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| **Essex Wildlife Trust**  **Volunteer Role Description**  **Job title Livestock checker, various locations**  **Volunteer Manager** – TBC |  |

**Role purpose**

We are seeking reliable, passionate volunteers to assist with the checking of livestock across our Nature Reserves.

**Background detail**

Our livestock are critical to effectively managing our reserves. They create a diverse sward, reduce our reliance on machinery and help support the flourishing wildlife on our reserves.

Essex Wildlife Trust protects wildlife through landscape conservation, education on our nature reserves and discovery centres and campaigns that help to give wildlife a greater voice in our county.

We are a local wildlife charity supported by over 1900 volunteers and over 38,000 members. Together we protect and care for wildlife and wild places across Essex.

**Location**

Tollesbury Wick and Blue House Farm Nature Reserves

**Time commitment**

Multiple options from one day a week to several per week. Our livestock are checked daily, and it takes approximately 3 hours per check. Lone working must be followed, procedures will be advised upon appointment. Individuals will receive training and gain valuable experience of cattle, sheep and ponies in addition to visiting some of our wonderful reserves.

**Role description**

* Counting and checking on the welfare of our livestock
* Ensure that the work carried out on reserves is efficient and the reserves are left safe and tidy for visitors.
* Following Essex Wildlife Trust Codes of Good Practice, and help promote these motivating and supporting other volunteers.
* To uphold the values of Essex Wildlife Trust and to discuss the aims of the Trust with the aim to getting new members.
* Adhere to procedures relating to hygiene, health and safety, fire and security and any other relevant risk assessment information.

**Specialist knowledge and experience**

* Full training will be given.
* Must be able to travel to sites independently.
* The role requires a certain level of fitness and will involve lone working.
* Volunteer must be 18 years of age

**Why volunteer and why this opportunity?**

If you enjoy being outdoors and assisting in vital conservation work, then this role could be the perfect opportunity for you. This role does involve a reasonable amount of physical activity, so will enable you to keep your fitness levels high, as well as helping your mental health and wellbeing.

You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are making a genuine contribution to nature conservation, and you might find it rewarding to safeguard nature in the area you are working to protect.

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 committed volunteers. 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**

* Volunteers must be aged 18 or over.
* All Essex Wildlife Trust volunteers are required to complete any essential training.