



Bringing Back the Wild

The Wildlife Trusts | Impact Report | 2016/17



“Volunteering has helped me get out and stopped me living under the duvet all day. Great to get out with *nature*, get some fresh air, socialise.”

Wildlife Trust volunteer



There are opportunities to volunteer all around the UK. When she's not teaching, Myfanwy volunteers at Woodberry Wetlands in London.

The statistics in this Annual Review cover the period April 1 2016 - March 31 2017

The projects and work covered here broadly run from Spring 2016 to Spring 2017

To download a pdf version go to wildlifetrusts.org/annualreview

To order a paper copy please contact enquiries@wildlifetrusts.org | The Wildlife Trusts
Registered Charity No 207238

Empowering people to act for nature...

In 2016-17,
over **800,000**



Wildlife Trust members

stood up for wildlife where they live...



...45,000
volunteers

worked in the sun,
rain, snow, hail and wind
for a total of

1.7 million hours

(that's 817 years' worth of work!)
because they love
the wild places
near them...

... *plus*

over
half a million people

discovered wildlife near them
through our walks, talks and events



Hickling Broad, Norfolk – extended by 655 acres



Campaigning to protect undersea habitats



Large Blue Butterflies on the wing
once more in Gloucestershire



**You
helped us
bring back
beavers!**

Together we saved special wild places around the UK, and stood up for our seas

People taking action for wildlife where they live and work is a powerful force for change.

This year a large area of precious wetland in the Norfolk Broads, home to special butterflies, dragonflies and birds, was saved thanks to a Norfolk Wildlife Trust appeal, which raised over £1 million in just six months. Farfields Meadow in Shropshire, Morton Marsh on the Isle of Wight, and Swinn Wood in Lincolnshire are among the other wild places that our movement has protected. Conservation efforts to save the threatened red squirrel were boosted with the Heritage Lottery Fund, supporting work in Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and northern England.

Your support is helping to save wildlife at sea, too. The UK's seas could be amongst the most wildlife-rich on the planet, but are threatened by pollution, destructive fishing practices, and climate change. That's why we've continued our long running campaign to secure a full network of Marine Protected Areas – part of the seabed where damaging activities like bottom trawling are banned.

We're working with nature to solve problems like flooding and water quality.

In November 2016, the Scottish Government announced the official return of the Eurasian Beaver to the UK. This followed a five-year beaver trial led by Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland to explore how beavers can enhance and restore natural environments. In what is one of the most exciting nature conservation stories of the century so far, the pioneering work of Wildlife Trusts around the UK is ensuring that this keystone species has the best chance of survival. In May 2016, Devon Wildlife Trust released two more beavers into the population living wild on the River Otter, where a five-year trial reintroduction is underway.

Bringing our wildlife back

We believe that by working together people can change the natural world for the better.

We're managing our land in a way that works for wildlife. This year nightjars returned to Snelsmore Common in Berkshire, and record-breaking numbers of large blue butterflies were recorded on our reserves. Most people live within a few miles of one of our sites and millions of people visited our wild places to get close to nature.

For many of us, what lies beneath the surface of the waves is out of mind, so we inspire people to love and look after our oceans. Taking people rock pooling, on paddleboard safaris, and on snorkel trails brings this hidden underwater world to life. Scientific surveys are an important part of our work, too. This year our team of divers surveyed the hidden depths of Goodwin Sands and Hythe Bay off the Kent coastline, to gather evidence for their protection.

Our work to bring back nature in local communities is supported by national efforts to influence government policy and laws for wildlife around the UK. The vote to

leave in the EU in June 2016 has set the environmental sector its biggest challenge for decades. The EU underpins two thirds of all environmental legislation, and for forty years has set shared agricultural and fisheries policies. The Wildlife Trusts became a key part of a new coalition, Greener UK, formed in response to the June 2016 vote to ensure that wildlife protection doesn't weaken after Brexit.

It's not just wildlife that benefits from what we do. New nature reserves, like Lunt Meadows in Lancashire, are helping wildlife to recover, helping people to reconnect with local wild landscapes, and providing valuable public services like keeping flood water in the landscape and out of homes and businesses.


It's not just wildlife that benefits from what we do.

"The area is beautiful, for the first few minutes on arriving we were a little awestruck." – Lunt Meadows, Lancashire -

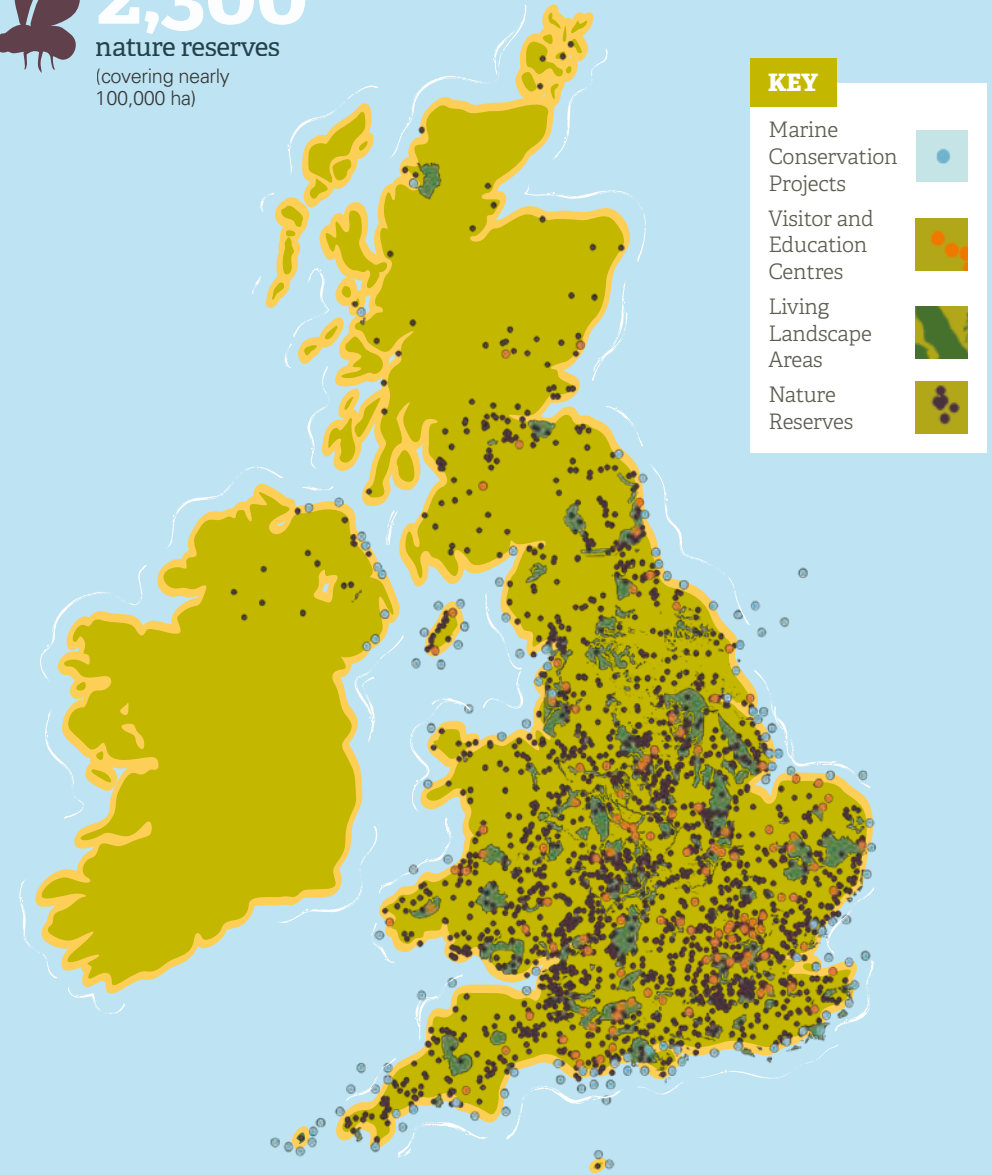
Visitor, April 2017



We help care for...
239,000 ha
of land including

 **2,300**
nature reserves
(covering nearly 100,000 ha)

That's more Wildlife Trust nature reserves than branches of McDonalds in the UK!





Enjoying a wildlife walk with Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Our education work reaches over 400,000 children and young people *every year*

We engage over **270,000** young people through schools, colleges and groups...

...Wildlife Watch, our junior branch, has over **150,000** members...

...and we run over **200** children's nature groups, which inspire more than 14,000 children.

Bringing people closer to nature

Everyone should have the opportunity to experience the joy of wildlife in their daily lives.

We are helping people of all ages and background to draw inspiration and strength from wildlife and wild places - from nature therapy groups to forest schools. In 2016, 30 Days Wild (the UK's month-long nature challenge) celebrated its second year, with more than 25,000 individuals and families and 2,000 schools signing up to do something wild every day throughout June. From noticing nature more often to giving it a helping hand, 30 Days Wild is all about falling in love with the natural world around you. And our research with the University of Derby demonstrated that by taking part in 30 Days Wild, people felt happier and healthier.

Thousands of children benefitted from regular time in nature thanks to new Forest Schools in several major cities. More than 500 sessions were delivered with local schools in just one year, with support from players of People's Postcode Lottery.

20,000 young people across the UK got involved with local environmental action thanks to the Our Bright Future programme, supported by the Big Lottery Fund and led by The Wildlife Trusts.

"Living with depression was like living with Harry Potter's dementors, sucking the fun out of everything. Immersing myself in nature helped fend off the darkness. By the end of the month I'd discovered excitement, happiness, and healing." – Kate, 30 Days Wild



Patience is a volunteer with London Wildlife Trust's Potted Histories project



"All kids should have a chance to come out and experience this." – Ismail, 13, Nuneaton

UK Partnerships

Across The Wildlife Trusts we are fortunate to enjoy relationships with over 2,000 businesses of all shapes and sizes. At a UK level our relationships with business are many and varied and include a small number of formal partnerships.



Taylor Wimpey

Waitrose



THE CROWN ESTATE

SIEMENS



John Lewis

LandSecurities

BRITVIC

Working together to restore wild places

Everyone we work with, from our dedicated volunteers to businesses of all shapes and sizes, believes that they have a part to play in improving the natural world around them. People taking action for wildlife in the places that they live and work is a powerful force for change.

Through our partnerships, The Wildlife Trusts translate aspiration to action on the ground and extend the scope of environmental responsibility to local wild places.

In April 2016, our long-term partnership with Vine House Farm received the Charity Partnership Small Business Award in the Third Sector Business Charity Awards, for the impact the partnership is having on UK wildlife. We launched the Jordans Farm Partnership, a unique collaboration of Jordans farmers, The Wildlife Trusts, Linking Environment and Farming and the Prince's Countryside Fund. The scheme involves all 42 Jordans farms, ensuring that at least 10% of their land is managed to support wildlife, totalling 44,500 acres. And in December, we were honoured to be selected as John Lewis's charity partner for their Christmas advert. Cheers!

Biodiversity Benchmark

Sites belonging to the following organisation retained their certification following an annual assessment: Center Parcs UK, Heathrow Airport Ltd, Aggregate Industries UK, Tarmac Ltd, EDF Nuclear Generation, Lilly UK, Viridor UK, Veolia, Met Office, Network Rail HS1, Wrigley, Gatwick Airport, Green Park. In total, over 8,500 hectares of land are involved in the Biodiversity Benchmark scheme. The Wildlife Trusts' Biodiversity Benchmark is the first award for business designed to recognise and reward continual biodiversity improvement.

Nearly **8,000 people** took part in corporate engagement days

Over **8,500ha of land** managed for in the Biodiversity Benchmark scheme

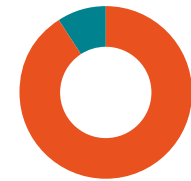


"A love of nature is embedded in everything that we stand for: our farms, our brand, our recipes. Working with The Wildlife Trusts is a natural fit and the partnership is allowing us to achieve more than ever before for wildlife."

– Paul, CEO, Jordans Ryvita

Finance

Our collective income for The Wildlife Trusts movement



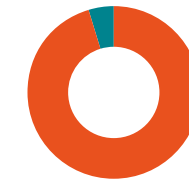
£131.7m

Individual Trust Income

£13.3m*

Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts

Where we spend our money



£122.7m

Individual Trust Expenditure

£5.8m

Spent on Wildlife Trust activity at a UK and England level

* Income for 2016-17 includes £4.3m from Biffa for Biffa Award, and £4.8m from Big Lottery Fund for Our Bright Future

* Figures exclude inter-Trust grants and contributions

Our people...

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Tony Juniper

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Prof Aubrey Manning OBE

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René Olivieri

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Nick Baker
Professor David Macdonald CBE DSc FRS
Bill Oddie OBE
Julian Pettifer OBE
Prof Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL

Chief Executive

Stephanie Hilborne OBE

There are **SO** many ways that
you can make a
difference to

wildlife

- Become a member
- Volunteer
- Leave a gift in your will
- Corporate Partnerships

Find out more at:
wildlifetrusts.org/support

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