



# ANNUAL REVIEW

## 2013/14





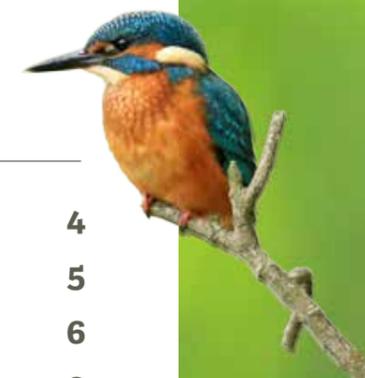
Red Deer Stags Enduring Blizzard, Cairngorms, Scotland – Margaret Walker. Winner of The Wildlife Trusts 'Habitat' category in the 2013 British Wildlife Photography Awards.



# ANNUAL REVIEW

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Statistics cover the period April 2013 - March 2014. Work covered in the Review spans Spring 2013 to Summer 2014.

# Your Wildlife Trusts

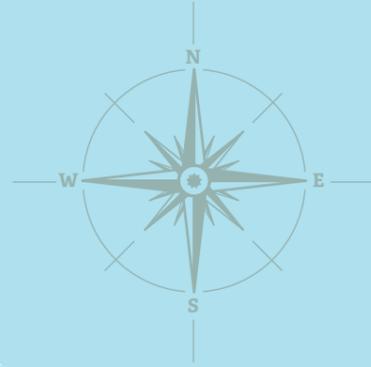
Our goal is nature's recovery, on land and at sea. We recognise how important nature is in all aspects of our daily lives and believe it should be at the heart of how our country is run.

To achieve this we fight for nature on all fronts, through saving and improving places for wildlife and people, influencing agriculture and fisheries policies, instilling a sense of responsibility for the natural world in children and connecting communities with the wild places around them.

Every Wildlife Trust is run by and accountable to the local people passionate about the wildlife and wild places in their area. Together we have a mission to create Living Landscapes, to secure Living Seas and to inspire people to value and take action for nature.



Surveying wildlife in Waresley Wood, Cambridgeshire



KEY	
Marine Conservation Projects	
Visitor and Education Centres	
Living Landscape Areas	
Nature Reserves	

The Wildlife Trusts around the UK, Isle of Man and Alderney

## INSPIRING PEOPLE

- 7 million** Visits to our reserves
- 480,000** People engaged through Wildlife Trust events
- 300,000** Pupils/students engaged by Trusts
- Around **11,000** events run

## IN OUR CARE

- 126** Visitor centres
- > 95,000** Hectares of land cared for by Trusts
- 2,300** Nature reserves

## CHAMPIONING NATURE

- 5,300** Landowners advised
- 215,000** Hectares of land advised on
- 6,800** Planning applications responded to
- 300** MPs/MSPs met in person to talk to about wildlife

## OUR PEOPLE

- 43,000** Volunteers
- > 800,000** Members
- 2,100** Staff
- 600** Trustees

# What we do...

Millions of people benefit from the work of The Wildlife Trusts every year. Whether it's our nature therapy projects, our beautiful wild places – nearly all of which are free to access, our walks, talks and events that help people learn about local wildlife, our volunteer teams that bring people together or our work to help restore landscapes for nature. Together we stand up for, and look after, the natural places that people care about. This includes more than 95,000ha of woods, meadows, beaches, rivers, hills, bogs, urban parks and campaigning for protection for our seas. We also help others to enrich more than 200,000ha of land for wildlife. Here's a taste of what we're doing day in, day out... probably somewhere near you:

## 1 RESTORING WILDLIFE & NATURAL PROCESSES

We work to restore places to their full wildlife potential and see the return of plants and animals to places where they have been lost. Dormice, ospreys, butterflies, dragonflies and juniper bushes are just some of the threatened species returning thanks to Wildlife Trusts around the UK.



## 2 CREATING FUTURE GENERATIONS THAT LOVE WILDLIFE

Every year we help hundreds of thousands of children to find nature and increase their confidence outdoors through our family activities, forest school sessions, regular children's nature groups and school outreach sessions. We want children to go home with leaves in their hair, dirt on their hands and a little bit of nature in their heart.



## 3 CREATING CONNECTED LANDSCAPES FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

Dorset Wildlife Trust's Great Heath project is protecting 'stepping stones' of habitat for wildlife by purchasing 1,435 acres of land to restore and connect urban heaths around Bournemouth and Poole. It's one of many around the UK.



## 4 HELPING PEOPLE TO FEEL BETTER WITH NATURE

The Wildlife Trusts run a range of projects across the country where time spent in nature helps to improve physical and mental health and contribute to a sense of well-being - from developing wildlife gardens in hospitals to woodland and horticulture 'ecotherapy' projects.



## 6 SAVING AND CARING FOR WILD PLACES

The Wildlife Trusts care for 2,300 nature reserves – wild marshes, moors, woods, meadows, lakes, rivers, beaches and islands. In January 2014 Derbyshire Wildlife Trust was part of a local campaign that helped to save the Sanctuary Local Nature Reserve in Derby from destruction - a haven for over 70 bird species.



## 5 CAMPAIGNING AND INFLUENCING

Following a major pollution incident in the English Channel in January 2014 our call for tighter control on marine pollution helped to result in a ban on the discharge of damaging polyisobutene (PIB) chemicals from ships at sea. This should help to prevent the deaths of thousands of seabirds.



## 7 HELPING OTHERS TO ACT FOR NATURE

We provide advice to 5,300 landowners each year on how to manage and enhance over 200,000 ha of land for wildlife. We're also working with businesses to help them understand and appreciate the value of nature and to take action for it.

## 8 EXPANDING OUR KNOWLEDGE

Many Wildlife Trusts run Seasearch and Shoresearch projects where volunteer surveyors record wildlife along the coast and under the sea. This vital work helps to identify areas along the coast in need of protection for wildlife.



## From our Chair & CEO

In an ever-changing world the contribution of The Wildlife Trusts to society and to the quality of life people enjoy is more important than ever. Millions of people benefit from our work but we are facing stiff challenges. Many people and many politicians appear not to grasp the centrality of nature, and of access to nature, to education, healthcare and the economy. And the imperative of short-term economic growth continues to trump long-term environmental sustainability at all levels of government.



*René Olivieri*  
**René Olivieri**  
 Chair

In 2013, the State of Nature Partnership, to which we were proud to add our experience and knowledge, found that 60% of UK species we know about are in decline. But it's not just nature that's losing out. It's us too. Our health and wellbeing is in decline, and the loss of wildlife and wild places is part of the problem - with the poorest and most vulnerable in society often affected the most.

By helping nature to recover and enabling people's access to it, we can tackle some of society's biggest challenges. The Wildlife Trusts continue to



*Stephanie Hilborne*  
**Stephanie Hilborne OBE**  
 Chief Executive

demonstrate what is possible, for example through our Ecominds partnerships with Mind at places like the Idle Valley in Nottinghamshire; our work with Help for Heroes in Wiltshire; and with a growing number of programmes delivered by Trusts, working with GPs and local health charities and groups to help people improve their wellbeing through a connection to nature. Our network of Living Landscapes doesn't just link natural habitats for wildlife: it links communities and people too.

It should be a huge concern for society that less than 10% of children ever play in natural areas. Helping children to experience the joy of wildlife and develop an early understanding of nature has long been a priority for The Wildlife Trusts. We are taking thousands of school children out of the classroom and into the meadows and woods so they can spend time in nature and forge a lasting connection with it. Last year Wildlife Trusts engaged with more than 300,000 pupils and schoolchildren, at their schools or by taking them out to nature

reserves, and we currently run more than 250 regular nature clubs for children across the UK. We also have 150,000 junior and family members.

2013-14 was the year when extreme weather across the UK brought home our fragility in the face of our changing climate, and the need to recognise the role of our ecosystems in the security of our country. The winter saw flooding take its toll on communities and nature reserves along the east coast with a huge impact on the coastal wildlife of Suffolk, Norfolk, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. The visitor centre at Gibraltar Point in Lincolnshire, one of our oldest nature reserves, was completely destroyed. But the same saltmarshes and sand-dunes that were battered by storm surges also helped to protect farmland and communities further inland. In the New Year the Somerset Levels lay under water for weeks and together with others we argued for taking a natural approach to flooding alleviation rather than kneejerk responses such as widespread dredging of rivers which could damage natural systems further and reduce our natural ability to cope with future flood events.

Restoring our seas to a more thriving state is also key to creating future environmental resilience. The sea absorbs vast quantities of harmful 'greenhouse' gases, while releasing oxygen for us to breathe, and provides us with many everyday resources too, from seafood to the energy we use. Marine protected areas are a crucial part of our vision for Living Seas and 2013 saw some important steps forward. In November the first 27 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) were designated in English waters. Our campaign for protected areas at sea has been long-running. The Wildlife Trusts were the only wildlife organisation participating in all regional MCZ groups, ensuring that wildlife had a voice along with those of the fishing industry, sailing clubs, anglers and other sea users. There is still a long way to go but this is an

important first step with more designations of zones to follow in 2015 and 2017. We also joined forces with groups across Europe to campaign for historic reforms of the Common Fisheries Policy and to enforce the first real controls to reduce damage in those marine sites designated as being of European importance in English seas. In Scotland, following 10 years of campaigning by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, the Scottish Government created 30 Marine Protected Areas, safeguarding vast offshore areas, sea lochs, deep sea corals and kelp forests.

The Wildlife Trusts are working tirelessly in cherished places of all shapes and sizes - from rocky reefs under the sea to flower-rich meadows, purple heaths, romantic woods, wild wetlands and urban parks - to halt the erosion of our natural assets and to protect and restore the habitats that are home to our pollinators, that clean our water, store carbon, provide us with food through healthy soils and oceans, and ultimately make us healthier and happier people. We are innovating too, in places such as Thurrock Thameside Nature Park in Essex, which opened in May 2013. Here we are demonstrating how wildlife can flourish in the most degraded of landscapes - in this case a former landfill site now filled with the sound of skylarks and an award-winning eco-visitor centre - and provide a focal point for local communities.

**Every Trust has an innate understanding of their locality and yet is able to look beyond their own borders to recognise their national significance.**

But this action is only possible thanks to our members and volunteers who provide their Trusts with the support and encouragement they need. We are deeply grateful to each and every one of you for your continued support ▶

# People & Nature

Nature is vital to our wellbeing, the keystone of our economy and crucial for our future. Nature is also vulnerable to our actions, and as Sir David Attenborough once said “No one will protect what they don’t care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced”. Our goal is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to experience wildlife and that nature is put at the heart of our everyday lives. We also mobilise people to take action for nature, both practically and to influence decision-makers.



## CASE STUDY | TACKLING SOCIAL ISOLATION WITH TIME IN NATURE

Wildlife Trusts run projects that aim to address social isolation in older people, reconnecting them to nature, to each other and sharing experiences and memories with younger generations. **Sheffield Wildlife Trust's** Wild At Heart project provides a safe means for those with memory loss, hearing problems, limited mobility or poor health to get outdoors and meet new people. **London Wildlife Trust's** Potted History project uses wildlife gardening and reminiscence to combat social isolation and poor mental health. **Ulster Wildlife's** Growing Together project brought together an audience of older people and primary school children to share experiences of wildflower meadows.



A Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Nature Tots session at Carsington Water where children learnt about the fascinating species that live in our rivers and lakes.

## MOBILISING VOLUNTEER POWER

From helping out in our offices to planting trees and making new meadows, the work we do would not be possible without the support of our 43,000 passionate volunteers. With their help, **Staffordshire Wildlife Trust** created a new wildflower meadow the traditional way in the Churnet Valley, spreading locally sourced hay and the precious seeds it contained. **Durham Wildlife Trust** volunteers planted native violets at secret locations in the county to prime the habitat for the reintroduction of hand reared small pearl-bordered fritillary caterpillars. Since 2012, volunteers for **Cumbria Wildlife Trust** have been mapping the distribution of dwarf willow in the Lake District – an important indicator of climate change. And at **Dorset Wildlife Trust**, volunteers discovered a new species of starfish for the area in rockpools at Kimmeridge.

## CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

We believe that nature should be central to community life and that everyone should have access to wildlife and local wild places. **Sussex Wildlife Trust's** Wild About Worthing project offers residents a Forest Schools programme and wildlife gardening competition. **Sheffield Wildlife Trust's** Ride Sheffield project has planned a sustainable multi-user bridleway through Lady Canning's Plantation, opening up the area for disabled horse riders and mountain bikes. Thanks to a funding boost from Big Lottery Fund, **Gwent Wildlife Trust's** People and Wildlife project has helped local people learn to love the wildlife of the South Wales Valleys.

## INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE

Wildlife Trusts work with children and young people of all ages to nurture a love and understanding of nature through outdoor learning programmes, skills development and work experience opportunities, events, activities and school visits. Olympic champion Sally Gunnell OBE visited **Sussex Wildlife Trust's** Woods Mill to support a training scheme helping young people develop conservation skills. **Essex Wildlife Trust's** new education and visitor centre at Walton on the Naze will inspire families and help foster an understanding of the area's coastal ecology. A new webcam project also brought the bustle of a puffin colony to the classroom for 1,500 schoolchildren in 2013. **Alderney Wildlife Trust's** Living Islands Live provides a 12-week primary school programme for children across Alderney and south east England, using puffincams, daily blogs and weekly video chats as part of maths, science, literacy and arts curricula.

## OUR WILDLIFE

We aim to help foster a sense of ownership for the natural world, help celebrate it and empower people to do their bit to protect it. **Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust** celebrated the 25th year of Birdfair in August 2013 and welcomed thousands of wildlife enthusiasts to the event. **Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's** Help for Hedgehogs campaign asked local people to record hedgehog sightings and make garden improvements for their benefit, and **Suffolk Wildlife Trust** developed an online map allowing people across the UK to report their hedgehog sightings. **Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust** celebrated its 50th anniversary with 50 hours of wildlife recording at Attenborough. 620 species were recorded in total, 60 of which had never been recorded at the site before. **Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's** Wildflower Meadows Network project inspires local people to restore and create meadows ▶

**"Early years clubs and groups like Nature Tots provide children with the chance to get up close to wildlife at a young age"**

# Living Landscapes

The idea that wildlife and natural processes need to have space to thrive beyond designated nature reserves is central to our Living Landscapes approach. With the help of a wide range of partners and local communities, The Wildlife Trusts are working to restore, create and connect wildlife-rich places across the UK and transform the environment we live in.



## CASE STUDY | CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF THE WEST WEALD LANDSCAPE PROJECT

The West Weald is one of the most wooded landscapes in Britain and of international importance for nature conservation – in particular for its woodland bat communities. This ambitious Living Landscape scheme, led by **Sussex Wildlife Trust** with a wide range of partners, aims to conserve and enhance 24,000 ha of West Sussex and south Surrey. At its heart are two internationally important examples of old-growth forest and pasture woodland at The Mens and Ebernoe Common, both designated European Special Areas of Conservation and managed as **Sussex Wildlife Trust** nature reserves. Outside these core areas, the emphasis is on connectivity. Over the last five years, the project has worked with more than 130 farmers and landowners across 11,000 ha (46% of the project area) to encourage the integration of wildlife-friendly practices into their land management; helped get 35 neglected woodlands back into active management; planted more than 7km of farm hedges; established 14 traditional orchards; created five new woodlands; organised landowner workshops on woodland management, tree health, and meadow creation and restoration; and run community orchard planting days and dormouse nut hunts.



A family enjoying the new visitor centre and outdoor wild space at Thurrock Thameside Nature Park, Essex.



## OUR VANISHING GRASSLANDS

Grasslands are beautiful and valuable habitats that are an important part of our natural heritage – but they are vanishing, and the wildlife that depends on them is under threat. Recognising the scale of the problem, our Patron HRH The Prince of Wales suggested a remarkable nationwide project that will see a meadow created in every county to mark 60 years since The Queen's Coronation. The Coronation Meadows Project, led by Plantlife in partnership with The Wildlife Trusts and the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, was launched in June 2013 with the announcement of the first 60 flagship meadows - outstanding examples of flower-rich grasslands that reflect the local character of the landscape; **Suffolk Wildlife Trust's** Martin's Meadow has green-winged orchids and meadow saffron, whilst **Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's** Far Starling Bank contains burnet saxifrage and goldilocks buttercup. Coronation Meadows have since been identified in every county and the aim is to harvest seed and green hay from these sites to restore or create new meadows across the country, and to map the UK's remaining meadows to produce the first ever inventory of our wildlife-rich grasslands.

## MAKING SPACE FOR WATER

The tidal surges and extreme winter floods of 2013-14 caused significant damage across the UK. We have been urging Government to invest in a more flood-resilient future by working with nature, rather than against it.

**"Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's Winnall Moors reserve upstream of Winchester played a vital part in holding back floods which would otherwise have put the heart of the historic city at risk."**

Across the UK, Wildlife Trusts are working on large-scale habitat restoration schemes which slow down water and reconnect rivers with their floodplains, making space for water. For example, **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust** is an integral part of the Yorkshire Peat Partnership, working to restore a vast area of peatland that will act like a sponge to reduce peak flows downstream during high rainfall.

## CHAMPIONING AND CAMPAIGNING FOR NATURE

Fracking for shale gas as a potential new energy source for the UK prompted strong reaction from many local communities. In partnership with other leading conservation charities, The Wildlife Trusts published a peer reviewed report on the risks posed by fracking to the natural environment, proposing ten recommendations to improve how Government regulates the industry. Our badger vaccination schemes continue to demonstrate that vaccination, along with other measures, is a viable alternative to culling.

## PLACES FOR NATURE

We care for around 2,300 nature reserves across the UK and every year save even more places for wildlife and for people to enjoy. In the past year: **Warwickshire Wildlife Trust** secured the future of one of the best wild flower grassland sites in the West Midlands, to be named Tasker's Meadow in memory of former CEO Andy Tasker; **Derbyshire Wildlife Trust** helped reverse Derby City Council's decision to build a cycle track on The Sanctuary Local Nature Reserve - an urban wildlife haven with more than 90 recorded bird species; and **Devon Wildlife Trust** secured £0.5 million Biffa Award funding to restore, create and connect precious Culm grassland habitats. ▴

# Living Seas

The Wildlife Trusts manage more than 200 protected coastal sites, including islands and cliffs, saltmarshes, estuaries and beaches. These are home to busy seabird colonies, precious invertebrates and fragile inter-tidal habitats. These areas already under our protection are but a drop in the ocean – for our vision of Living Seas to become reality we need a vast network of protected areas at sea. To achieve this, we campaign for better protection for marine wildlife and gather evidence of its importance. We also use photography and art to bring the sea to people inland, raising awareness for its protection.



## CASE STUDY | ALDERNEY GANNET TAGGING PROJECT

In 2013, Alderney Wildlife Trust began a three-year gannet tagging study on Les Etacs to better understand how environmental changes influence their foraging behaviour. In June, project workers caught 27 gannets at their nests and fitted them with GPS tags, accelerometers to record flying and diving data, and barometers to measure altitude. Combining this data will allow the pinpointing of important marine hotspots for the species.



**Manx Wildlife Trust**  
A shark ready for release, with the tag just visible behind her dorsal fin.

## PROTECTED AREAS AT SEA

We saw a great deal of progress in our campaign for a network of well-managed Marine Protected Areas around the UK in 2013-14. The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) passed at the end of 2013, placing a duty on the Northern Ireland Assembly to create Marine Conservation Zones in their waters and designating the first MCZ in Northern Ireland, in Strangford Lough. **Scottish Wildlife Trust** celebrated the designation of 30 Marine Protected Areas, doubling the size of the network in Scotland. In England, the revised approach to managing fisheries in European Marine Sites saw bylaws brought in to manage some of the most damaging fishing activity on the most vulnerable features within these sites. Wildlife Trusts around England have worked hard with their Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities to secure appropriate management, resulting in 13 bylaws across England to deliver protection. In Wales, we continue to await an announcement about designation of marine sites.

## STUDYING SEA-LIFE

Trusts across the movement have continued to run monitoring and recording projects, including through Shoresearch and Seasearch. These projects help to build up our knowledge of the marine environment and contribute to evidence for the designation of protected areas. **The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales'** Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Centre continues to gather data on marine mammals in the area, in particular on the behaviour of its population of bottlenose dolphins. **Devon Wildlife Trust's** Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Project is helping to build a more accurate picture of Devon's coastal and marine life, to improve future management plans. The island Trusts are uniquely placed to carry out marine wildlife research: **Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust** are part of the Isles of Scilly Seabird Recovery project to safeguard the future of the islands' breeding seabird populations; and **Manx Wildlife Trust** has been working closely with local sea anglers to tag small shark species such as tope and bull huss, allowing their movements and growth rates to be monitored.

## OUR MARINE WILDLIFE

Helping people to learn more about our marine environment and advocating the need for its protection is vital. Trusts around England have been encouraging children in schools and at events to sign the starfish pledge, sending personalised starfish to the Prime Minister to call for greater protection for marine wildlife. **Ulster Wildlife's** Living Seas Community Engagement Project works with communities and schools throughout Northern Ireland to promote protection of their coasts and seas. Through Making Waves, **Sussex Wildlife Trust** and **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust** are working together to re-connect communities with the sea's amazing biodiversity and raise awareness of Marine Protected Areas. A programme of school outreach visits, public events, courses, teacher training, public talks and new interpretation materials are helping new audiences learn about, enjoy and value their marine heritage. Over the three year project, more than 15,000 children have engaged with interactive assemblies, in school workshops, Wild Beach sessions at the coast, boat trips and marine kits.

## PROMOTING MORE SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

**Dorset Wildlife Trust's** Great Dorset Seafood Project provides information on the way marine species are caught in the county, helping consumers to make more sustainable choices of seafood. It also encourages retailers and restaurants to source produce from local, low impact stocks. **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust** continue to work closely with local fishermen to promote responsible fishing practices

# Around the Wildlife Trusts...

Follow the short urls at the end of each caption to read more about the story online e.g. [wtru.st/LinkHere](http://wtru.st/LinkHere)



## The Wildlife Trusts around the UK, Isle of Man and Alderney

### Scotland

The Coigach-Assynt Living Landscape partnership, which works closely with major landowners to improve habitat quality and ecosystem health in the north west of Scotland, was awarded £3 million by the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2013. The money will enable restoration projects for the benefit of iconic Scottish species, promote economic prosperity and nature tourism, and reconnect local people with their natural heritage. [wtru.st/CoigachGrant](http://wtru.st/CoigachGrant)



April 2014 marked the 50th anniversary of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, formed thanks to the efforts of a pioneering group led by Sir Charles Connell. As if in celebration, the famous old female osprey at the Loch of the Lowes laid her 70th egg in the early hours of that morning. The Trust's first reserve was Enterkine Wood in Ayrshire. Today it manages 120 reserves across Scotland and has more than 35,000 members. [wtru.st/ScottishWT50th](http://wtru.st/ScottishWT50th)

### Wales

#### BRECKNOCK

In 2014, Brecknock Wildlife Trust marked its 50th anniversary with a series of celebratory events, starting in February with a packed Theatr Brycheiniog for a talk by Welsh wildlife presenter Iolo Williams. It ended with a celebration in September when founders staff, trustees, volunteers and the public came together to celebrate the cutting of the anniversary cake. [wtru.st/breckevents](http://wtru.st/breckevents)



#### GWENT

Gwent Wildlife Trust will be able to engage with even more local people over the next three years, thanks to funding from the Big Lottery Fund People and Places Programme. The Trust raises awareness of the wildlife of the South Wales Valleys by working with local schools, offering training opportunities and running events and workshops to learn about the area's wild places. [wtru.st/GwentPandW](http://wtru.st/GwentPandW)



#### NORTH WALES

The Anglesey Grazing Animals Partnership (AGAP), of which North Wales Wildlife Trust is a key partner, has been linking landowners and graziers to match livestock with sites in need of grazing. The Trust's nature reserves benefit from the increased plant diversity encouraged by traditional grazing, and conservation-grade produce is prepared for sale on the island. [wtru.st/NWalesGrazing](http://wtru.st/NWalesGrazing)



#### RADNORSHIRE

Six new wetland scrapes were dug at Tylcau Hill nature reserve – flower-rich farmland criss-crossed with ancient hedgerows – at the beginning of 2014, providing vital new habitat for invertebrates and birds. Volunteers also began planting fruit trees in the new community orchard. [wtru.st/TylcauHill](http://wtru.st/TylcauHill)



### Northern Ireland

Ulster Wildlife completed the first phase of major restoration work at Ballynahone Bog Nature Reserve, inserting 100-piling dams to help restore the health of this important lowland raised bog and protect the unique wildlife it supports. Environment Minister Mark Durkan, pictured here with Reserves Manager Andy Crory, lent a hand. [wtru.st/LDerryBog](http://wtru.st/LDerryBog)

The Bog Meadows Enhancement Project saw the return of grazing animals to the reserve. Traditional grazing of the site's meadows encourages wildflowers and, in turn, the many insects, birds and other animals that rely on them. Further work has improved access for local communities, thanks to funding from the Alpha Programme. [wtru.st/BogMakeover](http://wtru.st/BogMakeover)

After many years of effort by the Northern Ireland Marine Task Force, of which Ulster Wildlife is a key partner, Northern Ireland passed a long-awaited Marine Act at the end of 2013. Northern Ireland's first national Marine Conservation Zone was created at Strangford Lough, with further MCZs being considered for designation. [wtru.st/NIMarineAct](http://wtru.st/NIMarineAct)



The first World Forum on Natural Capital, organised by Scottish Wildlife Trust, was held in Edinburgh in November 2013, bringing together business and sustainability leaders from 35 countries. The Forum provided the opportunity to discuss the need to identify the economic value of nature – the world's natural resources on which society's economic and social wellbeing depend. [wtru.st/NatCapital](http://wtru.st/NatCapital)

#### MONTGOMERYSHIRE

Following the official opening of Dyfi Observatory in May 2014, the thousands of annual visitors to the Dyfi Osprey Project will now be able to enjoy spectacular views across the Dyfi valley. Thanks to £1 million funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the new facility will provide new opportunities to engage people with the wildlife around them. [wtru.st/DyfiObservatory](http://wtru.st/DyfiObservatory)



#### SOUTH AND WEST WALES

A huge amount of work has been completed at the Trust's flagship Parc Slip nature reserve, including the installation of wildlife scrapes – already home to breeding lapwing and ringed plover – an elevated bird hide and a refurbished visitor centre. The support of Natural Resources Wales and the fundraising efforts of the Trust's members have made this important work possible. [wtru.st/ParcSlipScrapes](http://wtru.st/ParcSlipScrapes)



## England

### BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

The Great Fen, a partnership project led by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, was awarded a further £1.89million from the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable the Trust to restore a further 182 ha at Engine Farm, in the north of the project area, to reedbed and grassland. [greatfen.org.uk](http://greatfen.org.uk)



### BERKSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND OXFORDSHIRE

This year the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust bought Meadow Farm on the Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire border. Thanks to the support of their members and the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Trust is now managing this incredible Medieval farmstead with its fabulous wildflower meadows and magnificent hedgerows all alive with rare birds, plants and animals. [wtru.st/MeadowFarm](http://wtru.st/MeadowFarm)



### BIRMINGHAM AND BLACK COUNTRY

The Trust has taken on care of the historic Deer's Leap Wood, on the boundary between the Edgbaston, Harborne and Soho Wards of Birmingham. With a rich history which can be traced back to Medieval times, the site will be made accessible to local communities and protected from nearby development. [wtru.st/DeersLeap](http://wtru.st/DeersLeap)



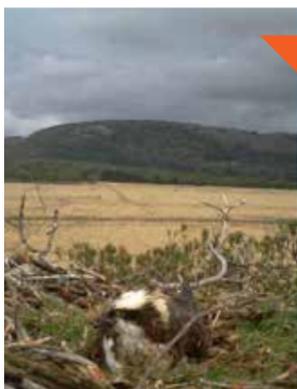
### CHESHIRE

One of Cheshire's rarest habitats is benefiting from a project to restore Delamere's lost mosslands, thanks to a £250,000 grant from WREN. Home to specialist plants and animals such as the rare white-faced darter dragonfly, these isolated pockets of wetland habitat will be restored and reconnected as part of the Meres and Mosses Living Landscape project. [wtru.st/DelamereBogs](http://wtru.st/DelamereBogs)



### CORNWALL

Cornwall Wildlife Trust has purchased two new nature reserves in west Cornwall: Bostraze, a spectacular wetland reserve, and Bartinney Nature Reserve, recently discovered to be one of only three sites in England supporting the very rare tormentil nomad bee. More than 300 visitors have experienced the new reserves over the year, taking part in a programme of wildlife walks, workshops and practical conservation days. [wtru.st/Penwith](http://wtru.st/Penwith)



### CUMBRIA

A 15-year project to restore 300ha of peat bog at Foulshaw Moss is now complete. Conifers have been removed and miles of drains blocked to bring water levels back to their natural level. The work is already reaping rewards – this summer the nature reserve was home to its first family of ospreys. [wtru.st/FoulshawRestored](http://wtru.st/FoulshawRestored)

### DERBYSHIRE

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has been awarded £1.7 million of Heritage Lottery Funding to deliver a five year Landscape Partnership. DerwentWISE will bring together 15 partner organisations alongside voluntary groups, communities and visitors to inspire and enable people to care about the Lower Derwent Valley. [wtru.st/DerwentWISE](http://wtru.st/DerwentWISE)



### DEVON

The spectacular landscape of Meeth Quarry became the latest Devon Wildlife Trust nature reserve. Bike trails, easy-access walking routes, sculptures, seating and visitor info all make sure that Meeth is a welcoming place. By year end 30,000 people had visited including more than 700 of whom joined the Trust at its opening celebration event. [wtru.st/MeethQuarry](http://wtru.st/MeethQuarry)



### DORSET

The Great Heath Living Landscape is a Heritage Lottery Funded project with multiple partners, led by Dorset Wildlife Trust, to develop an urban Living Landscape across South East Dorset. £4.7 million has already been secured and 600 ha of land have been purchased to benefit wildlife and help people living in urban areas connect to the natural space around them. [wtru.st/DorsetGreatHeath](http://wtru.st/DorsetGreatHeath)



### DURHAM

Durham Wildlife Trust's WildGround project, which received funding through the Heritage Lottery Fund's 'Skills for the Future' programme, encourages a more natural approach to improving local green spaces and biodiversity in the Durham area. Six new trainees have already invested 765 hours in over 30 urban locations in the region, working with the local community, councils, housing associations and training providers. [wtru.st/WildGroundProject](http://wtru.st/WildGroundProject)



### ESSEX

BBC Springwatch presenter Martin Hughes-Games opened Essex Wildlife Trust's ninth visitor centre in September 2013. Belfairs Woodland Centre, near Southend, sits at the gateway to wildlife-rich and much-loved ancient woodland. The stunning community and education centre champions the Belfairs & Daws Heath Living Landscape, where Essex Wildlife Trust, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and other partners work together on conservation and education activities. [wtru.st/BelfairsOpens](http://wtru.st/BelfairsOpens)



### GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust launched the 'All Paths Lead To The Hill' project in October 2013 in partnership with Gloucester City Homes and Gloucester City Council. The project aims to reconnect local communities with Robinswood Hill Country Park through a series of events and school visits, from archaeology digs to nature conservation workshops. [wtru.st/AllPathsLead](http://wtru.st/AllPathsLead)



## England

### HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

The Trust's Education and Engagement work continues to go from strength to strength. This year saw the launch of the Make a Wild Change campaign to encourage children and their families to spend more time outside exploring all that the natural world can offer. Funding was also secured from the NHS on the Isle of Wight for a woodland ecotherapy project to support adults with mental health issues. [wtru.st/HantsLearnDiscover](http://wtru.st/HantsLearnDiscover)



### HEREFORDSHIRE

Alongside project partners Ambios Ltd and Sheffield Wildlife Trust, Herefordshire Nature Trust is running Project LEMUR – offering a combination of on-the-job experience and formal training in conservation skills to local people. The scheme aims to tackle a decline in heritage skills such as species identification and habitat management and aid those looking to embark on an environmental career. [wtru.st/HerefordLEMUR](http://wtru.st/HerefordLEMUR)



### HERTS AND MIDDLESEX

In 2013, Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust's river work was held up nationally as an example of best practice. The Environment Minister Richard Benyon MP visited the River Mimram in Welwyn to launch the Catchment Based Approach to river restoration, which recognises and promotes the involvement of multiple stakeholders. Now the Trust has been appointed by the Environment Agency as Catchment Host for the whole of the Upper Lea Catchment. [wtru.st/HMLivingRivers](http://wtru.st/HMLivingRivers)



### ISLES OF SCILLY

A new programme of year-long placements provides professional training and work experience for six graduates. New land management machinery has been purchased for the volunteers to use, helping them learn new skills, preparing them for the world of work and also helping the Trust to better manage the 2,000 ha of land in its care. [wtru.st/ScillyVolunteers](http://wtru.st/ScillyVolunteers)



### KENT

In 2013, Kent Wildlife Trust produced a wildlife film as part of an appeal to raise funds for the purchase of Magpie Bottom – a wildlife-rich chalk grassland only 15 miles from the outskirts of London. The meadows support a variety of plants including rare orchids, which in turn attract bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects. [wtru.st/MagpieBottom](http://wtru.st/MagpieBottom)



### LANCASHIRE

The Trust has been celebrating its increasing presence on the mosslands of the region, with reserves in Salford, Wigan, Garstang and Heysham. With Brockholes becoming one of the North West's top tourist attractions, engagement with the public covers everything from 4,000 active volunteers to growing numbers of parents and children learning about wildlife in Nature Tots. [lancswt.org.uk/brockholes](http://lancswt.org.uk/brockholes)



### LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND

The 25th annual Birdfair at Rutland Water Nature Reserve in August 2013 celebrated its silver anniversary in style. More than 13,600 paying visitors enjoyed 347 exhibitors from 56 different countries and a packed events and lecture programme supported by many well-known wildlife broadcasters and personalities – all of which raised a record sum of £274,713 to fund international nature conservation initiatives. [wtru.st/25thBirdfair](http://wtru.st/25thBirdfair)



### LINCOLNSHIRE

On December 5th 2013 Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust experienced the dramatic consequences of a rare and devastating tidal surge that flooded significant parts of the coastline from the Humber to the Wash, affecting some of the Trust's most popular and precious sites, and some of the best places to see wildlife on the East Coast. The Trust's response going forward from this event is well underway. [wtru.st/LincsFloods](http://wtru.st/LincsFloods)



### LONDON

For the past four years London Wildlife Trust has been working on the restoration of 240 ha of wetland habitat at Woodberry Wetlands and Walthamstow Wetlands in the heart of north-east London. The two multi-million pound projects will redefine these spaces as urban nature reserves and open them up to the communities surrounding them. [wildlondon.org.uk/woodberry-wetlands](http://wildlondon.org.uk/woodberry-wetlands)



### NORFOLK

The most successful public appeal in the Trust's 88 year history saw £2.6 million raised thanks to members, visitors, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Heritage Lottery Fund, to enhance and reconnect the internationally designated nature reserves at Cley Marshes and Salthouse Marshes, and build an education centre in memory of naturalist, Simon Aspinall. [wtru.st/CleyToSalthouse](http://wtru.st/CleyToSalthouse)



### NORTHUMBERLAND

The Trust's Acorns to Oaks Project, funded by The Big Lottery and managed by Enable East, is working in six schools with a high percentage of children from military families. Through Forest School events and nature clubs, a team is connecting people with nature as a therapeutic way of improving physical and mental wellbeing and reducing isolation amongst families where family members have been posted overseas. [wtru.st/AcornsToOaks](http://wtru.st/AcornsToOaks)



## England

### NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Thanks to its most successful fundraising campaign to date, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust raised over £1 million to extend Skylarks Nature Reserve to the east of Nottingham. As well as making improvements for nature, the Trust will deliver a three year programme of events and activities for schools and local families there. [wtru.st/SkylarksAppealSuccess](http://wtru.st/SkylarksAppealSuccess)



### SHEFFIELD

Sheffield Wildlife Trust's Wild At Heart project has been offering outdoor and hobby-based activities for adults over 50. The project aims to support vulnerable or socially isolated older people to remain physically active, engage with nature and meet with new people, using an interest in nature as a way of bringing people together. [wtru.st/SheffieldWildAtHeart](http://wtru.st/SheffieldWildAtHeart)



### SHROPSHIRE

A wooded remnant of Charles Darwin's garden in Shrewsbury became one of Shropshire Wildlife Trust's newest nature reserves in 2013 following an appeal to secure its future. No other part of Darwin's childhood home is open to the public, and much of the formerly extensive grounds have disappeared under housing over the years. [wtru.st/CharlesDarwinsGarden](http://wtru.st/CharlesDarwinsGarden)



### SOMERSET

2014 saw the installation of the four metre high Tower Hide at the Catcott Complex of wetland nature reserves, offering visitors a 360-degree view across the fen. Extensive habitat restoration has taken place, turning the 30-acre area from industrial sites to a place where wildlife can thrive and that people can access and enjoy. [wtru.st/CatcottTowerHide](http://wtru.st/CatcottTowerHide)



### STAFFORDSHIRE

In May 2013, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust began its 125-year lease of The Roaches – an iconic landscape at the edge of the Peak District. A popular spot for ramblers, the Trust has already launched a campaign to restore the area's eroded footpaths and protect the land from further damage, ensuring visitors can enjoy its breathtaking views for years to come. [wtru.st/TheRoaches](http://wtru.st/TheRoaches)



### SUFFOLK

Suffolk Wildlife Trust's wetland restoration work is working wonders for wildlife at key nature reserves. Newly dug ponds at Oulton Marshes nature reserve in the Suffolk Broads and maturing scrapes at Carlton Marshes are already attracting new breeding bird species and being colonised by locally threatened wildlife. [wtru.st/CarltonScrapes](http://wtru.st/CarltonScrapes)



### SURREY

This year has seen the Surrey Wildlife Trust RiverSearch project begin to bear fruit. The project trained its 100th volunteer in June and the networks of volunteers now active across Surrey's rivers have been a catalyst for bringing communities together to help with local river conservation. [wtru.st/SurreyRiverSearch](http://wtru.st/SurreyRiverSearch)



### SUSSEX

In 2014 Sussex Wildlife Trust celebrated five years of its flagship West Weald Living Landscape scheme. In this time the project has advised more than 130 landowners to help bring 11,000 ha of land into good management for wildlife. [wtru.st/WestWealdLL](http://wtru.st/WestWealdLL)



### TEES VALLEY

An award-winning wildlife and edible garden has been created at Tees Valley Wildlife Trust's Margrove headquarters, providing an educational garden for the many schoolchildren who visit every year and inspiring gardeners to 'think wildlife' back at home. [wtru.st/MargroveGarden](http://wtru.st/MargroveGarden)



### WARWICKSHIRE

Over the next four years £2.5 m will be spent on the Tame Valley Living Landscape to reconnect people with the landscape, restore river banks to a more natural state, create new wetlands and offer volunteering and training opportunities to local people. Thanks in part to a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2013. [wtru.st/TameValleyLL](http://wtru.st/TameValleyLL)



### WILTSHIRE

One of Britain's largest lowland grassland restoration project at Blakehill Farm, Wiltshire, gathers pace as orchids flourish, curlews return to breed and its brown hare population rises. The wasp orchid was one of the more unusual species discovered on the reserve this year. [wtru.st/BlakehillFarm](http://wtru.st/BlakehillFarm)



### WORCESTERSHIRE

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust scooped the Value for Money Project category in the national England River Prize for their three year project along the catchment of the Bow Brook. The Trust worked with landowners along the length of the watercourse to deliver water quality improvement and provide better places for wildlife and people. [wtru.st/WorcsRiverAward](http://wtru.st/WorcsRiverAward)



### YORKSHIRE

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is working with shellfish fishermen to encourage responsible fishing techniques. The Trust is supporting fishermen who adopt the use of conservation measures to not only ensure their catch is of the highest quality, but which also secures the long term future of their livelihoods and protects the ecosystem on which it depends. [wtru.st/ResponsibleShellfish](http://wtru.st/ResponsibleShellfish)



## Crown Dependencies

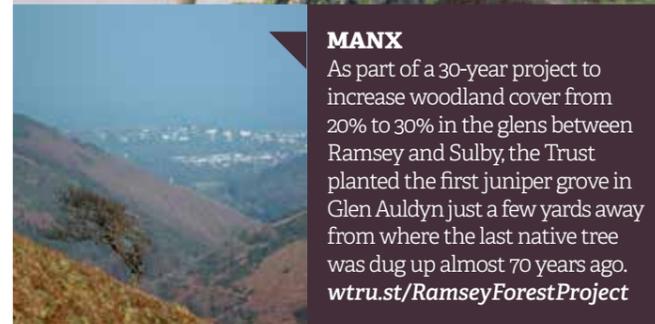
### ALDERNEY

The Living Islands programme aims to identify and develop the natural, and in Alderney's case historical, assets which make up an Island's Living Landscapes and Seas and promote them to a wider audience in the UK and northern Europe. It is hoped that the resulting increase in visitors will contribute to sustainable growth in the Island's economy. [wtru.st/LivingIslands](http://wtru.st/LivingIslands)



### MANX

As part of a 30-year project to increase woodland cover from 20% to 30% in the glens between Ramsey and Sulby, the Trust planted the first juniper grove in Glen Auldyn just a few yards away from where the last native tree was dug up almost 70 years ago. [wtru.st/RamseyForestProject](http://wtru.st/RamseyForestProject)



# Financial & Organisational Overview

## Patron

HRH The Prince of Wales

## President

Simon King OBE

## Presidents Emeritus

Sir David Attenborough OM CH CVO CBE FRS  
Prof Aubrey Manning OBE

## Chair

René Olivieri

## Vice Presidents

Prof J Chris Baines  
Nick Baker  
Bill Bolsover CBE  
Prof David Macdonald CBE DSc FRS  
Bill Oddie OBE  
Julian Pettifer OBE  
Prof Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL

## Chief Executive

Stephanie Hilborne OBE

Covers the period April 2013 – March 2014



## WHERE OUR FUNDING COMES FROM

We could not do the work we do without the financial support of our members, donors, and legators. The majority of our income comes from these supporters – passionate people who share our vision for an environment rich in wildlife for everyone.

We are also very grateful for the grants that make many of our individual projects possible. These are received from local authorities, statutory agencies, governments and regional development agencies. Funding from the Landfill Communities Fund also enables us to save land for nature and connect communities with their local wildlife.

We also extend our appreciation to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Big Lottery Fund the players of the People's Postcode Lottery and to the many charitable trusts whose invaluable support is vital to our efforts to secure nature's recovery. Our particular thanks go to the Arcadia Fund, the Brian Woolf Charitable Trust, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the John Ellerman Foundation, the Marsh Christian Trust, the Michael Uren Foundation, the Peter De Haan Charitable Trust, the Rees Jeffreys Road Fund and The Rothschild Foundation who support several Wildlife Trusts or the whole movement.

## INCOME 2013-2014

■ Wildlife Trusts ■ RSWT\*

£128 m

Wildlife Trusts

£16 m

Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts

Total  
£144 m

RSWT income for 2013-14 includes £10m redistributed as Local Food and Landfill Communities Fund grants on behalf of Biffa and the Big Lottery Fund. \*Excluding inter-Trust grants and contributions.

## Biodiversity Benchmark

The Wildlife Trusts' Biodiversity Benchmark is the only standard which recognises the management of private landholdings for wildlife. As of 31 March 2014 the standard had been achieved on 57 sites covering 8,800ha right across the UK.

During 2013-2014 the standard was awarded to the following sites: Aggregate Industries - Haughmond Hill, Newbold and Glensanda Quarries; EDF Energy - Dungeness B Power Station; Viridor - Beddingham Closed Landfill; Wrigley Company - Plymouth; and Marks & Spencer - Cheshire Oaks.

Sites belonging to the following organisations were recertified following an annual assessment: Center Parcs UK Ltd; Heathrow Airport Ltd; British Airways Plc; Aggregate Industries UK Ltd; Lafarge Tarmac Ltd; E. on UK; Springfields Fuels Ltd; EDF Energy; Lilly UK; Viridor UK; Veolia Environmental Services; Met Office; MEPC; and Network Rail HS1.

The following sites entered the assessment process and were undergoing assessment as of 31 March 2014: EDF Energy Hunterston and Torness Power Stations; Gatwick Airport; and NATS.



*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 carefully selected formal partnerships.*

## Our UK Partners



### AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES UK LTD

Aggregate Industries has been a staunch and committed supporter for many years. The company has continued to fund some key conferences and supports individual Wildlife Trusts to create Living Landscapes.



### VINE HOUSE FARM LTD

Our partnership with Vine House Farm raised further significant funds for Wildlife Trusts across the UK. This year the total raised through this partnership since it began in 2006 passed £800,000.



### RIBENA (LUCOZADE RIBENA SUNTORY)

We have worked with Ribena since 2004 to help blackcurrant farmers to identify and implement actions they can take for wildlife. We were delighted that Ribena has remained committed to this partnership following its sale to Suntory.



### CENTER PARCS UK LTD

We are proud to be one of Center Parcs' two charity partners and work with the company to help guests enjoy nature before, during and after their holiday.



### WILLMOTT DIXON LTD

Willmott Dixon has committed to obtaining advice from The Wildlife Trusts in relation to the developments it is involved with. This will ensure wildlife is protected and enhanced on developments where possible.

# Follow your Wildlife Trust

Stay in touch and get all the latest wildlife news, views and natural inspiration where you are...

@wildlifetrusts @wildlifewatch

## Scotland

**Scottish**  
@ScotWildlife

## England

**Avon**  
@avonwt

**Beds, Cambs & Northants**  
@wildlifebcn

**Berks, Bucks & Oxon**  
@BBOWT

**Birmingham & Black Country**  
@WTBBC

**Cheshire**  
@CheshireWT

**Cornwall**  
@CornwallNature

**Cumbria**  
@cumbriawildlife

**Derbyshire**  
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**Devon**  
@DevonWildlife

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**Durham**  
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**Hampshire & Isle of Wight**  
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**Herts & Middlesex**  
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**Kent**  
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**Lincolnshire**  
@LincsWildlife

**London**  
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**Northumberland**  
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**North Wales**  
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**Radnorshire**  
@rwtwales

**South & West Wales**  
@WTSWW

## Northern Ireland

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@ulsterwildlife

## Crown Dependencies

**Alderney**  
@AlderneyWT

**Manx**  
@manxnature

For Facebook accounts go to  
wildlifetrusts.org/facebook





### JOIN YOUR WILDLIFE TRUST

Become part of a growing movement of people taking action for wildlife and wild places.  
*Find out more: [wildlifetrusts.org/joinus](http://wildlifetrusts.org/joinus)*

### REMEMBER WILDLIFE IN YOUR WILL

Consider leaving a gift in your will to your Wildlife Trust, and help us to protect wildlife for years to come.  
*Find out more: [wildlifetrusts.org/giftinyourwill](http://wildlifetrusts.org/giftinyourwill) or call 01636 677711 or email [legacy@wildlifetrusts.org](mailto:legacy@wildlifetrusts.org)*

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