



# Recruitment Information

## Youth Board member





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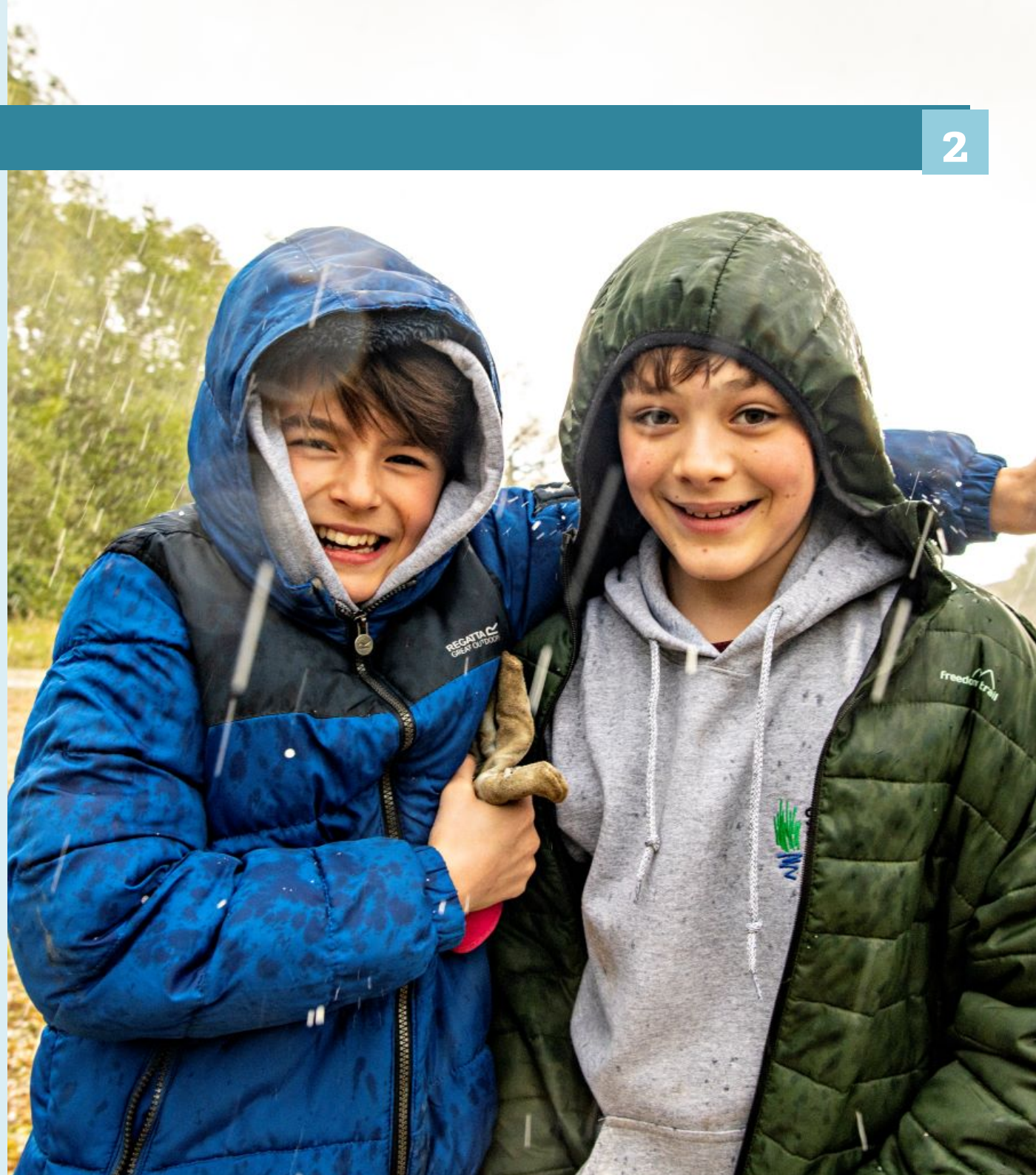
# The opportunity

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Help us deliver our vision for a wilder Suffolk

Suffolk Wildlife Trust has an exciting opportunity to reach out to and recruit 12 young people to form our new Youth Board.

We believe that it's important for young people's voices to be heard and we want to provide a platform for young people to be represented and your opinions and ideas to be embedded in our work and to be at the core of the Trust. We want young people to have a say about how the environment can be protected and empower young people to be involved in important decision making and governance, as well as helping us with our ongoing commitment to a more diverse and inclusive culture at Suffolk Wildlife Trust.



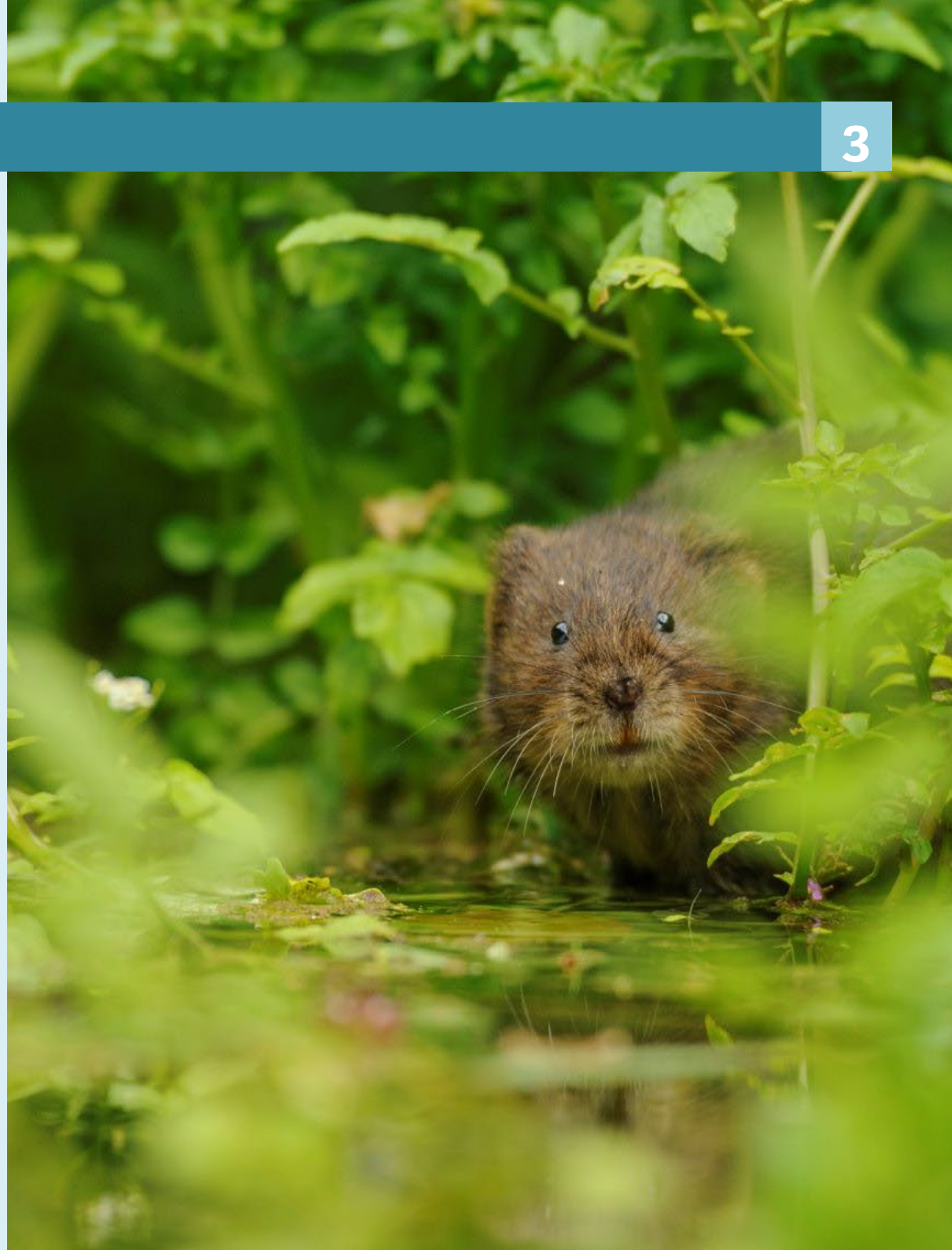


Suffolk Wildlife Trust is the county's nature charity – the only organisation dedicated wholly to safeguarding Suffolk's wildlife and countryside.

Founded in 1961 Suffolk Wildlife Trust has been leading conservation efforts in Suffolk and safeguarded some of the county's most important wildlife areas as nature reserves.

- We are supported by 27,000 members and 1,300 volunteers.
- We care for nearly 8,000 acres of Suffolk's most precious habitats in our 50 nature reserves.
- We advise planners, landowners, communities and individuals on improving land for wildlife - to create a Living Landscape that is rich in wildlife where species can move out of protected sites through networks of linked up habitat.
- All our nature reserves are free for everyone to enjoy and our 7 Wild Learning centres provide opportunities for all ages to discover, explore and learn about the natural world. Last year we led 400 school visits and ran 550 events, including activities organized by our network of volunteer-led wildlife groups. In all, more than 60,000 people were involved with a wildlife activity organised by the Trust and many more enjoyed our reserves independently.
- We have a dedicated team of 12 Trustees and more than 70 members of staff.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust is part of the Wildlife Trusts partnership – a federated charity made up from 46 individual Wildlife Trusts managing more than 2,300 nature reserves and with 850,000 members.





## Suffolk Wildlife Trust is here to enable everyone to play their part in creating a wilder Suffolk

Our nature reserves are places of tranquillity and 'naturalness' where people can connect with wildlife. Our management principles reflect this, by favouring natural processes that create complex habitat mosaics and offer the best opportunities for wildlife.

Beyond our reserves, Suffolk's wildlife is under pressure from intensive agriculture, new development and coastal change. We are working with landowners to influence the management of the wider countryside for wildlife. Future predicted climate change is likely to further impact on species and habitats, so we are working to create a more resilient countryside, with better, bigger and more joined up spaces for nature to enable wildlife to adapt to these changes.

We believe life with nature is good for us all and that society will care more and do more to help if people feel connected to nature. So, through our wide-ranging learning activities and the visitor experience we create at our centres we are striving to make nature part of everyday life, for everyone.

Our values reflect this:

- We will always act in the best interests of wildlife.
- We will secure a future for wildlife in Suffolk by connecting people to nature.
- We will make a difference by inspiring and empowering local action for wildlife.
- We are a learning organisation and will embrace new ideas to achieve our vision.







## What will the Youth Board do?

- Represent young voices within your community to ensure that they are represented and become integral in Suffolk Wildlife Trust's work.
- Allow young people to help shape the direction and future of Suffolk's nature charity wholly dedicated to safeguarding Suffolk's wildlife.
- Inspire and enable young people to become tomorrow's leaders and changemakers in Suffolk and further afield.

## OK... but what's in it for you?

- The opportunity to be the voice for your generation.
- The chance to learn to advocate for nature and for others.
- The opportunity to develop your spoken and written communications skills through public speaking, campaigning and opportunities to write news pieces and content for the Suffolk Wildlife Trust website.
- A unique insight into and the opportunity to contribute to the development of content for a leading nature charity's social media channels in line with current regional (Suffolk Wildlife Trust) and national (The Wildlife Trusts) messaging and campaigns.
- The opportunity to network with young people who are passionate about making a difference for wildlife and experts in the environmental sector.
- Free Suffolk Wildlife Trust membership while you are an active member of the Youth Board.
- Access to training days for members of the Youth Board and Suffolk Wildlife Trust webinars.
- The opportunity to represent the Youth Board to Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Board of Trustees and to attend joint away days.
- The opportunity to develop skills and experience which will boost your UCAS application form and CV.



## So what skills do I need to bring to the table?

- Able to represent views of other young people.
- Able to inspire others to get on board with Suffolk Wildlife Trust’s campaigns.
- Confident and enjoy sharing and bouncing ideas around.
- Competent and confident in communicating virtually and responding to emails regularly.

## Let’s talk commitment

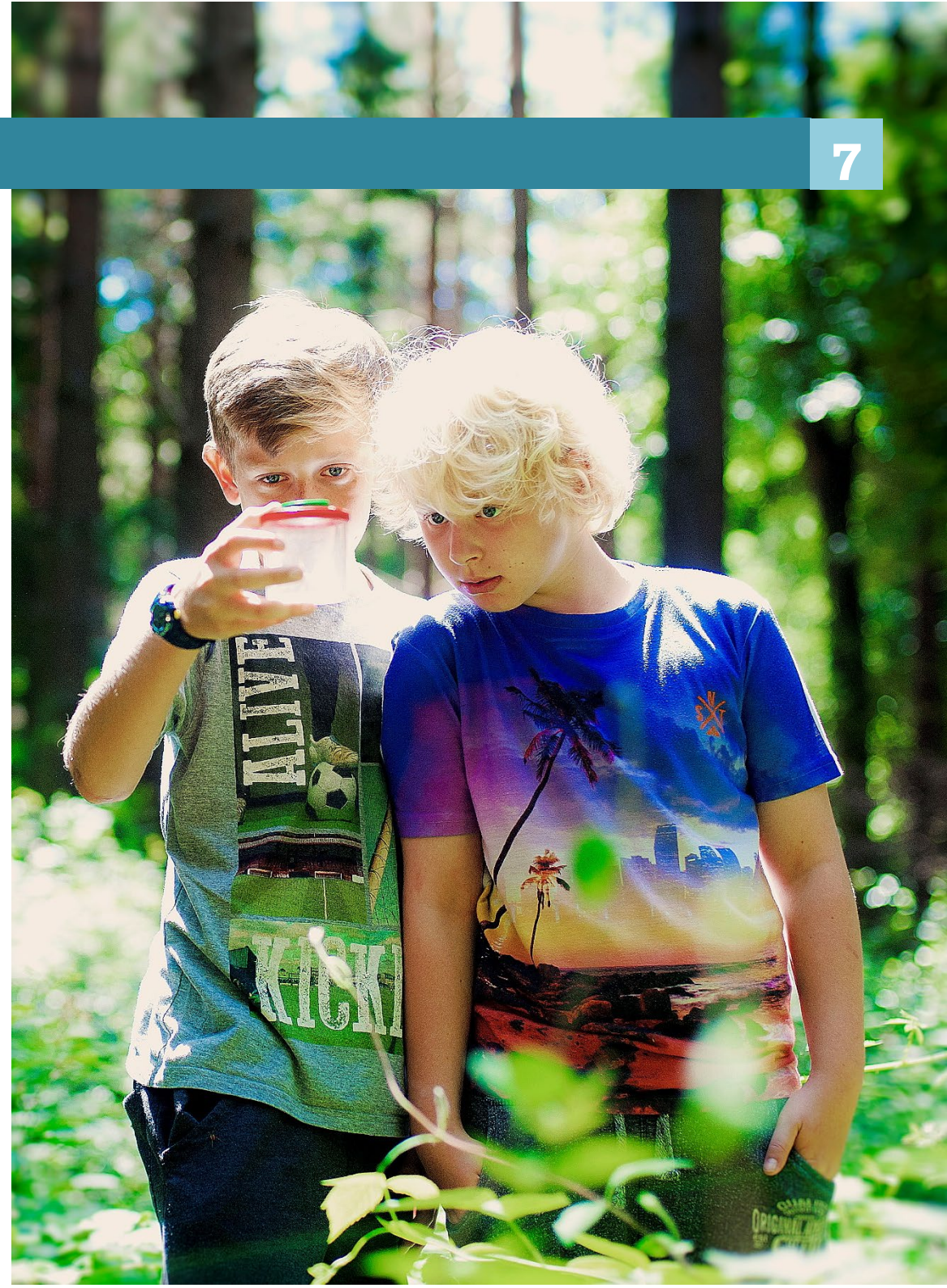
We expect members of the Youth Board to;

- Join meetings at least four times a year. These meetings are essential but there will be other non-essential meetings in addition to these. These meetings will always be in the evening or weekends so that they don’t clash with school and higher education attendance or “normal” working hours. Meetings will be a mix of virtual and face to face get togethers.
- Attend additional training sessions to help you in your Youth Board role
- Spend time working on, and actioning, points from the Youth Board meetings such as working on campaigns, reading relevant materials, emails and other communications.
- With training, proactively promote Suffolk Wildlife Trust campaigns to social media channels, schools and workplaces.
- Join (or play an active role in) wider Suffolk Wildlife Trust events.
- Be an active member of the Youth Board for at least one year.



## How will we support you?

- Provide an induction session welcoming you to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust team.
- Register you as a volunteer (or young volunteer if under 18) with Suffolk Wildlife Trust, giving you access to the benefits our wonderful volunteering team receive such as volunteer training days and social events.
- Provide a named member of staff who will be your point of contact throughout your time on our Youth Board to whom you can direct questions.
- Invite you to training days to help you with your Youth Board role, both exclusive opportunities and opportunities available to the wider volunteering team.





# Key terms

Meetings will be a mix of virtual sessions and in person meet ups across the county giving you a chance to explore our beautiful Suffolk nature reserves.

The post is a voluntary position with four essential meetings a year. There will be other additional meetings throughout the year.

Evening and weekend activities will be necessary to fulfil the role.

This role is for a minimum of one year.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust is an equal opportunity employer. Diversity and inclusion are extremely important to Suffolk Wildlife Trust. We would like to invite young people from all backgrounds to apply and encourage applications from people underrepresented in the environmental sector including young people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, young people with disabilities and LGBT+.

We are dedicated to creating a workplace where young people from all backgrounds feel welcome, listened to and valued.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust will strive to help any young person to fulfil their role and believe that financial background should not hinder applicants. We will strive to help cover costs, such as travel costs, for those that need additional support.





# How to apply

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Please see our website and our online application form to apply.

To arrange an informal chat about the role, please contact our Wild Learning Officer, Lucy: [lpswich.learning@suffolkwildlifetrust.org](mailto:lpswich.learning@suffolkwildlifetrust.org)

**The deadline for applications is midnight on Monday May 3.**

We will contact you to let you know the outcome of your application whether you are successful or unsuccessful. If you would like any feedback on your application or would like to find out about other volunteering opportunities with Suffolk Wildlife Trust, please contact Lucy at [lpswich.learning@suffolkwildlifetrust.org](mailto:lpswich.learning@suffolkwildlifetrust.org)

**Thank you for your interest in Suffolk Wildlife Trust**

