

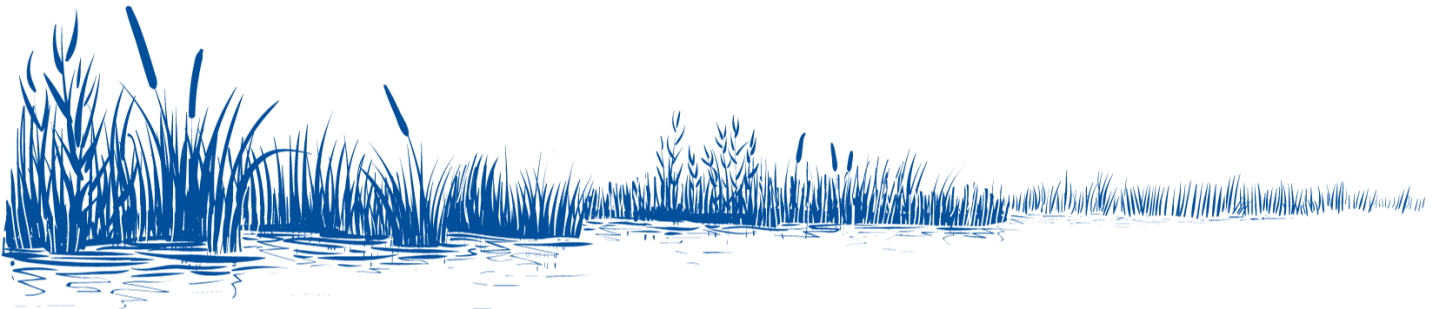
Applicant Pack

Bluespaces Officer (Essex and Suffolk)

March 2025

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust is working in partnership with Essex & Suffolk Water to deliver the Bluespaces Programme.

This partnership role offers the ability to really make a difference across an established programme to engage local people with rivers and wildlife on their doorsteps.



www.essexsuffolkrivertrust.org/recruitment

About Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

The Organisation

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust (ESRT) is an environmental charity set up in 2013 dedicated to improving and protecting rivers in Essex and Suffolk, making them a better place for people and wildlife.

We are one of 65 member Rivers Trusts across Britain, Northern Ireland, and Ireland that sit under the umbrella of the national [Rivers Trust](#) - although legally we are an independent organisation. We are the only group of environmental charities in the UK and Ireland dedicated to protecting and improving river environments for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Our Vision

Rivers are the veins that feed our farmland and wildlife habitats and provide water for domestic and industrial use. They are hugely important for wildlife and people and yet many are in a poor state due to pollution, over-abstraction, modification, habitat loss and management neglect.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust wants to do something about this and over the next 20 years we will work with partners, landowners, farmers, and local communities to bring about significant improvements. Following a catchment-based approach we want to see:

- Water quality improved and more places for safe bathing,
- Improvements to habitats and connectivity with Nature Recovery Networks,
- Natural flood management as the norm not the exception,
- Water resources able to meet human needs without compromise to wildlife,
- Innovative adaptation and mitigation approaches to tackling impacts from climate change,
- Nature at the heart of people's engagement with the environment, reducing waste, improving water quality, and increasing biodiversity.

Our Mission

'To protect, promote, and enhance our freshwater and estuarine ecosystems for both people and wildlife'.

We will work in partnership to develop and implement a programme of practical projects focusing on conservation, restoration and enhancement of rivers and riparian habitats in Essex, Suffolk, and the wider region.

We will take a strategic, influential, catchment-based approach, working with others, to embrace the river environment and the opportunities and challenges presented by surrounding land and its management.

We will also seek to influence national and regional policies to bring about positive environmental gains and benefits within an increasingly challenging spectrum of demands on water resources, rivers, and aquatic environments.

Working for Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

Join the Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust, where passion meets purpose in the heart of environmental stewardship! As a dedicated member of our dynamic team, working in partnership with Essex and Suffolk Water, you'll play a pivotal role in leading our collaborative work contributing to the conservation and enhancement of our region's natural treasures, whilst also driving forward our work on river restoration.

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust is a small but ambitious environmental charity dedicated to the protection and enhancement of rivers and estuaries in Essex and Suffolk. Essex and Suffolk are rich in their diversity of history, culture, landscape, wildlife, people, communities, agriculture, industry, and the places we call home.

Our ecosystems of rivers and wetlands have always played a crucial role as the veins that bring life and wellbeing to us all. Today, they are under critical pressure from human demands, pollution, and climate change yet our future depends on them. Our Vision is for healthy and resilient land and water environments we can all be proud of.

Why Choose Us?

- **Meaningful Impact:** At the Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust, every day brings the opportunity to make a real difference. Your work will directly contribute to the preservation and restoration of our local rivers and ecosystems, fostering a sense of pride and purpose in your professional journey.
- **Collaborative Environment:** Work alongside passionate and skilled individuals at both ESRT and Essex & Suffolk Water who share a common goal of environmental conservation. Our inclusive culture values diverse perspectives, ensuring a stimulating and supportive workplace where everyone's voice is heard.
- **Innovation and Creativity:** We encourage and welcome innovative solutions. Your ideas matter, and we believe in empowering our team members to bring creativity to the table. Together, we can pioneer new approaches to address the evolving challenges facing our rivers.
- **Professional Growth:** We are committed to the development of our team members. Whether you're looking to enhance your current skill set or explore new areas of expertise, we provide opportunities for professional growth and advancement.
- **Work-Life Balance:** We understand the importance of a healthy work-life balance. Our flexible work arrangements and supportive policies allow you to excel in your role while maintaining a fulfilling personal life.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust is an equal opportunity employer. We encourage applications from candidates of all backgrounds and experiences. We are committed to better reflecting society and the communities who use, need, and enjoy our rivers within our workforce. We welcome requests for flexible working. All applications will be judged solely on merit.

About This Role

This is a role developed in partnership with [Essex & Suffolk Water](#), part of the Northumbrian Water Group (NWG), to deliver the [Bluespaces](#) programme and set up a programme of river enhancement projects in Essex and Suffolk.

The role will be split with half of the full-time role being to support delivery of the Bluespaces programme, and the remaining half being spent supporting project delivery and communications at the ESRT. Partnership working will bring benefits to both activities and help foster long term relationships across the region.

NWG has developed the Bluespaces programme to deliver improvements to the water environment for the benefit of their customers. The programme funds partnership projects investing in biodiversity, water quality and access and recreational facilities focused around accessible areas of rivers, lakes, coasts, beaches, and other water environments.

In April 2022, NWG published its Vision for Coasts and Rivers. This included a pledge to improve 500km of bluespaces by 2030, across both NWG's Northumbrian Water (NW) and Essex & Suffolk Water (ESW) regions. Since 2020 NWG and partners have delivered over 140 km of improvements to the water environment.

The purpose of this Bluespaces Officer role is to support partnership delivery of the Bluespaces programme of projects, and support NWG in achieving its targets to improve the water environment. The purpose of the role is to also support project delivery and communications at ESRT.

The role will support the Bluespaces Delivery Manager at the Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust. You will be supported by other members of the collaborative Bluespaces Team, working across NWG and with delivery partners, as well as by other Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust staff.

The Process

If you're ready to be part of a dynamic team making a lasting impact on our local environment, we invite you to submit your CV and a personal statement detailing your interest in and suitability for the position. The statement must be a maximum of two A4 pages, please send this with your CV to info@essexsuffolkrivertrust.org.

The closing date for this role is 12:00 (midnight) on **Sunday 9th March 2025**.

Interviews are likely to be held in the w/c 17th March 2025 via MS Teams. Successful candidates will then be offered an in person interview the following week, location to be determined.

Please contact info@essexsuffolkrivertrust.org with any questions.

Job Description

Post title: Bluespaces Officer (Essex and Suffolk)

Function: To support delivery of the NWG's Bluespaces programme across Essex and Suffolk, and support project delivery and communications at the ESRT.

Reporting to: Bluespaces Delivery Manager

Employment Terms

Term: Permanent. Start date on the w/c 19th May, with flexibility.

Salary: £24,853

Pension: NEST pension scheme

Hours: Full time (37.5 hours per week). This role can be offered part time for the right candidate.

Holidays: 25 days plus statutory holidays

Place of work: Hybrid office and home working with some travel throughout Essex and Suffolk.

Working Relationships

Internal: ESRT Bluespaces Delivery Manager, ESRT Director, Natural Rivers Manager, Operations Support Officer and the Bluespaces team within NWG, including the Integrated and Strategic Catchment Managers.

External: A wide range of contacts and partners including East Suffolk and Combined Essex Catchment Partnership members, the Rivers Trust network, Environment Agency, Water Companies, Local Authorities, Natural England, AONBs, project funders, farmers and landowners, other NGOs and local interest groups and communities.

Purpose of Post

The purpose of this role is to support partnership delivery of the Bluespaces programme of projects, and support NWG in achieving its targets to improve the water environment. Alongside this, the post will be responsible for ESRT communications and supporting ESRT project delivery.

Main Responsibilities

- Supporting delivery of the current Bluespaces programme of projects through partners.
- Engaging with partners and stakeholders to support water environment improvements, including undertaking site visits across Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex to monitor the delivery of projects.
- Support the Bluespaces Delivery Manager with the identification and development of further Bluespaces potential projects and opportunities in line with the programme, including giving presentations to interested groups.
- Undertaking spatial mapping through GIS to support development, reporting and communication of the Bluespaces programme.
- Providing information to NWG (via agreed processes and reporting lines) to allow forecasting against targets, project approvals, project updates and reporting, including evidence gathering and liaison with project leads.
- Supporting project delivery at the ESRT, including site visits across Essex and Suffolk.
- Delivering regular communications within ESRT including social media updates, project blogs and newsletter writing.

- Working with the Combined Essex catchment partnership (Essex Rivers Hub) partners to help develop the programme.
- Supporting the Bluespaces Delivery Manager to coordinate the Essex Rivers Hub catchment partnership, including developing a communications plan, website updates, gathering news stories from partners, responding to inquiries and general note taking.

General Duties

- Uphold the values and ethos of ESRT and NWG and represent the organisation as and when required in a range of settings.
- Manage individual workload and make day to day decisions as to where best to allocate your time, to satisfy the requirements of your work programme.
- Ensure that ESRT policies and procedures, including Health and Safety, are always understood, and adhered to.
- Working with other staff, assist with the general marketing and promotion of ESRT and its work.
- You may be required to carry out other duties and tasks as required from time to time for the efficient operation of the Trust.

Experience & Skills

- Experience of collaborative working with partners and stakeholders
- Ability to engage and communicate effectively with others
- Demonstrable GIS experience – ideally in ArcGIS
- Experience in report writing to a high standard
- Ability to generate written and visual communications material for ESRT and the Essex Rivers Hub catchment partnership
- A bachelor's degree in a relevant subject, or equivalent experience
- Knowledge and enthusiasm for working in the environmental and water sectors
- Full driving licence and access to a car

This role could be offered part time for the right candidate. Please do get in touch with Clemmie the Bluespaces Delivery Manager (East and Southeast) if you have any questions about the role:

clemmie.moule@essexsuffolkriverstrust.org or call 07466 520502.

