



Celebrating the Landfill Communities Fund

Protecting Wildlife for the Future



Thanks to the Landfill Communities Fund,
and the organisations distributing it, we
have managed to help and protect the UK's
precious wildlife and iconic landscapes

There are two ways in which landfill operators support projects through the Landfill Communities Fund. The first is via Distributive Environmental Bodies (DEBs) – the logos of the main UK DEBs are provided here. The second is direct funding to local organisations from the landfill operator. Both routes are equally and vitally important to supporting the work of The Wildlife Trusts and we are extremely grateful to the hundreds of landfill operators, DEBs, Environmental Bodies and third party funders who have made our work possible.



Building communities. Transforming lives.



cory environmental trust
in britain



Foreword



This celebratory report is a way for The Wildlife Trusts to say “Thank you” to those organisations distributing the Landfill Communities Fund.

*Simon King OBE, President,
The Wildlife Trusts*



Over the last 18 years, the tax collected from taking waste to landfill has not only reduced waste by increasing recycling and reuse, but it has also provided a vital source of money for many causes across the UK. As a result, the Landfill Communities Fund has provided over one billion pounds of funding to a diverse range of environmental and community projects, including many undertaken by The Wildlife Trusts.

Thanks to this, the Landfill Communities Fund has been instrumental in helping to restore and look after the UK's wildlife, as well as getting people outside and caring for their local environment. It's helped to ensure that our woodlands are alive with birdsong, meadows are humming with insects, and rivers are bubbling with life, now and for future generations.

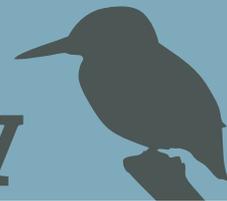
From building an eco-friendly visitor centre in Buckinghamshire, to reintroducing beavers in Scotland; restoring heathlands in Wales, to surveying sealife in Cornwall, there is no doubt that both our landscapes and local communities are richer for the help they have received.

This celebratory report is a way for The Wildlife Trusts to say “Thank you” to those organisations distributing the Landfill Communities Fund, and to showcase the amazing range of work that has been done because of it. It's also an opportunity to look forward at the role 'green taxes' can play in the future. The Fund has helped Wildlife Trusts to grow and develop, engage with a huge number of people, and protect special places for the future – we need to see even more of this in years to come.

Simon King OBE
President, The Wildlife Trusts



Thanks to the LCF beavers can now be seen in Scotland for the first time in 400 years



The Landfill Communities Fund

A major consequence of living in an affluent country is the amount of discarded goods, barely used items, use 'once-only' products and excess

packaging that has to be disposed of. Rarely do we stop and think about where the rubbish we leave out every week goes.

The 'green tax'

Fortunately, around 18 years ago, the UK government introduced a new concept in tax collection that has forced us to change the way we view waste. The Landfill Communities Fund is an innovative 'green' tax that introduced targets to reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill and started a new era in how we consider waste disposal. In 1996, it cost a mere £8/tonne to dump rubbish into landfill, but the tax has gradually increased until, in 2014, it will reach £80/tonne, which means it is now cheaper to recycle rubbish than to 'dump' it.

But there has been another, unexpected and additional benefit from the Landfill Tax, because the rules allowed the landfill operators to donate a percentage of the tax they collect to community or environmental projects within 10 miles of a landfill site. Conceived as a way of mitigating

the adverse impacts to communities located close to landfill sites, a significant amount of this revenue has, in recent years, been used to fund important wildlife conservation work. A number of Distributive Environmental Bodies, working on behalf of their donor landfill operators, have carefully formulated and implemented funding schemes to create amazing places rich in wildlife for people to enjoy.

Supporting conservation

This report is a recognition of the immensely valuable role the Landfill Communities Fund has played, and continues to contribute towards, achieving practical nature conservation on the ground across the UK. It showcases some of the vitally important work the Fund has supported, from creating new reedbeds in the Great Fen, to conducting detailed surveys of the seabed in Dorset.

Against a background of government cuts, and with the focus of other major funders rarely being on the natural world, many of the distributors of the Landfill Communities Fund recognised the urgent need to halt the continuing and, in some cases, devastating loss of wildlife and wildlife habitats, and have stepped in to fill the void. For example, over 20 years, Grundon Waste Management Ltd has supported Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, donating over £2 million to local wildlife conservation. Every grant requires 10% of private funding to release the money, so our members and supporters also play a really important part in making this work possible.

Recognition for the Fund

The Landfill Communities Fund does not enjoy the widespread recognition that other funders, such as the lottery bodies, have gained. It has a lower profile and this report hopes to rectify that situation and ensure that the opportunity for more 'green taxation' is taken seriously in the future.

Looking to the future

As the landfill monies start to diminish due to a decrease in waste going to landfill, the concept of 'the polluter pays' (where funding goes back into the restoration and repair of our natural environment) is surely an excellent one that can, and should, be replicated. In an age of continuing austerity, this is a relatively painless way to fund essential restoration of terrestrial landscapes and marine wildlife.

The Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund provided similar benefits on a smaller scale until it was sadly terminated and simply retained by the Government. This should be reinstated.

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Every grant requires 10% of private funding, so our members and supporters also play a really important part in making this work possible.

Stephanie Hilborne OBE,
Chief Executive, The Wildlife Trusts

The challenge our natural world faces can seem immense. But the reality is that with the right incentives for producers and consumers alike, we can turn around our wastefulness and generate sufficient funds to solve some of the problems we have created.

Our thanks go to the foresight and visionary thinking of all who have contributed to making the Landfill Communities Fund such a successful and innovative scheme. May there be more similar initiatives to follow in the coming years.

**Stephanie Hilborne OBE,
Chief Executive, The Wildlife Trusts**



↖ Marine species like grey seals have been helped



↖ Places like College Lake nature reserve, near Tring, have been restored

Restoring the landscape



Creating a Living Landscape

Our nature reserves are precious wildlife sites, but to help nature recover, we need to think and work on a landscape-scale, working with others to join up, extend and recreate areas for nature. Essential funding is allowing us to save land for nature, restore natural processes and help wildlife to return, thrive and spread into the wider countryside.

The restoration of many precious woodlands, such as Greno Woods in Sheffield, has been possible thanks to the Landfill Communities Fund



SITA support has enabled Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to make significant wetland wildlife improvements in the Trent Valley.

Richard Spowage, Reserves Manager, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

River returned to its former glory

- Transforming the Trent Valley
- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT)
- SITA Trust, £135,000, 2005-08



Wilmington Gravel Pits

Once rich in wildlife, the Trent Valley has been left a shadow of its former self by the effects of development and changing agricultural practices; reedbed, fen and wet grassland have almost vanished from this area. So DWT has developed a long-term vision to create a Living Landscape along the Derbyshire Trent Valley, creating a flourishing wildlife corridor and benefiting local communities.

As part of this vision, the Trust received £135,000 from SITA Trust in 2005 to establish two new wetland nature reserves at Drakelow and Willington Gravel Pits, and link them to other local wetland habitats. The Trust worked hard to restore these reserves; for instance, works were carried out at Drakelow to give the river a more natural profile, helping wildlife to make its home here and increasing water quality. The Trust has also built partnerships with local businesses and landowners, set up volunteering and training opportunities to get people involved in the project, and provided educational activities for local schools.

Grazing for the good of grasslands

- Culm Natural Networks project
 - Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT)
- Devon Waste Management Ltd, £67,000, 2006-08

Culm grassland is Devon's most important terrestrial habitat, noted for the extraordinary diversity and abundance of its flowering plants and insects. As well as supporting marsh fritillary butterflies, barn owls, curlews and other threatened species, well managed Culm raises river quality by providing a buffer against farm runoff. Most importantly, the undrained land acts as a sponge, absorbing huge volumes of water and releasing it slowly. This benefits local communities by minimising the effects of both prolonged heavy rain and drought.

The Culm Natural Networks project was funded with landfill tax credits distributed by Devon Waste Management Ltd. Devon Wildlife Trust brought stockless landowners together with graziers, whose native ponies and hardy Red Devon cattle returned neglected land to good condition and enhanced its ability to provide vital benefits for people and wildlife. Eighteen important wetland sites were restored, and DWT's work on the Culm was commended in *Making Space for Nature* (the Lawton Report 2010) for "creating a Living Landscape whilst providing a financial lifeline for farmers and a cost effective means of improving water quality".



Red devons grazing Culm grassland



Creating a living library of trees

- Conserving and enhancing Tewin Orchard
- Hertfordshire & Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT)
- Biffa Award, £50,000, 2011–12

Since 1950, 75% of the UK's traditional orchards have been lost to agricultural changes, neglect or development. Tewin Orchard nature reserve is one of only a handful of such orchards surviving in Hertfordshire. Planted in the 1900s, its value is not simply in its fruit trees; it has a range of habitats, including ponds, grassland, woodland and hedgerows, which are home to rare species like great crested newts, brown long-eared bats and bullfinches.

In 2011, HMWT set about expanding and reviving the orchard, thanks to funding from Biffa Award. Before the project began, a number of trees were old or dying. So, the Trust created two new nurseries within the reserve – a living library of rare and traditional fruit trees in Hertfordshire. In total, 214 varieties of fruit tree have been planted, including the rare local Hitchin Pippin variety.

The wildlife of Tewin Orchard has benefitted from the clearing of the once overgrown ponds on site, the laying of a new hedgerow, and the installation of bat and newt hibernacula. People can also enjoy the fruits of the Trust's labour with a new path, signage and seating.



Birds like the blue tit benefit from the winter food provided by orchards

Breathing life back into the River Crane

- River Crane conservation project
- London Wildlife Trust (LWT)
- Biffa Award, £148,500, 2009–12

In the far reaches of west London, the little-known River Crane is one of the least modified rivers in the capital and is recognised as a vital wildlife corridor. Once largely neglected, the river and its tributaries are now the focus of an exciting scheme, the Crane Catchment Plan, which aims to create a Living Landscape in the area, helping wetland wildlife.

The scheme was given a boost recently when a three-year project, led by LWT and funded by Biffa Award, was completed. The project has enabled the Trust to restore an astonishing 8 km of habitat along the river through works like tree coppicing, planting vegetation, removing wooden bankside toe boards, and using brushwood bundles and gravels to narrow the modified channel and encourage natural river processes. Unfortunately, the hard work of LWT suffered a major setback at the end of 2011 when a devastating pollution incident killed thousands of fish and invertebrates. It made the project all the more important to help restore wildlife. Today, the river is on a sure path to recovery thanks to LWT and its partners.



River Crane, West London



This project has been excellent for biodiversity. The stream at Woods Mill is now dynamic, full of life, and behaving as a natural channel should.

James Power, Land Management Strategy Lead, Sussex Wildlife Trust

Going with the flow

- Woods Mill stream restoration
- Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWT)
- Viridor Credits Environmental Company, £47,000 2010–11

A mixture of wetland, meadow and woodland habitats, Woods Mill nature reserve is a pretty and tranquil setting for SWT’s headquarters and environmental education centre. A recent land purchase to increase the size of the reserve gave us the opportunity to convert a stream which had been modified and no longer allowed natural flooding. With funding from Viridor Credits Environmental Company, alongside aid and expertise from other partners, the scheme allowed the restoration of the stream back to its natural state and encouraged wildlife to flourish. We created natural meanders, gently sloping banks, pools and riffles and reconnected the stream with its floodplain. In some areas, small amounts of gravel have been laid in the streambed to encourage trout to spawn. More regular flooding now entices birds, such as snipe, to search for insects in the wet grass. The project also provided new interpretation across the site, including an interactive and downloadable nature trail.

Redshank on the Humber Estuary



The WREN funding has enabled the Trust to form strong relationships with local landowners, which will ensure the sustainability of this work

Andy Gibson, Outer Humber Project Manager, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Looking out for waders and wildfowl

- Restoring the Outer Humber Living Landscape
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT)
- WREN, £246,000, 2011–14

As the second largest estuary in the UK, and a European protected site, the Humber Estuary provides a plethora of wildlife watching opportunities. Its saltmarshes and mudflats attract wading birds, such as redshank, curlew and bar-tailed godwit, which can be spotted using their beaks to probe the mud for food.

With funding from WREN, YWT is supporting the restoration of the precious saltmarsh habitat found on the Outer Humber from Spurn Point to Hull. Reconnecting the habitats of the Outer Humber Living Landscape will create new wetlands, and enhance existing ones, for the benefit of vulnerable wading birds and other wildlife. Part of the work includes instating conservation grazing – using traditional breeds of livestock to eat the tough, vigorous grasses and scrub that can crowd out the important plants and wildflowers that support a whole host of other species.

The project is working with local landowners and managers to find the most sustainable way of looking after these valuable habitats, and will monitor the effects of any work carried out. This will help the Trust to tailor its management to suit both the people and the wildlife of the Estuary.

Getting close to nature



*Sweeping for meadow insects at
College Lake nature reserve, near Tring*

Inspiring people

Connecting people with nature is at the heart of our vision. We work to make the wild places we care for accessible to people, and transform places into green havens for local communities. We want to inspire children to become responsible stewards of our environment in the future; engage residents with urban greenspaces; help people learn from and enjoy the wild places around them; and demonstrate the crucial role nature plays for our health and wellbeing.

Cutting-edge centre makes history

- Improving facilities at Folly Farm Centre
- Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT)
- Biffa Award £495,000, 2005–08

At the heart of AWT's Folly Farm nature reserve is a venue like no other. The Folly Farm Centre combines state-of-the-art conference facilities and inspiring educational and training opportunities, all surrounded by 100 hectares of wildflower meadows and woodland glades. But it wasn't always so. Avon Wildlife Trust spent three years working to create the eco-friendly centre through the restoration of the farm and its 18th century buildings. The total cost of the project was £4.5 million, with a major contribution from Biffa Award.

The Trust aims to promote a better understanding of both wildlife and sustainable development within the community, so the buildings have been carefully restored using traditional construction practices and recycled materials. A range of measures have been installed to reduce energy consumption and treat waste water. All profits from the Centre (now a subsidiary company of AWT) are gift-aided to the Trust to support its work with local wildlife. Today, there are more than 5,500 visits a year.



Conference facilities at Folly Farm Centre

Wetland haven welcomes visitors



Enjoying the view at College Lake

- Improving visitor facilities at College Lake nature reserve
- Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)
- Biffa Award £500,000, 2009–10

Nestling at the foot of the Chiltern Hills, College Lake nature reserve is one of the most important wildlife sites in the region. Just 30 years ago, it was a working chalk quarry. When quarrying ceased, BBOWT worked with the owners, Castle Cement, to create a haven for wildlife and local people. Today, the shimmering lake and marsh are surrounded by an attractive mosaic of woodland, meadows and grasslands. These habitats are home to more than 1,000 different species including rare wetland birds like lapwing, redshank and little ringed plover.

Despite being within easy reach of Aylesbury, Luton, Watford and Milton Keynes, College Lake was a well-kept secret for many years. But that all changed in 2010. After acquiring a 25-year lease on the site, BBOWT was able to invest in visitor facilities. Thanks to support from Biffa Award, the Trust built a brand new, eco-friendly visitor centre and observation hide, constructed a new toilet block for the Education Barn, and created new walking routes and interpretation. Today, College Lake welcomes over 80,000 visitors a year, inspiring people from all walks of life with the nature on their doorstep.



Seeing fenland wildlife at its finest



Lucky visitors may spot bearded tits among the reeds

- Rymes Reedbed, Connecting with the Fens and Kester's Docking projects
- Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire (BCN)
- WREN £537,000, 2011-14

In the northern part of the Great Fen work is gaining momentum on one of the most exciting habitat restoration schemes ever undertaken in the UK. The 100-year vision for the Great Fen is to restore a massive 37 km² of fenland between Huntingdon and Peterborough, reconnecting Holme Fen and Woodwalton Fen National Nature Reserves. With the support of WREN and match funding, the Rymes Reedbed project has already created 150 hectares of new habitat, including the largest area of reedbed in the Great Fen.

Local communities are key to the success of such an ambitious conservation initiative, so the Trust's Connecting with the Fens project (also partly funded by WREN) will make sure this reedbed habitat is enjoyable and accessible for everyone. Getting people of all ages involved from the earliest stage possible has helped both visitors and locals really engage with the birth of a new landscape. To help achieve this, the Trust has worked hard to improve access to nature at the Great Fen, for example, by creating new paths and visitor facilities. Visitor numbers are increasing as a result. WREN is now generously supporting additional habitat creation on adjacent land known as Kester's Docking.

Bike trail helps woodland wildlife

- Cumbernauld Glen mountain bike trail
- Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT)
- Biffa Award £29,000, WREN £25,000, 2007-08



Riding the Glen Mile mountain bike trail

Popular with walkers and cyclists, the Cumbernauld Glen wildlife reserve lies in the heart of urban Cumbernauld. But the growth of informal mountain bike trails was damaging the woodland and causing conflict between the two users. So, with funding from Biffa Award and WREN, SWT has provided four purpose-built bike trails: one suitable for novices, children and all-terrain wheelchairs; and three more technically challenging trails for experienced riders.

Within easy reach of 55,000 people, the Glen Mile trail has proved extremely popular – it was used by more than 5,000 people in its first season alone. It has resulted in improved safety for walkers and has provided benefits for wildlife, too. The project encouraged the regeneration of broadleaved woodland in the area by replacing some of the conifer plantation with native trees. Indeed, a study by Greenspace Scotland revealed that every £1 spent on the Glen Mile Mountain Bike Trail generated £3 of social, economic and environmental benefit.

“

I hope it will encourage more people to get on their bikes, get fit and enjoy the great outdoors without damaging the natural environment.

Stewart Maxwell, Minister for Communities and Sport

“”

Viva Veolia gave young volunteers the chance to improve their environment, learn new skills and have fun.

Paul Taylor, Executive Director, The Veolia Environmental Trust

Taking action for wildlife

- Youth Action for Blacka Moor project
- Sheffield Wildlife Trust (SWT)
- The Veolia Environmental Trust, £31,000, 2007–09

As part of the country-wide initiative, Viva Veolia, SWT received a grant to help young people look after their local environment. Volunteers aged between 16 and 25 were encouraged to get involved in practical conservation work at the Trust's Blacka Moor nature reserve. By taking part in activities, such as scrub clearance, drystone walling, surveying and bushcraft, they not only helped local wildlife, but built up valuable skills for the future.

Some of the volunteers involved had their work celebrated through the internationally recognised John Muir Award – a scheme which encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment.

The project formed part of the Viva Veolia initiative. With £250,000 of funding from The Veolia Environmental Trust and £250,000 from v, a youth volunteering charity, this major project involved a total of eight local Wildlife Trusts. Over two years, the scheme provided young people across England with the chance to gain new practical skills, increase their confidence, and take pride in their achievements.

Learning new skills through practical conservation



A boost for birdwatching

- Access improvements at Upton Warren wetland reserve
- Worcestershire Wildlife Trust (WWT)
- Biffa Award, £49,000, 2011–12

Upton Warren is one of WWT's flagship nature reserves and Worcestershire's premier birdwatching site. The reserve is a mosaic of open water, saltmarsh, reedbed, mud and scrub habitats. More than 28,000 people per year visit the site, which offers a range of experiences to visitors interested in wildlife – from those simply attracted by the site's wetland beauty, to the birdwatching enthusiasts drawn by the promise of rare sightings.

With help from Biffa Award, the Trust undertook a project to upgrade access and viewing opportunities at Upton Warren. The improvements have been essential for the safety and comfort of existing visitors, as well as for the reserve's capacity to accommodate a growing number of people. Two new double-storey bird hides are now open, providing better birdwatching opportunities for lots more people. Both hides have a ground floor viewing area, so those with limited mobility can also enjoy the natural spectacles right outside. The project also included a series of path improvements and new bridges, which have made access around the reserve easier and safer. Now visitors can get even closer to rare birds like avocets and bittern without disturbing them.



Lots more people can now enjoy birdwatching at Upton Warren

Saving our species



Species on land and at sea, such as this tompot blenny, benefit from projects supported by the Landfill Communities Fund



Working with nature

Many of our projects give wildlife a helping hand by targeting a particular habitat or species. We conduct research and monitoring, map underwater landscapes at sea, reintroduce lost wildlife and restore habitats to directly benefit the species which rely on them. Funding allows us to give special attention to vulnerable animals and plants and helps us increase our understanding of the complex relationships between wildlife, our changing environment and the people who share it.



Engaging with the wider community is a key objective. It is great to be able to obtain valuable data at the same time as showcasing our pioneering research.

Carolyn Waddell, Intertidal Discovery Project Officer, Cornwall Wildlife Trust

Searching the seashore

- Intertidal Discovery project
- Cornwall Wildlife Trust (CWT)
- SITA Trust, £115,000, 2012–14

In July 2012, CWT and the Environmental Records

Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS) launched a groundbreaking project to map the habitats and species along the north Cornish coastline, stretching from Bude to Land's End. Funded by SITA Trust, the Intertidal Discovery project will produce the first ever set of biological records for the intertidal zone (the area of the seashore that falls between tide marks) in this area. More than 350 km of coast will be surveyed by the project team and its volunteers over the next two years.

Results from this project will give the Trust and ERCCIS a much greater understanding of the coastal ecology of North Cornwall. Data will be used to inform strategies to protect Cornwall's wildlife, help planners to consider wildlife within applications, and to manage invasive species. It will also be instrumental in providing evidence for proposed Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). Currently under review by the government, MCZs are areas of the sea and shore that would be protected for generations to come – something The Wildlife Trusts are fighting hard for.



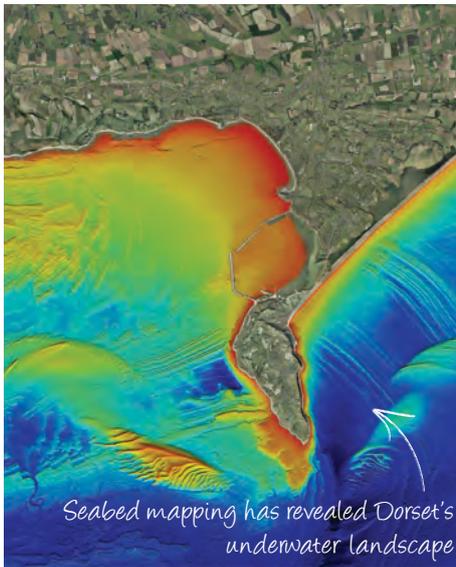
Ancient trees get new life

- Uplands for Juniper project
- Cumbria Wildlife Trust (CWT)
- WREN £131,000, SITA Trust, £56,000, 2011–14

Juniper was one of the first plants to colonise Cumbria after the glaciers of the Ice Age receded. It is adapted to cold, harsh conditions, making it ideally suited to life on the Lake District fells. In these difficult conditions, juniper bushes offer important food and shelter for many species, including the juniper carpet moth and the threatened ring ouzel.

Yet the survival of juniper in Cumbria is hanging in the balance as many upland areas suffer from overgrazing. With help from WREN and SITA Trust, CWT's Uplands for Juniper project aims to safeguard the future of this iconic plant through targeted survey and restoration work. More than 40 volunteers are involved in surveying 200 sites in the county, providing an up-to-date snapshot of the health of Cumbrian juniper. To help restore those areas in need of attention, more than 1,700 trees have already been planted. In addition, CWT is working in the wider landscape to encourage landowners to plant and manage juniper on their land.





Putting the seabed on the map

- DORIS: DORset Integrated Seabed survey
- Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT)
- Viridor Credits Environmental Company £300,000, 2008–11

Between 2009 and 2012, DWT undertook a major survey of Dorset's seabed and its associated wildlife to help increase its understanding of local marine life. DORIS (DORset Integrated Seabed survey) was a partnership initiative that was made possible through support from Viridor Credits Environmental Company.

During the project, more than 800 km² of seabed were surveyed in great detail, revealing an underwater landscape teeming with life. Over 3,300 photographs and 55 hours of video were collected and analysed, helping DWT to recognise the reefs, ridges, sandbanks and shoals that make up this habitat. The Trust also discovered Ice Age river channels and geological fault patterns that form part of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site.

This new knowledge of the seabed and its wildlife was pressed into service straight away in order to secure European funding for a marine project in Dorset. The data was also used to draw the boundary for the Studland to Portland Reefs Special Area of Conservation (a European protected site), and was used in support of the recommended Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs).

Admirable work helps butterflies

- Woodland restoration at Lower Woods nature reserve
- Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT)
- Grundon £385,000, 2000–13

The white admiral is a spectacular woodland butterfly, with white-banded black wings and a distinctive delicate flight. It feeds on honeysuckle and bramble and lives in mature mixed woodland, preferring woodland ride edges and sunny glades. But the white admiral is a threatened species, declining by nearly a third over the last 40 years. So, at the Trust's Lower Woods nature reserve, practical work has been done with the white admiral in mind.

With funding from Grundon, GWT purchased equipment to launch a sustainable firewood project. Through coppicing and clearing, the right habitat has been created for the white admiral and other butterflies, while producing wood to generate an income for the charity, too. Recently, Grundon also helped the Trust to buy a piece of equipment called a forwarder, enabling it to extract wood in wet and muddy conditions. This work has helped to open up areas of the woodland, allowing sunlight to reach the forest floor and wildflowers and butterflies to thrive.



White admiral butterflies are benefiting from the restoration of Lower Woods nature reserve

Red grouse have benefitted from heathland restoration at Beacon Hill Common



Helping heathland wildlife flourish

- Heather, Pillwort and Pools project
- Radnorshire Wildlife Trust (RWT)
- Biffa Award £88,500, 2009–12

Since 1993, RWT has had a conservation lease for Beacon Hill Common, Powys, from Crown Estates Ltd. The Trust carried out some conservation work on the 1,880 hectare common, but the local graziers noticed that bracken was threatening to swamp the dwarf shrub habitat – home to a number of rare species including the iconic red grouse. The Trust decided that a full ecological survey was necessary and both the heath and the upland pools (once a common feature of the landscape) needed restoring.

After a successful application to Biffa Award, a project officer was appointed in spring 2009 to oversee the restoration of the wildlife of the Common. By the end of the project, more than 400 hectares of bracken had been cut, bruised or harvested, opening up the habitat and allowing the heath to flourish. In addition, 37 new pools had been created, benefiting birds like red grouse, curlew and snipe, as well as dragonflies, newts and toads. Through a number of surveys, RWT gained up-to-date information on the birds, reptiles and moths of the Common.

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This is a truly unique and groundbreaking project and Biffa Award is delighted to be the major funding partner.

*Gillian French, Programme Manager,
Biffa Award*

Bringing back the beaver

- Scottish Beaver Trial
- Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT)
- Biffa Award £1,100,000 2009–14

The Scottish Beaver Trial is a unique and exciting conservation project. Working alongside a number of partners, and with funding from Biffa Award, SWT has helped to reintroduce wild beavers into Scotland after an absence of more than 400 years. The first beavers were released in Knapdale, Mid-Argyll, in May 2009, and have since settled in and successfully bred.

Beavers are a native species to the UK, but were hunted to extinction in the 16th century. By changing their surroundings through coppicing, feeding and, in some cases, damming, beavers create ponds and wetlands which attract wildlife, provide food for other species, and help improve water quality. The Scottish Beaver Trial is a groundbreaking study, exploring how beavers can enhance and restore natural habitats. An independent scientific monitoring programme is assessing the effect the beavers are having on the local environment. The results of the Trial will help decide the future of beavers in Scotland.

Tourism has already benefited immensely from the trial, with opportunities to view the beavers being hugely popular. And the project has an extensive education programme: 13,000 people have taken part in over 300 events.

Reintroducing beavers to Scotland



And many more...



With support from the Landfill Communities Fund, we have achieved so much for nature

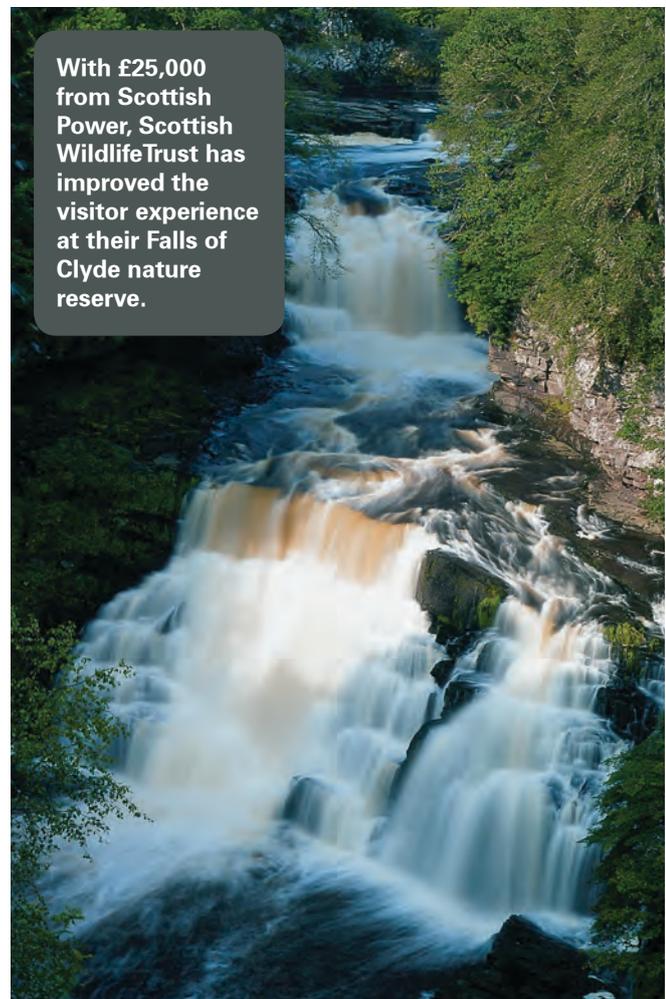
The Landfill Communities Fund has helped Wildlife Trusts across the UK to look after landscapes, help species and offer opportunities to local communities. Here are just a few more of these achievements.



Shropshire Wildlife Trust has transformed Wood Lane nature reserve thanks to £250,000 from Tudor Griffiths Environment Fund.



With £480,000 from Viridor Credits Environmental Company, Sheffield Wildlife Trust has acquired and restored Greno Woods.



With £25,000 from Scottish Power, Scottish Wildlife Trust has improved the visitor experience at their Falls of Clyde nature reserve.



North Wales Wildlife Trust has been awarded £30,000 from SITA Trust to help restore traditional orchards across the region.



With £300,000 from The Veolia Environmental Trust, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Cre8 Barn, Huddersfield, engaged local communities with farming and food production.



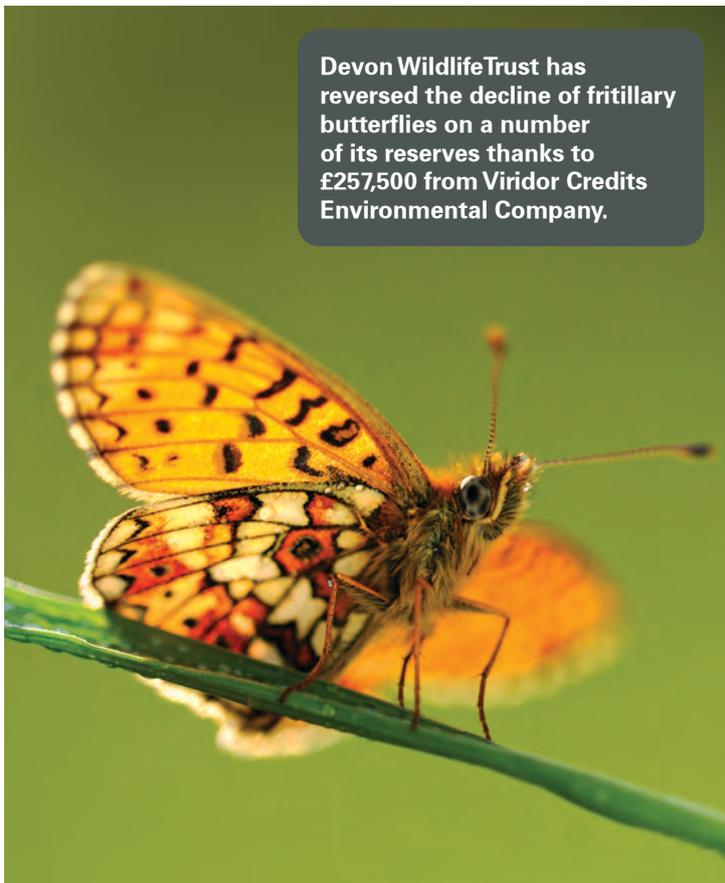
A grant of £250,000 from WREN has enabled Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust to look after the wetlands at Anderby Marsh.



Scottish Wildlife Trust has helped to boost red squirrel populations in Scotland with funding from Aberdeen Greenspace Trust, Biffa Award, SITA Trust and Angus Environmental Trust.



Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust transformed this derelict stable block into a modern education centre thanks to funding from Biffa Award and Grundon.



Devon Wildlife Trust has reversed the decline of fritillary butterflies on a number of its reserves thanks to £257,500 from Viridor Credits Environmental Company.



Habitat at Gwent Wildlife Trust's Great Traston Meadows was improved to benefit species like the nationally rare shrill carder bee thanks to £37,000 from The Veolia Environmental Trust.



£30,000 from Viridor Credits Environmental Company helped Scottish Wildlife Trust to buy land to link its two reserves at Upper Nethan Gorge and Lower Nethan Gorge.



About The Wildlife Trusts

There are 47 Wildlife Trusts covering the whole of the UK, as well as the Isle of Man and Alderney. Wildlife Trusts are run locally by people who care for the natural environment. Together, we have a mission to create Living Landscapes and secure Living Seas.

The Wildlife Trusts stand up for nature: we manage land for wildlife, help others to do so, and campaign to protect our environment. We have more than 800,000 members and 37,000 volunteers.

wildlifetrusts.org ■ info@wildlifetrusts.org

01636 677711

The Wildlife Trusts, The Kiln, Mather Road,
Newark NG24 1WT

Find us on:    

Registered Charity Number 207238


Marbled white butterflies thrive on wildflower-rich Culm grassland – just one threatened habitat being restored with help from the Landfill Communities Fund