable).
- Experience working alongside with volunteers (desirable)





## Terms

The position is a permanent, part-time role working three days per week (22.5 hours per week).

The starting salary is £13,384.80 per annum (FTE £22,308.00).

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 14 October 2024. Interviews will be held at Thameside Nature Park on Thursday 24 October 2024.

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

**Sam Roche**, Ranger at Thameside Nature Park