

Wilder Rivers Adviser

Suffolk Wildlife Trust is an inspiring and impactful organisation with a compelling vision for our county:

“A Wilder Suffolk where nature is thriving and abundant because everyone is doing more to help”

In the decade to 2030, we are committed to scaling up our activities across the county, to bring nature back to Suffolk. Our aim is for 30% of our county to be connected and well looked after for nature by 2030, so that our species and habitats can recover and thrive – and for 1 in 4 people to be actively helping to achieve this.



The Opportunity

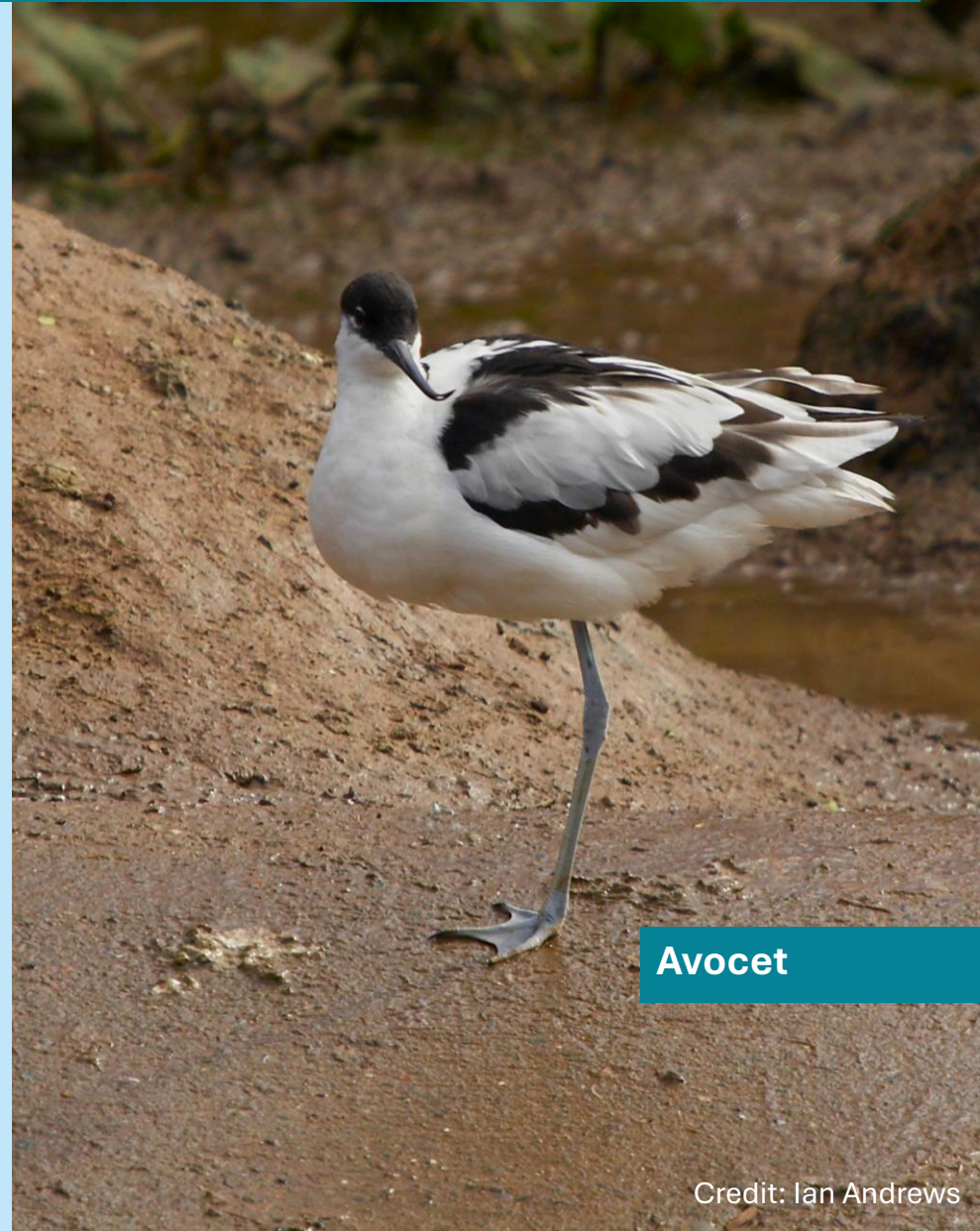
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Suffolk Wildlife Trust is seeking an enthusiastic & suitably-skilled Wilder Rivers Adviser to help us scale up our impact as we work towards our ambitious 2030 goals.

This is an exciting opportunity to play a central role in bringing Suffolk's rivers back to life at a pivotal moment for nature's recovery. As we work towards our ambitious goal for 30% of the county to be connected & thriving for wildlife by 2030, in this role you will be at the forefront of restoring the health, function & resilience of our Suffolk rivers.

Drawing on your expertise in river ecology and restoration, you will lead and inspire collaborative, innovative action across Suffolk's river systems. You will work closely with landowners, partner organisations & local communities to deliver meaningful, landscape-scale improvements that create wilder, healthier waterways full of abundant wildlife. Your leadership will help shape a strategic, countywide approach to river restoration, prioritising areas of greatest need & maximising the impact of nature recovery efforts.

You will provide specialist advice, champion best practice & guide riparian landowners in enhancing habitats and improving river function.



Avocet

Credit: Ian Andrews

The Opportunity

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You will drive forward ambitious projects, support others to deliver their own initiatives and help ensure the Trust's resources are used effectively to achieve lasting ecological change.

Partnership working is fundamental to this opportunity. You will help build momentum within catchment groups, conservation organisations and major stakeholders, fostering shared purpose and driving collective action. Through raising awareness, influencing decision-makers and contributing your expertise, you will help secure a better future for Suffolk's rivers & the communities that depend on them. In this role you will be a volunteer manager and will provide meaningful opportunities to new and existing volunteers that actively support the wilder rivers work and 2030 strategy.

The post holder will need strong practical knowledge of river ecology, geomorphology & freshwater habitats, along with hands-on experience in river restoration techniques & providing technical advice. You'll bring excellent communication, partnership working & project management skills, with the ability to engage volunteers, manage resources effectively and navigate funding, permissions and regulatory processes. Confidence with public speaking, strong IT skills and a proactive, solutions-focused approach are essential.



Lapwing

Credit: Kevin Sawford



Marsh Harrier

Suffolk Wildlife Trust is the county's nature charity – protecting and restoring Suffolk's wildlife.

Since the Trust was founded in 1961, we have been leading conservation efforts in Suffolk and have safeguarded some of the county's most important wildlife areas as nature reserves.

As a grass-roots organisation, we aim to deliver our ambitious mission to **'Bringing Nature Back to Suffolk'** by inspiring people and empowering communities to care and to act for nature, as well as managing over 50 nature reserves, two visitor centers and advocating for wildlife.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust is a gutsy organisation. We are driven by our shared values for nature & support each other to be the best we can. We constantly strive to communicate & collaborate brilliantly, representing the wildlife trust in a welcoming, professional & well-informed manner.



Water Vole

About Suffolk Wildlife Trust

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Suffolk Wildlife Trust is an organisation that makes a difference

We are a registered charity with a Board of Trustees, 100 members of staff, 1,300 volunteers and 28,000 members. The Trust is part of The Wildlife Trusts – a UK federation of 46 local Wildlife Trusts through the UK that together has a powerful collective voice with over 850,000 members and caring for more than 2,300 nature reserves. Suffolk Wildlife Trust have five departments, each with a senior leader or ‘Head of’ responsible for a key area of activity and a team of Managers who bring operational leadership to their area of activity.





Suffolk Wildlife Trust



About the Role

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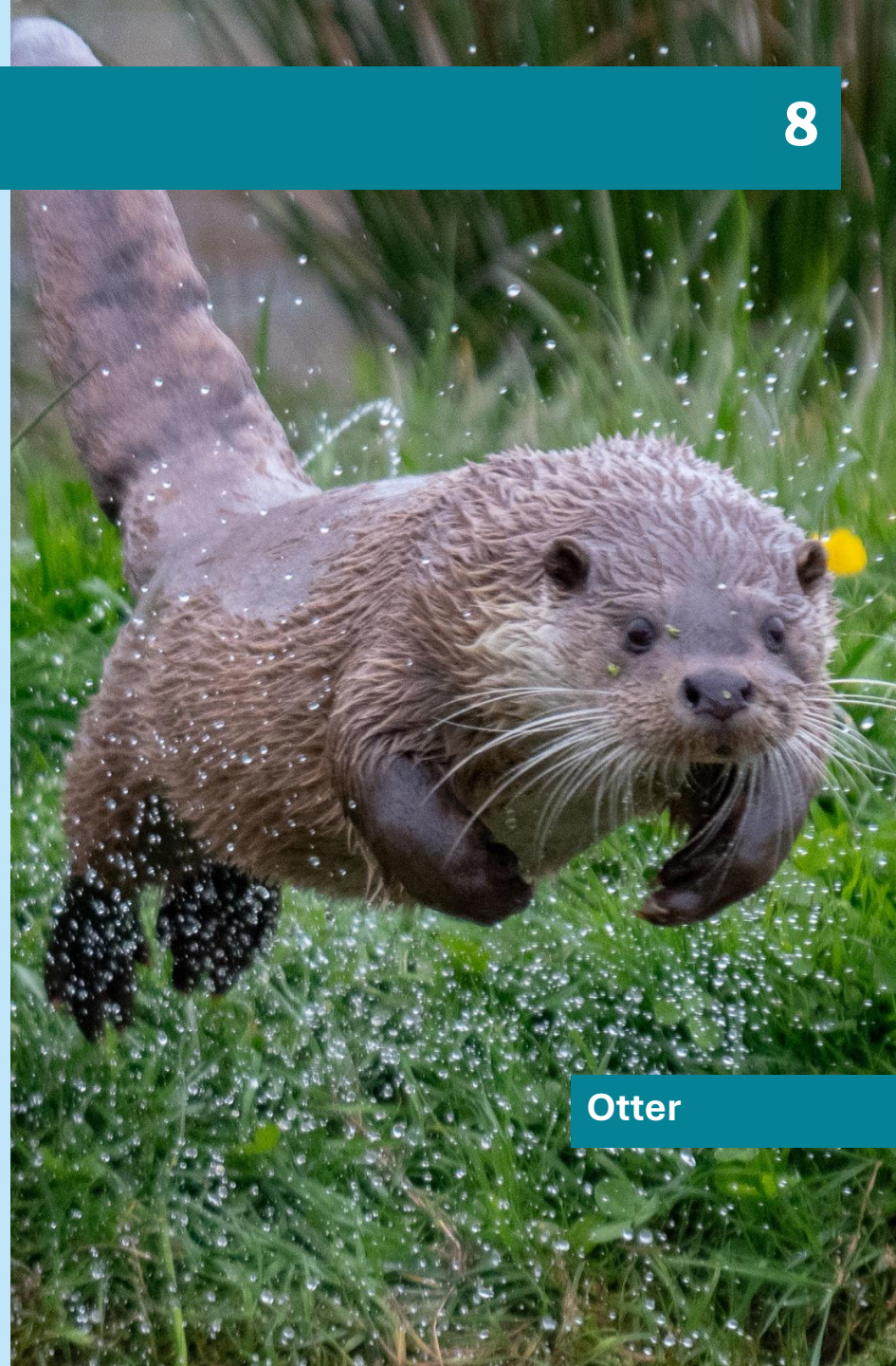
Every staff role has three key areas of focus that directly support our mission to bring nature back. Typically, you should expect to spend 80% of your time on:

1. Deliver expert advice and leadership to riparian landowners and other river stakeholders.

- Offer expertise freely in the form of riparian landowner advice, focused on our priority habitats and species.
- Offer advice on funding, permitting and consents and to encourage initiative and action for rivers.
- Identify or create opportunities for collaboration between neighbouring landowners to create greater impact for our rivers.
- Make your expertise in river ecology available to support colleagues.
- Raise the profile of issues facing rivers and their wildlife, at public-facing events & through media channels.
- Support Wilder Rivers Champions (team wilder) to deliver our wilder rivers message across the county and take initiative and action local.

2. Deliver expert advice and leadership to riparian landowners and other river stakeholders.

- Support riparian landowners to deliver their own projects utilising skills and experience developed from Suffolk Wildlife Trust-led projects.



Otter

- Ensure that Suffolk Wildlife Trust's resources are used efficiently across projects to maximise restoration of nature, prioritising your input against probable outcomes, in line with our 2030 strategy for rivers.
- Continue to lead legacy projects in line with Suffolk Wildlife Trust's strategic goals.
- Develop and lead ambitious projects at scale across the county, focusing on river systems, their priority wildlife and restoration of natural function, bringing innovative approaches where you can work with the Wilder Landscapes Innovation Manager.

3. Partnership approaches

- Provide expert input into partnership approaches, create a sense of common purpose & urgency.
- Work with other river and conservation-focused organisations to deliver/support delivery of ambitious action for rivers, develop strategic approaches and clarity of focus.
- Work with relevant catchment partnerships to provide critical challenge and energy to drive collaborative approaches that meet the needs of multiple partners and deliver for wildlife.
- Where partnerships exist that cover major land areas within catchments, ensure that proactive engagement is made to develop positive action for rivers.
- Work to influence and drive positive action with institutional partners, alongside the Wilder Landscapes Innovation Manager
- Continue to maintain positive working partnerships with key funders of Suffolk Wildlife Trust's rivers work.



Our Culture

Our organisational culture matters to us and enables us to achieve more for wildlife.

Your role description explains the three key areas of focus of your role. What is equally important is how you do it. Suffolk Wildlife Trust is a gutsy organisation - we show courage, determination and spirit, learning from experience and embracing new ideas.

We are driven by our shared beliefs, values, passion for nature and supporting each other – staff and volunteers - to be the best we can to deliver for nature.

We strive to communicate and collaborate brilliantly, representing Suffolk Wildlife Trust in a friendly, professional and well-informed manner.

Supporting Colleagues

This is a cross-team role, providing support to colleagues and our wonderful volunteers through the systems and processes you manage, and your can-do attitude and approach.

Our Beliefs

Everything we do, and how we do it, reflects our belief in nature:

Nature has value in its own right

The world of nature is a place for everyone

People will care more and do more to help if they feel connected to nature.

Everyone will benefit from the environmental, social and economic benefits the natural world brings to society.

Our Culture

Our culture is how we work together, to empower each other, and our county, to achieve more for nature:

We Support each other

People flourish

Agility and innovation drive success

Collaboration strengthens our impact

Everyone plays their part

Inclusively thrives



A personal commitment to Suffolk Wildlife Trust's mission to bring back nature.	Essential	Desirable
Strong practical knowledge of river ecology, geomorphology & freshwater habitats.	✓	
Clear understanding of the pressures facing rivers and their wildlife in England.	✓	
Prior experience of river restoration & enhancement techniques, including natural flood management, habitat restoration and improving river function.	✓	
Experience of coordinating, engaging and leading volunteers.	✓	
Experience of providing technical advice to landowners, farmers or other stakeholders, ideally in a riparian or catchment context.	✓	
Good understanding of funding mechanisms, permissions, consents and regulatory frameworks relevant to river and freshwater projects.	✓	
Experience in developing, delivering or supporting conservation projects, including managing priorities & working within limited resources.	✓	
Proven ability to work effectively within partnerships, collaborating with multiple organisations to achieve shared outcomes for nature.	✓	
Excellent communication skills, able to explain ecological concepts clearly to a range of audiences.	✓	
Able to build trust & positive working relationships with stakeholders (landowners, partners, volunteers & colleagues).	✓	
Good project management & organisational skills.	✓	
Excellent IT skills, particularly in Microsoft 365 including Teams and SharePoint.	✓	
Confident public speaker who can engage positively with the media.	✓	
A proactive, solutions-focused approach, with the confidence to take initiative and drive action.	✓	

Terms and Conditions

This role is a fixed-term position up to one year to cover a period of maternity leave. The working hours are 37.5 hours per week (Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm) based at Brooke House in Ashbocking. We operate flexible homeworking arrangements where colleagues spend more time working together than homeworking. The starting salary is up to £32,672.00 per annum, pro-rata.

Employee Benefits

Annual leave entitlement starts at 33 days per annum (including Bank Holidays), increasing annually to 38 days, plus employees receive an additional day off for their birthday.

We offer a 9% employer pension contribution with no employee contribution required, free 24-hour Employee Assistance Programme, free life insurance from day one of employment, free access to a private GP for themselves and their household and discounts at high street retailers. Staff can also enjoy a 10% discount in our visitor centre cafes, including retail plus public engagement staff receive logo clothing.

As part of our team, you'll join a passionate organisation dedicated to enhancing the natural world, with opportunities to work across some of the most beautiful locations in the county.



Kingfisher

How to apply

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To apply for this opportunity, please submit an application via our website by 9:00am on Wednesday 25 February 2026.

The interviews are planned for Thursday 05 March 2026 at Brooke House. Please indicate on the application your availability for interview (between 9:30am and 4:00pm).

If you would like an informal discussion about the role, you can email me on daniel.wade@suffolkwildlifetrust.org.

Thank you for your interest in bringing your talents, experience and skills to Suffolk Wildlife Trust. I look forward to receiving your application.

Daniel Wade
Wilder Landscapes Innovation Manager

A close-up photograph of a dragonfly perched on a thin green stem. The dragonfly has a brown and black body, large transparent wings with visible veins, and a long segmented abdomen. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

Dragonfly



**Together, we can create a
wilder Suffolk for everyone**