

[illegible]

Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future



Brown hare



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A person with long hair, wearing a light-colored jacket over a dark top and blue jeans, stands in a grassy field with their arms raised in a gesture of joy or connection with nature. The background is a dense forest of tall trees with vibrant green foliage. The scene is captured in a soft, natural light, suggesting a peaceful outdoor setting.

Your Wildlife Trusts

Our goal is nature's recovery – on land and at sea. To achieve this we take an integrated approach – from saving wildlife-rich places through to influencing Europe-wide policies on fisheries and agriculture. Many of our staff and volunteers are on the front line, leading school parties, studying undersea wildlife, managing and creating habitats for wildlife and talking to farmers, planners, MPs, policy-makers and businesses about the value of nature and what they can do to help. Each Wildlife Trust is run by people who care for the natural environment of their patch - whether a city, county, country or island. We have a mission to create Living Landscapes and secure Living Seas and to inspire people to value and take action for nature.

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

> **7 million**

Visits to our reserves



> **386,000**

People engaged in
local Trust events



> **140,000**

Students engaged in
Trusts' outreach to schools



> **168,000**

Students engaged in
school visits to Trusts



Around **11,000**
events run



Inspiring people

126

Visitor centres



> **95,000**

Hectares of land
managed by Trusts



2,300

Nature reserves



> **5,300**

Landowners advised



215,000

Hectares of land
advised on



58,000

Wildlife enquiries
responded to



6,600

Planning applications
responded to



3,000

Planning applications
improved for wildlife as
a result of our input



323

MPs/MSPs met in
person to talk to about wildlife



3,300

Local Wildlife
Sites advised on



> **40,000**

Volunteers



> **800,000**

Members



2,000

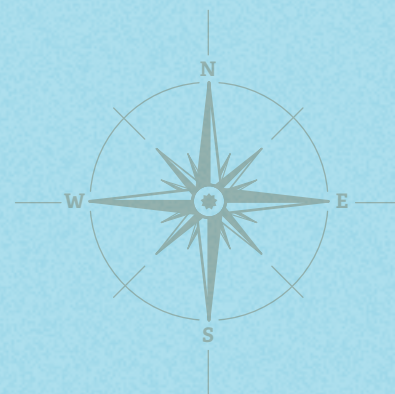
Staff



Our supporters

The Wildlife Trusts

Championing nature



Key

Marine Conservation
Projects



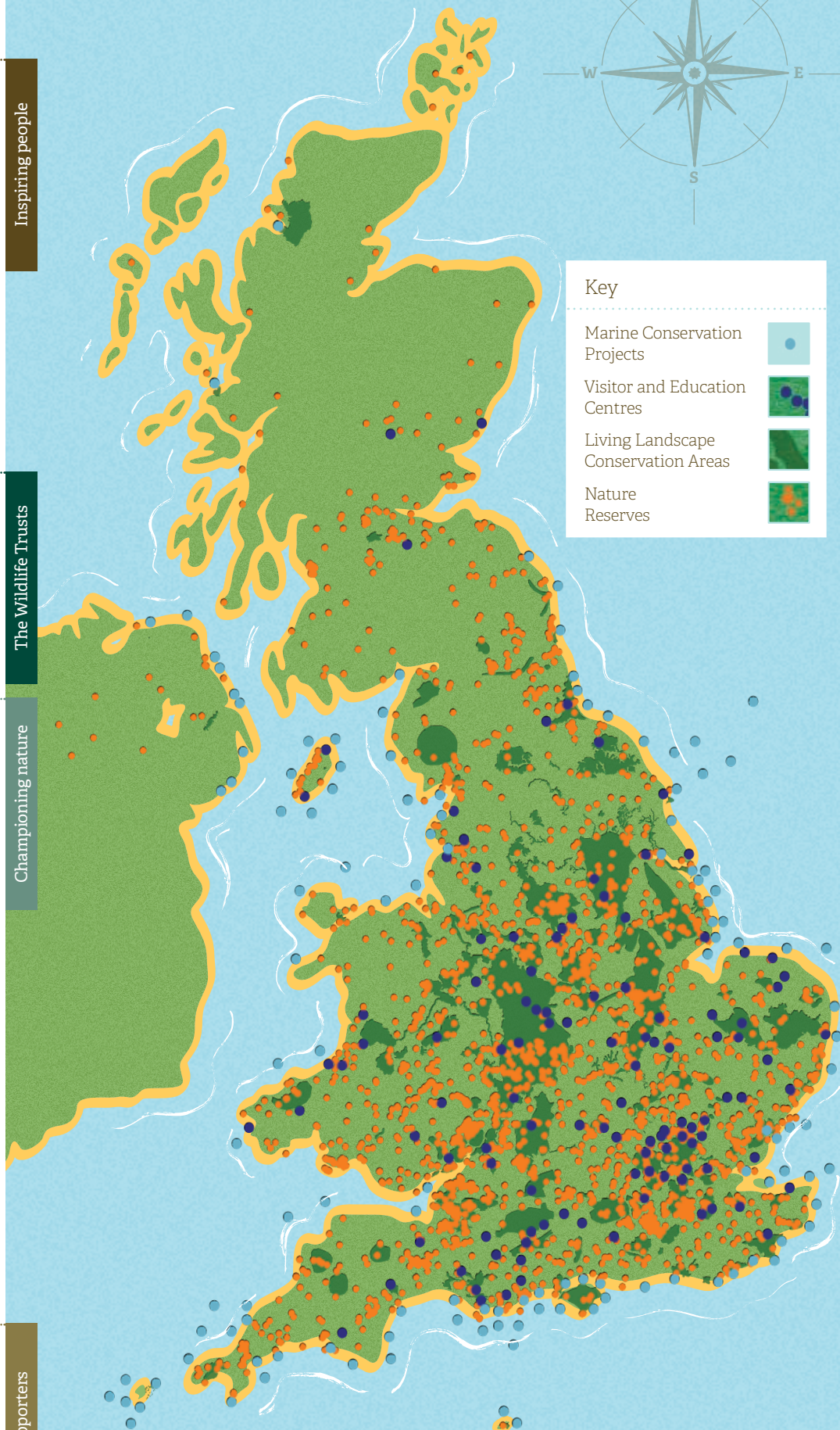
Visitor and Education
Centres



Living Landscape
Conservation Areas



Nature
Reserves



What we do

Millions of people benefit from the work of The Wildlife Trusts each year: nature therapy projects to improve mental health; urban regeneration programmes to bring more nature into built up areas; arts projects; natural gyms; after-school clubs; outdoor learning projects and marine wildlife surveys. We stand up for, and look after, natural places close to where people live. Together we manage more than 95,000ha of land, across about 2,300 individual locations and we help others to manage more than 200,000ha of land for wildlife. But we are about much more than land management alone. Here's a taste of what we get up to day in, day out.

1

Restoring wildlife & natural processes

Beavers, an important part of the natural processes of wetland ecosystems, have been extinct in Britain for 400 years. Scottish Wildlife Trust is helping to lead their reintroduction at Knapdale where the Scottish Beaver Trial is now in its fifth year.



2

Connecting people with nature

Many Wildlife Trusts run Forest School programmes which give children the experience of learning outdoors in a woodland environment. 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

Large-scale habitat restoration

The Pumlumon Project in Wales aims to show that protecting beautiful landscapes can go hand in hand with thriving rural economies. Peatland restoration and woodland and scrub regeneration will repair and link habitats over a 9,000ha area.

Green patches denote areas for natural woodland and scrub regeneration.



4

Transforming places for local communities

We specialise in transforming post-industrial landscapes into places for wildlife and local communities. Thurrock Thameside Nature Park (pictured here), a vast landfill site restored by Essex Wildlife Trust, was opened in 2013 by Sir David Attenborough.



6

Campaigning and influencing

More than a quarter of a million people signed a 'Petition Fish' scale as part of our campaign for protected Marine Conservation Zones at sea. We try to promote wildlife-friendly thinking and policies and we defend nature against damaging proposals.

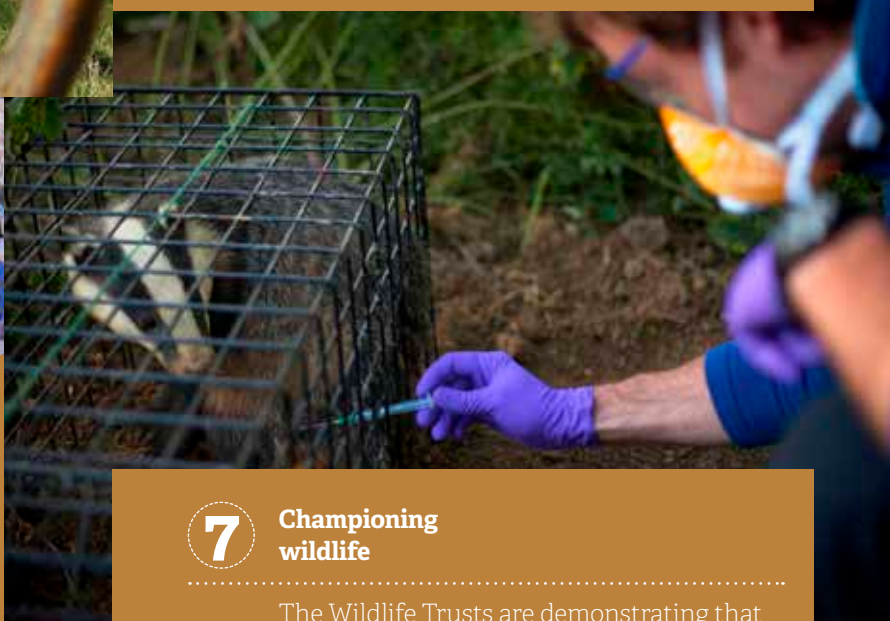


Marsland nature reserve, Devon

5

Helping people to feel better with nature

We work with local health care providers and mental health charities to give people access to nature as part of the therapeutic process. Ecotherapy projects use nature to help improve mental health and wellbeing through outdoor activity and teamwork.



7

Championing wildlife

The Wildlife Trusts are demonstrating that badger vaccination is a viable, practical and cost-effective short-term tool in the battle against bovine tuberculosis. Thirteen Trusts are vaccinating on their land or planning to, many working with local farmers.

8

Saving and Caring for wild places

The Wildlife Trusts manage 2,300 nature reserves – moors, meadows, rivers, woods, lakes, beaches and islands. These vital protected refuges for wildlife are also great places for people to explore. More than 7m visits were made to our reserves.

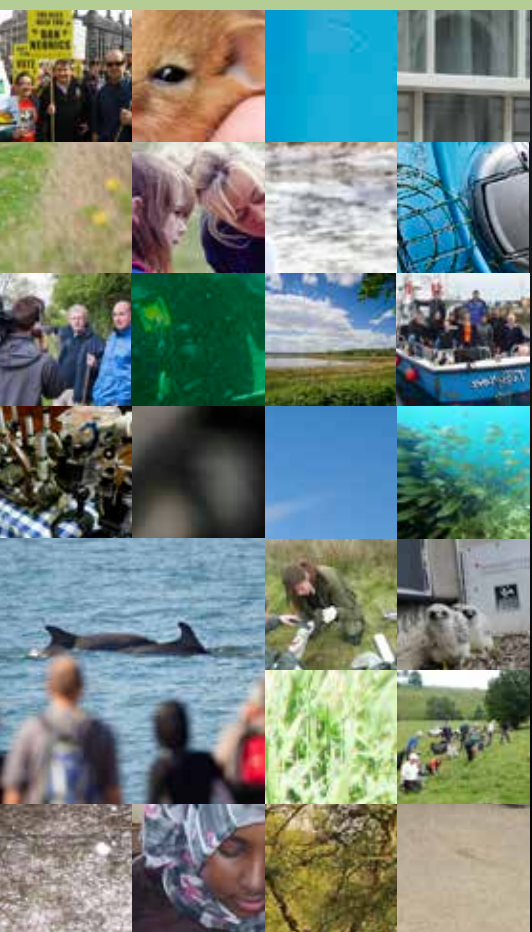




From our Chair & CEO

There is no movement anywhere quite like The Wildlife Trusts...

We are all about people and places and making connections between them. We connect people to places; one place to another; and people to other people. All this joining up has the single aim of restoring nature and helping people understand why this matters for our future prosperity and well being.



René Olivieri
Chair

We are everywhere in the UK. The Trusts in Scotland and Northern Ireland, 43 local Trusts in England and Wales and those in the Isle of Man and Alderney, act in concert together to achieve this shared aim. Each Trust has its own board of trustees, its own members (800,000 in total), hundreds of volunteers (40,000 in total), and also paid staff. As a consequence we are uniquely well placed to make positive change happen on the ground, working with people where they live. Each Trust understands the issues of its patch, is accountable to the people of its area and is delivering vast amounts for people and wildlife.

Our diversity is vital to delivering our work effectively as no two parts of the UK are the same, just as no two people are the same, and none of our 2,300 nature reserves are the same. It is our diversity that binds us, making us much more than the sum of our parts. And to add to this we go out and find hundreds of partner organisations and community groups to work with. But diverse does not mean disjointed. Ours is a tightly bound movement sharing a single ambitious mission. Our unique practical approach

to engaging people and to nature conservation has a long history and is clearly expressed in our blueprints for Living Landscapes and Living Seas. We need to think big: introducing millions of people to wildlife and working with farmers, fishermen, businesses and other decision-makers to transform our landscapes and seas so that wildlife can thrive in harmony with people.

At the same time we are always looking for ways to improve our connections, and share thinking and evidence. Collaboration and influence is a way of life for us and working constructively with business, government and other NGOs is vital if we are to achieve our mission. During the year a Vice President of Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust, Prof Dieter Helm, led the Natural Capital Committee. The Committee was formed out of the recognition that traditional models for economic decision-making were not accounting adequately for the consequences—positive and negative—on the natural environment. The fact that governments and businesses are starting to recognise this is real progress.





Stephanie Hilborne OBE
Chief Executive

Not unrelated to this new way of thinking is the re-evaluation and re-definition of our relationship with nature. There is now undisputable evidence that access to and appreciation of nature is essential to our mental and physical health. Part of our mission is to demonstrate this in practice: that economic, physical and mental wellbeing are rooted in nature. And we can engage in this using the same local knowledge and dynamism which makes us so valued by communities. Once again, our skill at making connections comes into play.

Charles Rothschild's vision a hundred years ago remains as relevant to the future as it was to the past. He understood that wildlife conservation must focus on entire habitats rather than on individual species in isolation. In May 2012 Tim Sands' long-awaited book 'Wildlife In Trust' appeared. It too was a collaborative venture, with contributions from all the Trusts. Tim tells the story of the history of our movement with the same passion and attention to detail which characterises all that we do. In January 2013 one of our collaborators, the leading environmentalist Tony

Juniper (also a trustee of his local Wildlife Trust, published a new book which used stories to answer the question in the title of the book 'What has Nature Ever Done for Us?'

“New technology and social media is opening up the extent of The Wildlife Trusts' work”

We have drawn tremendous strength in celebrating with our centenary. New technology and social media is opening up the extent of The Wildlife Trusts' work and the numbers of followers and comments we are attracting is very exciting. These conversations will play a vital role in taking the movement forward to deliver nature's recovery. We hope our Annual Review shows that we are making all the right connections.



People & Nature

We are passionate about wildlife. We demonstrate the importance of nature for people and inspire them to value and take action for the natural world. And with the help of our volunteers and countless other supporters, we put people power to work for wildlife both in the field and lobbying policy-makers.



Volunteers

Our work would not be possible without the 40,000 volunteers who give their valuable time, expertise and passion so generously. With their help, **Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust** planted a new orchard with local people at Vell Mill; **Derbyshire Wildlife Trust** planted 2,000 trees in parks across the county as part of the Value in Trees project; and **Scottish Wildlife Trust's** 1,000 regular volunteers helped to repair boardwalks, give talks on wildlife, undertake surveys and more. **Devon Wildlife Trust** achieved the Investing in Volunteers Quality Standard for the support and opportunities it offers its 300 volunteers. People from all walks of life are also helping to map, identify and monitor wildlife. **Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust** celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2013 with 50 hours of wildlife recording at Attenborough

nature reserve. Thanks to the help of hundreds of visitors, 620 species were spotted over the weekend, including 60 never before recorded there!

Connecting communities

We want to connect people to the nature around them. **London Wildlife Trust's** Natural Estates and Wild London Inclusive London projects helped communities to enhance their local green spaces and promote active citizenship. **BBOWT** also began a five year project which will help community groups and residents in West Berkshire to protect their local wild areas. **Sussex Wildlife Trust's** Lewes Community Wildlife Project offered residents wildlife activities including regular walks and talks and even

Case Study

Forest Schools

There's a weight of published evidence to show that children need to spend more time outdoors and are increasingly disconnected from nature. Giving them 'wild-time' is something Wildlife Trusts do well. Wildlife Trusts run Forest Schools the length and breadth of the UK, giving children the chance to make dens, sit around fires and explore nature on their own terms. This is nature 'for real', unmediated by the ubiquitous white board: mud kitchens rule and the fire circle encourages chat, ideas and experience swapping. From fire-lighting to cooking, woodwork to bushcraft, children can learn about the natural world in a safe environment and develop social and team-working skills. Group sizes are limited to 15 and the leaders are trained to watch the children carefully so that they can offer the right support. Kate Riley, **Sussex Wildlife Trust's** Forest Schools Officer, says, "It takes time for the children to get the idea that they can say what they want and lead the activities themselves. It's astonishing what happens. It brings out confidence, increases skills and learning and produces a 'comfortableness' with the natural world."



More than

168,000pupils & students engaged
in school visits to Trusts

a wild camp out. **Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's** Food Champions project is helping local communities to get involved in growing healthy food at 12 community growing sites.

Inspiring future generations

Nature matters to most of us because we love it. Wildlife Trusts work to ensure children can develop a fascination and love for the natural world. There are too many great examples to list here. **Avon Wildlife Trust's** Trout and About project allowed children to watch trout eggs develop in the classroom, care for the young fish and then release them into Chew Valley Lake. **Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust's** inspirational flyways project linked local schools with those in Africa along the route of migrating ospreys.

We're winning awards for this work too - the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom awarded **Essex Wildlife Trust** the High Quality Education Badge for its educational work.

Feeling better with nature

Wildlife Trusts are increasingly working with local health care providers to provide access to nature as a form of 'ecotherapy'. In 2013 **Tees Valley Wildlife Trust** concluded a six year study into the mental health benefits of volunteering and has developed partnerships with local GPs. **Suffolk Wildlife Trust's** Coastal Discovery Project and **Avon Wildlife Trust's** Communities and Nature programme are further examples of ecotherapy projects – offering therapeutic outdoor activities.



Living Landscapes

The Wildlife Trusts have a recovery plan for the UK's natural environment. We recognise that to help wildlife to thrive in all its diversity and abundance we need to work with others to join up, extend and recreate areas for nature. A healthy natural environment is the foundation for everything that is of value to people – food, water, shelter, flood prevention, health, happiness and creative inspiration. We all need to play a part in nature's recovery.

Natural Partners

To achieve nature's recovery on the scale necessary we work in partnership with many individuals, businesses and other organisations. Wildlife Trusts lead around a third of 50 or so Local Nature Partnerships in England (and are involved in many more) – new local partnerships comprised of organisations and businesses taking action for nature locally. We advise more than 5,300 landowners on how to manage more than 200,000ha of land to benefit wildlife. We're working with businesses to help them understand and appreciate the value of the UK's 'natural capital' – our water, fresh air, soils, pollinating insects and carbon stores. And we help to protect and restore these shared resources too – both **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust** and **Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust** are leading large-scale upland

peatland recovery projects restoring natural processes, storing water and carbon. In June 2012 we published 'A Guide for Green Infrastructure' with the Town & Country Planning Association, backed by 30 other organisations, to help planners integrate nature into new developments. Locally there are several examples where Wildlife Trusts are working with housing developers to put this into practice.

Thinking big

The idea that wildlife and natural processes need to have space to thrive beyond designated nature reserves is central to our Living Landscapes approach. We have 150 Living Landscapes across the UK – target areas where we are trying to restore and connect areas of land for nature. Alongside our own projects we are leading five

of the 12 government-initiated Nature Improvement Areas in England and are heavily involved in the rest. These take a similar approach to Living Landscapes but a much wider national-scale roll-out is needed. Wildlife Trusts are also at the forefront of river catchment conservation – working on river conservation at a catchment level rather than working on small stretches. This brings us into contact with water companies, farmers and flood risk managers with whom we can work to ensure that natural processes are a key part of how we manage rivers.

Badger vaccination

In June 2013 the Government began a pilot badger cull in Somerset and Gloucestershire as part of its strategy to reduce TB in cattle. While sympathising with farmers and the hardships caused by

Case Study

Coigach & Assynt Living Landscape (Scottish Wildlife Trust)

The Coigach – Assynt Living Landscape is one of the largest landscape restoration projects in Europe, aiming to benefit the land, the people and the local economy in the north west of Scotland. The **Scottish Wildlife Trust** is one of 12 project partners. Restoring and linking natural birch, hazel and oak woodlands across the landscape is a key objective. Restoration of nature on this scale will create jobs; trees will be grown and planted, peatlands restored, footpaths will be built for visitors, and land sustainably managed to provide livelihoods, as well as places in which nature can thrive. The project's cultural dimension will include artists in residence, support for the use of Gaelic and a festival of local produce. The importance of the coastline is also recognised, with plans to survey intertidal habitats and record local fisheries heritage.



150
number of Living
Landscapes that
we have around
the UK

bTB, The Wildlife Trusts are opposed to a badger cull. By the end of 2013, 13 Wildlife Trusts had launched badger vaccination programmes to demonstrate vaccination as a practical alternative to culling.

Championing and campaigning for nature

For the past year the Common Agricultural and Fisheries policies have both been under review leading up to reform decisions in 2013. In response to signs that the CAP was going to fail wildlife, we worked with environmental charities across Europe to mobilise contact with MEPs. Over a million messages were sent to MEPs and resulted in some real successes in influencing the outcome of the vote in the European Parliament. In July 2012 the Independent Panel on Forestry, of which our CEO

was part, published its report and we welcomed its pledge that 'our forests will stay in public hands'. Trusts were also on the front line of the ash dieback disease outbreak last year. **Suffolk Wildlife Trust's** Arger Fen reserve is being used to study the genetic resistance of ash trees to the chalara fungus, which causes ash dieback.

Places for nature

We stand up for, and look after, natural places. We manage around 2,300 nature reserves, each shaped by its location and local communities. From well-known places like Skomer, Brownsea Island and the Falls of Clyde to quiet valleys, secluded fens, wild marshes, woods and beaches, these sites are the starting point from which nature can spread back into our wider landscapes. In the past year: **Surrey Wildlife Trust** has saved Priest

Hill - 85 acres of grassland and scrub habitats where local people are getting involved after years of neglect; Laurie Lee Wood, near Stroud was safeguarded after a local appeal by **Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust** raised the funds necessary to buy the wood in just six weeks; **Sussex Wildlife Trust** took over the management of Seaford Head nature reserve on the Sussex coast; **Norfolk Wildlife Trust** launched its biggest ever campaign to extend Cley Marshes reserve and create an 8km unbroken stretch of wild coastal habitats.

wildlifetrusts.org/living-landscapes



Living Seas

The Wildlife Trusts manage more than 200 protected coastal sites, including islands, cliffs and beaches. These support breeding seals, seabird colonies and an array of marine species and habitats. But our vision is for a network of protected areas at sea - for Living Seas - not just a few areas under our protection. To achieve this, we campaign for better protection for marine wildlife and gather evidence to demonstrate why it's so important. We also raise awareness; bringing the sea to people in towns and cities far from the coast.

Case Study

Your Shore (Cornwall Wildlife Trust)

The county of Cornwall has of coastline more than 400 miles in total. Helping people to access and learn about their local beaches, rockpools, cliffs and waters is key to inspiring a lasting passion for them, and what better place to do this? From 2010 to 2013, **Cornwall Wildlife Trust's** Your Shore project worked with local communities to introduce them to and engage them with the country's five Voluntary Marine Conservation Areas (VMCAs). More than 400 volunteers signed up to lead beach cleans, dive surveys and wildlife recording events, totalling 12,550 hours of donated time. Each of the areas now has its own dedicated group of volunteer caretakers who will continue to inspire people about the marine environment and monitor marine wildlife.

250,000+

**supporters signed a
scale in our Petition
Fish campaign.**



200+

protected coastal sites
managed by The Wildlife
Trust including islands,
cliffs and beaches.



Protected areas at sea

Our long-running campaign for the creation of a network of Marine Protected Areas around the UK continued in 2012-13. In January we handed over a quarter of a million Petition Fish signatures to the Fisheries Minister Richard Benyon MP, and more than 350,000 supporters of the campaign had their voices heard when their pledges were delivered to Downing Street in June. We were disappointed by the lack of government ambition in initially designating only 27 of a possible 127 recommended Marine Conservation Zones for England. But this first tranche has protected more than 5,000 km² of seabed and more are on the table for designation next year. **Scottish Wildlife Trust** welcomed the Scottish Government's announcement for a proposed network of 33 Marine Protected Areas whilst in Wales we await announcement of plans for designation. In Northern Ireland progress continues towards securing similar legislation for the marine environment.

Monitoring sea-life

Wildlife Trusts are helping to build a better understanding of how marine wildlife is faring through recording and monitoring projects around the British Isles. **Alderney Wildlife Trust** has begun a three-year GPS-tagging project to follow the movements of foraging gannets from the breeding colony on Les Etacs, and **Manx Wildlife Trust** has expanded on its basking shark tagging programme to tag smaller species such as tope and bull huss, allowing re-captured individuals to be identified in much the same way as ringed birds. Collecting this population and behavioural data will allow scientists to better predict the impacts of environmental changes such as climate change and pollution incidents.

Pushing for protection

Our work with the fishing industry, stakeholders and decision-makers is starting to make a real difference. This year we secured legislation that prevents tankers from discharging polyisobutene (PIB) into our waters – a dangerous, gluey substance that resulted in the deaths of thousands of seabirds earlier this year. **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's** work to promote responsible practices with local fisherman is demonstrating that conservation and profit don't have to be mutually exclusive, and on the **Isles of Scilly**, Trust staff are working with communities to secure the future of the special seabirds that breed there. In May, the power of public pressure was demonstrated as those who wrote to their MEPs, signed petitions and supported the campaign helped to achieve a historic commitment from the European Parliament to change the Common Fisheries Policy and end overfishing by 2020.

Championing our seas

Introducing people to the marine environment and nurturing a passion for it is crucial to safeguarding its future. Schoolchildren across the south of England experienced the bustle of a puffin colony in the classroom through **Alderney Wildlife Trust's** new Living Islands programme, and elsewhere visitor centres opened at Flamborough Head (**Yorkshire Wildlife Trust**) and Chesil beach (**Dorset Wildlife Trust**). **Ulster Wildlife** launched a new underwater photography competition to celebrate marine wildlife alongside a Living Seas film and an interactive species map.

wildlifetrusts.org/living-seas

At a glance 2012-13

Around The Wildlife Trusts



2,300

nature reserves
are managed by
The Wildlife Trusts



Scotland



Experts for Nature is an 18-month programme run by Scottish Wildlife Trust that allows 10 trainees the opportunity to learn the latest survey methodology and species identification techniques to gain a nationally recognised qualification. The past year has seen the first group of trainees graduate and the programme was so successful that a second round has now commenced.

Northern Ireland



Ulster Wildlife has secured funding for barn owl conservation work over the next three years from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project aims to increase the amount of foraging habitat for barn owls, increase knowledge of their distribution, map nest and roost sites and build a network of community-led barn owl groups.



The Scottish Beaver Trial – the UK's first licensed re-introduction of the Eurasian beaver - continues to be a success. The year has seen the birth of three kits (born in the summer of 2012), with increasing numbers of people travelling to Knapdale in Argyll to try and catch a glimpse of a wild beaver. The Trial was also featured on the BBC's One Show.



Ulster Wildlife launched a new Living Seas of Northern Ireland film at Titanic Belfast. The film takes viewers on a journey around its coast, meeting some of the key species, habitats and people along the way. The film, together with a new interactive coastal map, will become part of Titanic Belfast's exhibition and educational resource.



The Scottish Wildlife Trust was one of a group of organisations that successfully campaigned for a moratorium on neonicotinoid pesticides. Research indicates these pesticides have sub-lethal effects on pollinating insects like bees and may be responsible for their decline. The Trust is campaigning for a total ban in the future in order to secure a safe future for our pollinators.

Watch our annual highlights film at youtube.com/wildlifetrusts

Together we have more than **800,000** members



Wales

Brecknock



In 2013 the Upper Tawe Valley Living Landscape project came to completion. The project has been restoring and reconnecting important grassland habitats on the southern edge of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Gwent



Last year Gwent Wildlife Trust celebrated its 50th anniversary and reintroduced 100 water voles to Magor Marsh. The Trust also acquired land between Wyewood and Pentwyn, so that an even better level of connectivity could be developed between wildlife sites on the Trellech Plateau.

Montgomeryshire



The Trust has connected more young people with wildlife than ever before, thanks to a mixture of focussed working with schools, a greater number of events aimed at families, and an engaging Wildlife Club programme during the school holidays.

North Wales



North Wales Wildlife Trust worked with corporate partners Anglesey Sea Zoo to create a Living Seas interpretation display at the zoo. It helps to inform visitors about coastal and marine habitats and wildlife.

Radnorshire



Over the past year Radnorshire Wildlife Trust has made improvements to the visitor facilities at Gilfach Nature Reserve, thanks to funding from the Rees Jeffreys Road Fund, Sustainable Tourism Powys and the local Regeneration Initiative.

South and West Wales



The Trust has been working with communities in Swansea to engage people with their local water environment. The Trust and its supporters have been raising awareness and organising salmon migration viewings and bird walks to connect and engage more people.

**In mainland England,
most people* have a Wildlife
Trust reserve just**



3

**miles away from
where they live**

*(on average)

England



Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

Large-scale wetland restoration work has been taking place at the Great Fen – one of Europe's largest nature restoration projects – to recreate Rymes Reedbed, over 100ha of wild fenland habitats including reedbeds, open water and grassland.



Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire

BBOWT is to take on the management of an additional nine wildlife sites in West Berkshire, covering almost 1,200 hectares, this includes much of the remaining lowland heathland in Berkshire. This increases the amount of land managed by the Trust by almost a third.



Birmingham and Black Country

The last year has seen the Trust leading the Black Country Nature Improvement Area – a partnership of more than 50 organisations interested in seeing nature recover across one of the UK's largest urbanised areas.



Cheshire

In 2013, Cheshire Wildlife Trust reintroduced 100 white-faced darter dragonfly larvae from two donor sites into Delamere Forest. By June the dragonflies were emerging, fighting and laying eggs, proving that wetland restoration is helping to create ideal habitat for them.



Cornwall

The Your Shore Project completed in spring 2013. Over the past three years it has engaged with 16,000 people. Volunteers are now working in all five of Cornwall's Voluntary Marine Conservation Areas to help protect and celebrate our sea life.



Cumbria

12 years of wetland restoration was completed at Foulshaw Moss, a 350 hectare raised bog in south Cumbria. Overall, it's estimated that 15 million cubic metres of peat have been conserved through Cumbria Wildlife Trust's work in the area helping to store more than half a million tonnes of carbon.



England



Derbyshire

The Trust's first farming and wildlife enterprise began on Woodside Farm, its largest nature reserve. The farm will produce high quality meat products while demonstrating good farming conservation practices, including using grazing animals to restore habitats.



Durham

Project Snipe has been completed at Rainton Meadows nature reserve. The project created extensive areas of new wet grassland, reedbed and wetland habitats. These are great for a range of wildlife but particularly for wading birds like snipe and curlew.



Devon

The Trust purchased Meeth Quarry - 450 acres of lakes, woodland, wetland and culm grassland - which has a fascinating industrial heritage. The process of restoration and natural regeneration has begun and Meeth Quarry is now already home to a diverse list of species including 14 species of dragonfly and damselfly.



Dorset

95% of invasive species at King Barrow quarries in Portland have been removed. Dorset Wildlife Trust is restoring a vast area of limestone grassland at the site and there has been a significant increase in key native species as a result of this work. Viridor Credits provided important funding.



Essex

Sir David Attenborough opened Thurrock Thameside Nature Park in May 2013. This former landfill site overlooking the Thames Estuary has been transformed into a wild place for nature. The new nature park is also home to an award-winning visitor centre.



Gloucestershire

In 2013, Laurie Lee Wood in Slad Valley became the Trust's newest nature reserve. Jessie Lee, daughter of the famous author, and the Lee family celebrated what would have been Laurie's 99th birthday in June when the site was formally opened to the public.



England



Herefordshire

The Trust in Herefordshire has begun an appeal to raise £1.5 million to safeguard Birches Farm - 60 acres of unimproved grassland and historic Herefordshire farmstead - rich in both wildlife and social history for the area.



Hampshire and Isle of Wight

In 2013 the Trust purchased their very first farm, College Copse Farm. The farm will be used to develop a programme of conservation grazing including breeding livestock to aid in the management of nature reserves.



Herts and Middlesex

The Trust has begun a new Volunteer Trainee Reserve Officer scheme, aimed at people looking for a career in wildlife conservation. It gives them a chance to learn how to maintain and restore different habitats at nature reserves and gain practical management skills.



Isles of Scilly

This year the Trust moved into a new office and workshop at Trenoweth on St. Mary's. Kindly funded by a rural grant (the Trust managed 40% of the Islands) and a generous legacy, this fantastic facility will become a hub for environmental action on the Isles of Scilly for years to come.



Kent

Thanks to the Trust's swift actions, the future of the precious chalk grassland reserve, Burnham and Wouldham Down, has now been secured. The reserve is an integral part of the 'Medway Smile' Living Landscape scheme, and saving it was imperative to maintaining links between areas of habitat on the chalk slopes of the Kent Downs.



Lancashire

More visitors have enjoyed the Trust's new sites over the past year with more than 190,000 people connecting with nature at reserves such as Brockholes nature reserve near Preston.

The Trust continues to deliver environmental volunteering on a massive scale with more than 4,000 people registered for volunteer work outdoors.



In 2012 - 13
we helped
5,300

**landowners to
manage their
land for wildlife**



England



Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has launched an appeal to buy Woodhall Spa Airfield. It currently owns more than half of the airfield and an adjacent reserve, Kirkby Moor. By securing the rest, the Trust can link these existing sites and protect a larger area for nature.



Leicestershire and Rutland

Working with funding and in-kind support from Caterpillar and the Caterpillar Foundation, Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust launched an ambitious three-year project to create and enhance wildlife habitats and improve visitor facilities on the Trust's nature reserves.



London

Improvements for wildlife have been put in place along the Crane River valley this year with a community engagement project taking place in the area. London Wildlife Trust has written a catchment plan for the river which has been 'rewilded' to benefit nature, for example (re)introducing meanders and narrowing the river channel.



Norfolk

In October 2012 the Trust launched its biggest ever appeal to help acquire 143 acres of coastal land next to its Cley Marshes reserve. This will be the final link in an unbroken chain of 8km of coast managed and protected for nature.



Northumberland

In 2012-13, Trust volunteers donated the equivalent of 3,219 working days. Volunteers spend time removing litter and graffiti, planting and helping to restore habitats on Northumberland Wildlife Trust nature reserves and beyond.



Nottinghamshire

This year the Trust celebrated its 50th anniversary. It kicked off a massive new community and access engagement scheme at Attenborough nature reserve near Nottingham, one of the UK's most popular and well-visited nature reserves.

England



Sheffield

The Trust is leading Living with Nature - a new project to improve and re-design Sheffield City Council housing play areas to make them better for nature and more fun for children. Funding has come from the Big Lottery Fund.



Shropshire

Shropshire Wildlife Trust has been working hard to improve river and wetland habitats as part of new Water Framework Directive. A Neolithic 'currach' boat was sailed down the River Severn as part of an awareness-raising campaign about the river for local communities.



Somerset

The Trust has purchased 30 acres of old peat diggings to adjoin existing nature reserves at Catcott in the Somerset Levels. Donations totalling £80,000 from members and supporters meant the restoration and recreation of wild fen habitats could be completed.



Suffolk

In the last year Arger Fen & Spouses Vale nature reserves have been extended to form a 200 acre site, almost doubling the area protected for nature. Research is underway on-site into the genetic resistance of ash trees to the chalara fungus, which causes ash dieback disease.



Staffordshire

An all-access footpath has been created through the Churnet Valley SSSI linking the heritage railway and a flint mill at Chedleton. Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has been managing habitats for wildlife along the canal and upgrading the footpaths for visitors.



Surrey

Years of wetland restoration work are paying off as otters have returned to the River Wey in the southwest of Surrey for the first time in 40 years. Trail cameras provided by the University of Surrey have tracked individual otters moving down the river.



Sussex

Earlier this year Sussex Wildlife Trust launched a Wild Beach programme. It encourages children to play on and explore the beach and trains teachers to expand the project and help more children discover nature on the seashore.



Tees Valley

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust has concluded its six year Inclusive Volunteering programme to evaluate the impacts of nature-based intervention on mental health. Results show that conservation work, and being close to nature, can play an important role in the therapeutic process.

England



Warwickshire

Thanks to a successful appeal the Trust has saved a new nature reserve in memory of former Chief Executive, Andy Tasker. Called Tasker's Meadow, this grassland, close to the Grand Union Canal, includes the largest population of greater butterfly orchid in the county.



Wiltshire

A successful local appeal meant that Wiltshire Wildlife Trust was able to safeguard Kings Farm Wood in Morton on the edge of Swindon. This is an 18 hectare community woodland that links existing chalk downland and ancient woodland, creating an expanse of wildlife-rich habitat.



Worcestershire

Hollybed Farm Meadows was purchased, with help from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. In June it was declared as Worcestershire's 'Coronation Meadow', and in July green hay spreading began to increase the species diversity of the site's grassland habitats.



Yorkshire

An amazing 40,000 drainage dams have been installed to halt the loss of valuable peatland habitat in the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors. This will improve the area for wildlife and help prevent further emissions of carbon dioxide, which contributes to climate change.

We currently
have over
40,000
volunteers



Crown Dependencies



Alderney

The initial year of the Living Islands Live webcam saw 1,500 students engaged, with plans to reach 10,000 across 200 schools next year. The webcams link up Alderney's wildlife and natural history with national curriculum topics.



Manx

2013 marked the Trust's 40th anniversary, which has been celebrated by a series of activities and events throughout the year aiming to raise the profile of the fantastic wildlife of the Isle of Man.

Financial & Organisational Overview

The Wildlife Trusts

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

Chris Packham

Julian Pettifer OBE

Prof Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL

Chief Executive

Stephanie Hilborne OBE

Covers the period April 2012 – March 2013



At a Biodiversity
Benchmark workshop

Where our funding comes from

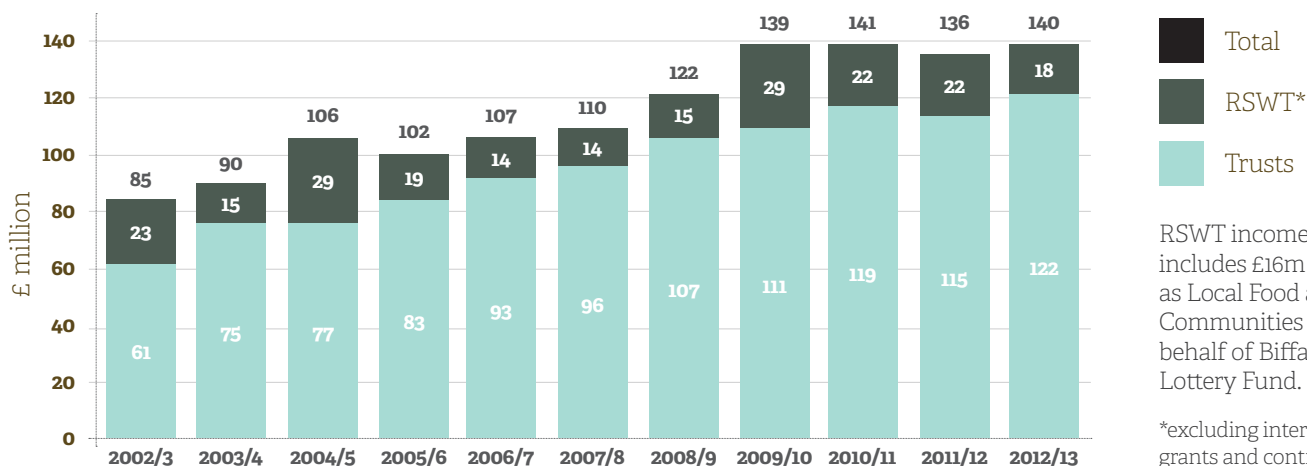
We could not do the work we do without the financial support of our members and legators. The majority of our income comes from these supporters - passionate people who share our vision for a natural environment rich in wildlife.

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. Landfill Tax Credits also enable 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 and the People's Postcode Lottery and to the many charitable trusts whose invaluable support is vital to our efforts to secure nature's recovery. These include the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the Arcadia Fund, the Peter De Haan Charitable Trust, the Rees Jeffreys Road Fund, the Michael Uren Foundation, the Rothschild Foundation and the Carnegie UK Trust.

The Wildlife Trusts' income



RSWT income for 2012-13 includes £16m 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 certification which recognises organisations' achievements in managing landholdings for wildlife. As of March 2013, 53 sites - covering more than 6,000ha - had reached this highly demanding standard.



During 2012-2013 the standard was awarded to: Aggregate Industries UK Ltd Torr; Newbold and Haughmond Hill Quarries; EDF Energy plc Heysham Power Station; Viridor Ltd Poole and Lackford Closed Landfills; Veolia Environment UK Ltd Coalmoor and Smalley Hill; Network Rail (High Speed) Ltd; HS1 Ltd; and Agfa Graphics Ltd Leeds site.



Sites belonging to the following companies retained the standard following an annual re-assessment: Center Parcs Ltd; Heathrow Airport Ltd; British Airways Plc; Aggregate Industries UK Ltd; Lafarge Tarmac Ltd; E.ON UK plc; Springfields Fuels Ltd; Eli Lilly Group Ltd; Veolia Environnement UK Ltd; Met Office; MEPC Hillington Park No.1 Ltd; MEPC Hillington Park No.2 Ltd; MEPC Hillington Park Limited Partnership; and Marshalls Plc.

The following sites were entered for assessment during the year and were undergoing assessment as of 31 March 2013: Aggregate Industries Glensanda; EDF Energy plc Dungeness; Gatwick Airport Ltd; The Wrigley Company Ltd Plymouth; and Viridor Ltd Beddington.

Corporate Support

Across The Wildlife Trusts we are fortunate to have many hundreds of relationships, with businesses of every size and from many sectors. At a UK level we maintain many corporate relationships and have a small number of carefully selected formal partnerships:



Ribena



Aggregate Industries UK Ltd

We are delighted that Aggregate Industries remain committed to supporting The Wildlife Trusts. The company helps to fund our conferences for Wildlife Trust Directors and work closely with us for the creation of Living Landscapes around the UK.

Vine House Farm Ltd

Our partnership with Vine House Farm went from strength to strength as we agreed to work together for a further five years. We continue to promote the benefits that feeding wild birds and wildlife-friendly farming can bring.

Ribena (GSK Plc)

As a major purchaser of blackcurrants, Ribena is in a position to positively influence farming practices. We have worked with Ribena since 2004 to help blackcurrant farmers identify and implement action they can take for wildlife.

Center Parcs Ltd

We were delighted when Center Parcs announced in March that The Wildlife Trusts had been chosen as one of its two charity partners for the next two years. We look forward to working with the company to ensure that the wildlife experience their guests enjoy during their break continues when they return home.

wildlifetrusts.org/workingwithbusiness

A group of people, mostly wearing high-visibility yellow and orange vests, are standing on a wide, pebbly beach. In the background, a long pier extends into the sea under a cloudy sky. The foreground is filled with smooth, brown and grey pebbles.

Picture Credits

Cover - Grid images include photographs by: Nick Illott, Avon WT, Paul Harris/2020Vision, Peter Cairns/2020Vision, Terry Whittaker/2020Vision, Worcestershire WT, Neil Aldridge, Elliott Neep, Matthew Roberts, Notts WT, BBOWT, Tom Marshall, Guy Edwardes/2020Vision, Gloucestershire WT, Paul Naylor, Rachel Scopes, Don Sutherland, John Hawkins, Peter Tinsley, Richard Morton, Richard Bowler, David Tipling/2020Vision, Rob Spray, Ian Craig, Barney Wilczak, Gwent WT, Simon Burt, Warwickshire WT. Apologies if we have missed anyone! **P2** Brown hare: David Tipling/2020Vision. **P4** Waresely Wood: Matthew Roberts. **P5-6:** Beaver: Steve Gardner. Forest School: Helen Walsh. Thurrock Thameside Nature Park: Matthew Roberts. Volunteers at Portrack Marsh: Tim Keeton. Petition Fish reception: Chris Taylor. Badger Vaccination: Neil Aldridge. Marsland nature reserve: Gavin Black. **P10-11** Sussex WT Forest School: Helen Walsh. **P12-13** Cornish coastline: Cornwall WT. **P14-15** Coigach and Assynt landscape: Mark Hamblin/2020Vision. **P16-17** All images provided by relevant Trust unless stated otherwise. North Wales: Paul Naylor. **P18-19** Image at top – Potteric Carr: Matthew Roberts. All other images provided by relevant Trust unless stated otherwise. Berks, Bucks & Oxon: Rob Appleby. Birmingham & Black Country: Reg James. Derbyshire: Dave Turley. Durham: Amy Lewis. **P20- 21** Image at top – Assessing heathland habitat: Paul Harris/2020Vision. All other images provided by relevant Trust unless stated otherwise. Hants & Isle of Wight: Alex Cruickshank. Kent: Ray Lewis. Norfolk: Barry Madden. **P22- 23** All images provided by relevant Trust unless stated otherwise. Surrey: Amy Lewis. Wiltshire: Paul Hobson. Worcestershire: Wendy Carter. **P26-27:** Wild Beach session on Brighton beach: Sussex WT.

A huge thanks to all the photographers who support The Wildlife Trusts.

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Wild beach - Children play on Brighton beach at a Sussex Wildlife Trust Wild Beach session. Wild Beach helps children to reconnect with nature - at the seaside.



Join your Wildlife Trust...

Become part of a growing movement of people taking action for their wildlife and wild places.

Find out more: 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 or call 01636 677 711 or email legacy@wildlifetrusts.org

Invest in natural capital...

Join an increasing number of businesses which are recognising that we need to value nature and what it provides us with. You can work with us to restore damaged habitats and help rebuild our natural capital.

Find out more: wildlifetrusts.org/workingwithbusiness



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