

The Wildlife Trusts **Annual Review** 2008/9



Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future



CLARENCE HOUSE

The Wildlife Trusts are going from strength to strength. With almost 800,000 members, new nature reserves and landscape-scale projects being developed across the UK, and advances in marine conservation, there are many reasons to celebrate. Yet the scale of the challenges faced by our wildlife is greater than ever. Our rivers, woods, moors and meadows are under relentless pressure from many quarters, not least from the consequences of climate change, and the role of the Trusts has never been more important.

On a crowded island, the pressures of housing and industrial development, intensive agriculture, unsustainable fisheries and numerous other human activities mean that all too often wildlife habitats become degraded and fragmented. So I am delighted that, with the backing of their members and the assistance of their 39,000 wonderful volunteers, the Trusts are working with farmers, landowners and local communities to create whole landscapes that are rich in both wildlife and opportunities for the people who live in them. Creating these large areas of new habitat, including restoring and re-connecting existing fragments, will provide a more secure future for at least some of the wildlife that shares our island and enriches our lives.

It is also encouraging to see new additions to the Trusts' already significant network of nature reserves around the UK. Whenever an ancient woodland is extended to give it extra breathing space, or a piece of fenland is restored to its former glory, we should all celebrate. We rely on the natural world and its ecosystems for so much; anything that helps to safeguard its future is of inestimable value to everyone.

This year, I have also enjoyed following the progress of the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust which launched its Marine Biodiversity project this Spring. Like many people, I am fascinated by these special islands and their wildlife. So it is particularly exciting to find out more about the beauty and diversity of their undersea wildlife, normally out of reach to most of us. As well as allowing visitors to enjoy the islands' marine wildlife, the Trust's vital work in surveying and collecting data will help to ensure that it can be protected in the future.

The Wildlife Trusts play a hugely important role in our society, as stewards and guardians of our natural heritage, and I hope they will all continue to grow and develop. They certainly deserve all our support and their increasing membership, even in difficult economic times, is a welcome sign that there are a great many people who really care about their local wildlife and wild places and want to help protect them.



Charles

Who are The Wildlife Trusts?

By the end of the 1960s, in response to the widespread devastation of our natural habitats, Wildlife Trusts had been formed across the length and breadth of the UK. Ancient woodlands, wildflower meadows, lakes, mosses, moors, islands, estuaries and beaches were all rescued in an urgent drive to save our natural heritage for future generations.

Today there are 47 individual Wildlife Trusts, covering the whole of the UK and the Isle of Man and Alderney. We manage more than 2,250 nature reserves and every year we advise thousands of landowners on how to manage their land for wildlife.

We run marine conservation projects around the UK, collecting vital data on the state of our seas and celebrating our amazing marine wildlife. Every year we work with thousands of schools and our nature reserves and visitor centres receive millions of visitors.

All 47 Wildlife Trusts are members of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (Registered charity number 207238).

All statistics relate to The Wildlife Trusts' activity from April 2008 to March 2009.



To find your
local Wildlife
Trust visit:

wildlifetrusts.org

*Grey seal, Berwickshire
(Niall Benvie/Naturepl)*



CEO and Chair Address



*Top: Standing up for nature. Philippa Lyons (CE BBOWT) speaks out against the proposals to build an eco-town on Woodsides Meadow Nature Reserve (Steve Karpa)
Middle: Stephanie Hilborne talks to David Cameron, Leader of the Conservative Party, during a visit to a Wildlife Trust reserve in his Oxfordshire constituency (Steve Karpa)
Bottom: Avocets at Dorset Wildlife Trust's Brownsea Island Nature Reserve, as seen on the BBC's Autumnwatch 2008 (Monique Vanstone)*

Despite – or perhaps because of – gloom about the world and its economic state, interest in local wildlife and the world around us continues to grow. The Wildlife Trusts' network of local places where people can experience nature; our outreach programmes with schools and communities and our vision of a bigger, better and more joined-up landscape for wildlife and people, put The Wildlife Trusts at the forefront of wildlife conservation in the UK.

2008–9 was a pivotal year in many ways. How many of us would have predicted, even five years ago, that a Climate Change Act would gain Royal Assent in 2008 or that the Government would finally commit to introduce legislation to protect our seas.

In April, the draft Marine Bill was published by the Government. It was a big step forward, but the challenge remained to muster enough political pressure to ensure that it would find parliamentary time. To help keep up the pressure we launched our 'Seas of Plenty' campaign, highlighting the drastic decline of some of our marine

species and the urgent need to restore our seas to their former glory.

Throughout the UK we are putting landscape scale restoration of the natural environment at the centre of The Wildlife Trusts' work. We celebrated our 100 large area Living Landscape schemes with an event at the House of Commons attended by more than 110 MPs. Progress continues to be made on these schemes across the UK, where we work with landowners, partners and businesses to achieve gains for wildlife in urban areas and across the wider countryside. We believe this is the only way we can truly secure a sustainable future for wildlife, particularly when it is under threat from so many quarters.

In England, worrying decisions were being taken to dismantle the principles of the current strategic planning system, as the Government handed it to business-led Regional Development Agencies to run and determined to remove opportunities for local consultation on large infrastructure projects. The Wildlife Trusts campaigned against the creation of

Below: 219 hectares of former gravel pits near Retford are now under the management of Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. This huge new nature reserve is a key part of the Trust's Living Landscape scheme in the wider Idle Valley (Tarmac)





eco-towns on wildlife sites and the spectre of a vast barrage across the Severn Estuary. We are keen to see environmentally sustainable responses to society's biggest challenges, but we must also avoid developments happening in the wrong places and with old technologies.

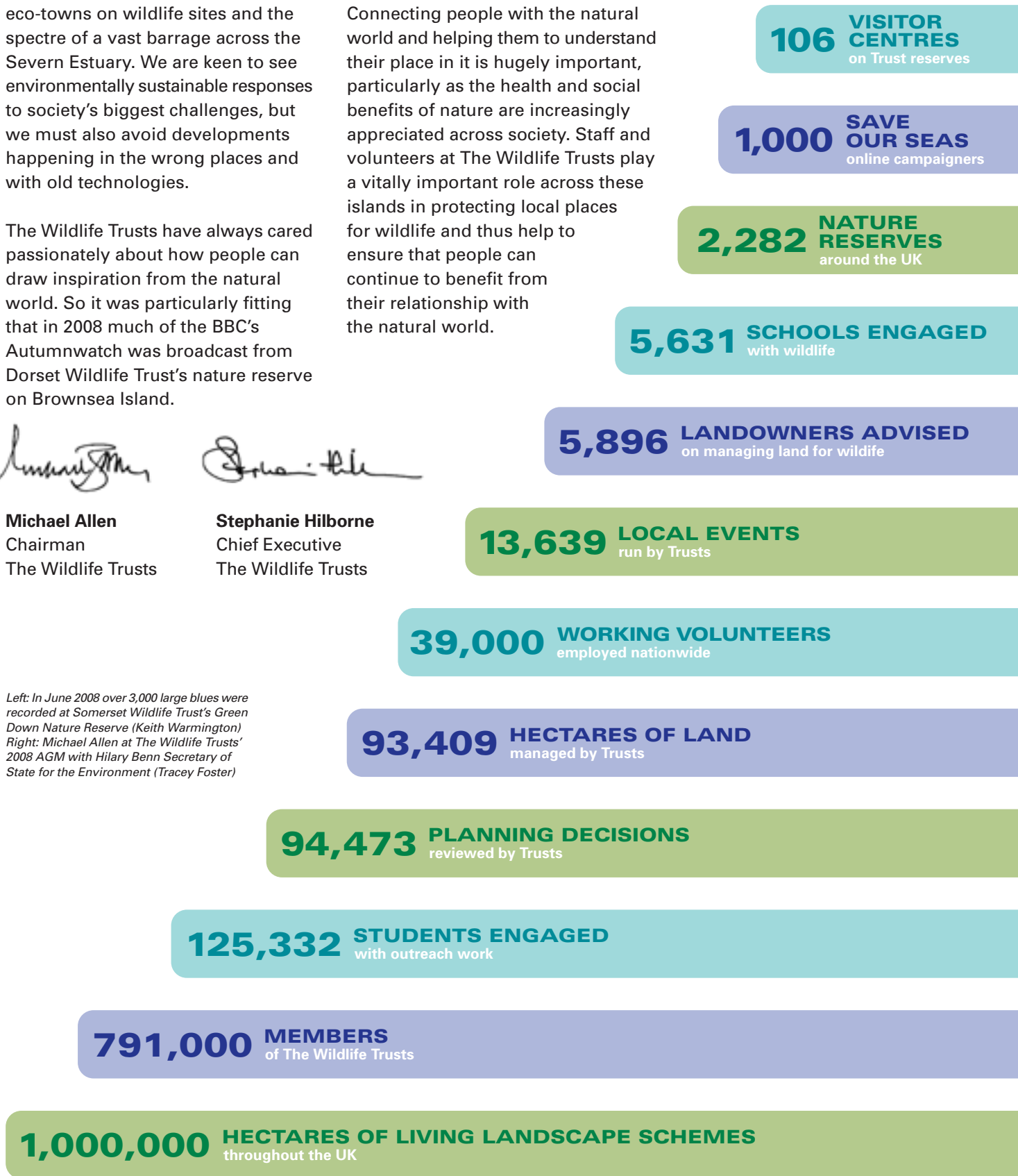
The Wildlife Trusts have always cared passionately about how people can draw inspiration from the natural world. So it was particularly fitting that in 2008 much of the BBC's Autumnwatch was broadcast from Dorset Wildlife Trust's nature reserve on Brownsea Island.

Connecting people with the natural world and helping them to understand their place in it is hugely important, particularly as the health and social benefits of nature are increasingly appreciated across society. Staff and volunteers at The Wildlife Trusts play a vitally important role across these islands in protecting local places for wildlife and thus help to ensure that people can continue to benefit from their relationship with the natural world.

Michael Allen
Chairman
The Wildlife Trusts

Stephanie Hilborne
Chief Executive
The Wildlife Trusts

*Left: In June 2008 over 3,000 large blues were recorded at Somerset Wildlife Trust's Green Down Nature Reserve (Keith Warmington)
Right: Michael Allen at The Wildlife Trusts' 2008 AGM with Hilary Benn Secretary of State for the Environment (Tracey Foster)*



Around the UK



This map shows The Wildlife Trusts' work across the UK, providing an impression of the scale and distribution of our work. The smaller dots are our 2,280 nature reserves – wildlife havens where nature can thrive. The green patches are our large-area Living Landscape schemes and the seahorse icons show areas of our Living Seas work.

Living Landscapes

Working together with landowners and partner organisations, The Wildlife Trusts now have more than 100 Living Landscape schemes across the UK. These schemes are restoring, recreating and reconnecting large areas of wildlife habitat and are creating more people-friendly landscapes in the process. Living Landscapes give people increased access to nature and more opportunities to enjoy their local environment.

► Learn more about Living Landscapes

Bluebell wood and family (Nick Spurling/FLPA)



Nature Reserves

The Wildlife Trusts manage a network of more than 2,280 nature reserves around the UK. These cover the full range of the UK's habitats, from rocky shores and estuaries to wildflower meadows and ancient woodland. Our nature reserves are home to many rare and protected species. They provide nursery areas for many marine species at sea or along the coast, are a natural seedbank of plants on land and provide vital refuges for many wild animals such as dormice or rare butterflies and birds. They are also fantastic places to visit and last year millions of people enjoyed a visit to one of our reserves.

► Search our Nature Reserve finder

Otter (Niall Benvie/Naturepl)

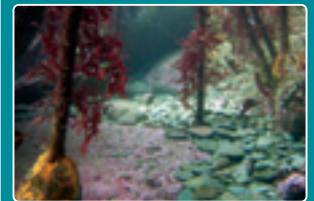


Living Seas

The Wildlife Trusts are involved with a range of marine conservation projects around the UK. We co-ordinate many local Seasearch and Shoresearch programmes collecting data on marine wildlife. We are involved with large-scale seabed-mapping projects and manage 150 coastal and marine reserves and 17 visitor centres across the UK, including several Voluntary Marine Conservation Areas. We are also involved in species-based work, monitoring basking sharks and porpoises, and work with stakeholders to find common ground on large infrastructure projects.

► Find out more about Living Seas

Kelp forest, Plymouth Sound (Luke Atkinson)





Beavers reintroduced
Scottish Wildlife Trust and RZSS are coordinating a five-year trial to reintroduce beaver to Scotland (Niall Benvie)
▶ Visit the Scottish Beaver Trial website



A Living Landscape

The Wildlife Trusts have a long history of conserving and restoring wildlife on land and in freshwater. We stand up for wildlife, and our work ensures that a wide range of policies and decisions reflect the importance of our natural environment.

Managing The Wildlife Trusts' 2,280 nature reserves has provided us with huge amounts of experience and knowledge of what wildlife needs to survive and thrive. These nature reserves are now the cornerstone for our vision of A Living Landscape. This is The Wildlife Trusts' recovery plan for the UK's wildlife and fragmented natural habitats, creating landscapes in which wildlife flourishes and can be experienced from the valley bottom to the mountain tops, the city centre to the coast.

To create A Living Landscape we are working with hundreds of landowners across the UK in towns, cities and in the wider countryside. This means we are at the leading edge of delivering

nature conservation at a truly landscape scale and we now have more than 100 Living Landscape schemes underway across the UK – all restoring, recreating and reconnecting large areas of wildlife habitat. As well as protecting wildlife, this is helping to safeguard the ecosystems that we depend on for natural services like clean air and water.

Example Living Landscape schemes include Pastures New, a project working with local farmers to restore species-rich grassland across West Dorset and the Pumlumon Project, a massive upland restoration scheme in the Cambrian mountains.

However, despite the progress we are making, there are ever-increasing pressures on wildlife, and The Wildlife Trusts believe that the time is right for the Government to consider the need for a major new drive to restore the natural environment for the benefit of wildlife, communities and the economy.

► [Learn more about A Living Landscape](#)

Opposite: Small pearl-bordered fritillary. In 2008, Devon Wildlife Trust announced that over a 20-year period numbers of pearl-bordered and small pearl-bordered fritillaries had risen by 200% at Marsland Nature Reserve in north Devon thanks to habitat management by the Trust. This is compared to a 50% national decline (Ross Hoddnott/Naturepl)



*Top: Volunteers restoring heathland on the Isles of Scilly (IOS Wildlife Trust)
Middle: In 2009, bittern bred for the first time at Willington Gravel Pits Nature Reserve, a Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve (Tim Stenton)
Bottom: Work is continuing on the Pumlumon project in Wales. This is restoring large areas of upland habitat in the Cambrian mountains with benefits for wildlife and people (Matthew Roberts)*



Scottish Wildlife Trust

Cumbernauld Living Landscape Scheme

Cumbernauld is better known as the location for the film *Gregory's Girl* but, thanks to work by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, in the future the town is as likely to be recognised for its successful integration of nature into an urban environment. The Scottish Wildlife Trust manages nearly 300 hectares of woodlands around Cumbernauld as part of its long-running Greenspace Project, centred on four wildlife reserves. Cumbernauld is an integral part of the Trust's vision for land management across lowland Scotland. The Trust is hoping to establish a Cumbernauld Forest, where woodland management for nature conservation can be integrated with public access, recreation and commercial forestry.

SWT has recently created Scotland's first urban mountain bike trail in Cumbernauld Glen Wildlife Reserve, providing increased recreation and access opportunities. Projects like this are the catalysts for the Living Landscape Project and further partnerships with the people of Cumbernauld, Forestry Commission Scotland and North Lanarkshire Council will be key to the project's success.

► [Find out more about Cumbernauld Glen Wildlife Reserve](#)



Ancient woodland saved

Balls Wood was saved for local people after a campaign by the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust (Clare Gray)

► [Find out how Balls Wood was saved](#)



Living Seas

Living Seas is The Wildlife Trusts' vision for the future of the UK's seas. Within Living Seas, marine wildlife thrives, from the depths of the ocean to the coastal shallows.

The Wildlife Trusts have campaigned for protection of the marine environment for many years. Thanks to our local knowledge and our campaigning power we have taken a lead in efforts to reduce dolphin bycatch in fishing nets; the surveying of basking shark populations; and the campaign for a Marine Bill to offer protection to the UK's sea life. In 2008, a landmark campaign led by Devon and Dorset Wildlife Trusts secured protection of 60 sq miles of seabed in Lyme Bay off England's south coast from damaging scallop dredging.

Our coastal nature reserves are also home to a rich diversity of wildlife, from the vast seabird colonies that live on islands like Skomer in South Wales and Handa in North West Scotland, to coastal havens such as Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's Donna

Nook Reserve – home to one of the UK's largest breeding colonies of grey seals.

We are at the forefront of advancing knowledge and understanding, and around the UK we run volunteer-led surveys collecting vital baseline data on the state of our seas. In 2008, Seasearch surveys recorded seahorses off the Kent coast and counted pink seafan corals off Cornwall.

Every August we co-ordinate National Marine Week in which events take place around the UK, celebrating our seas. In 2008, Wildlife Trusts ran 120 events, including a symbolic 'sturgeon migration' – taking a 7ft model sturgeon from Coton-in-the-Elms in Derbyshire (officially the UK village furthest from the sea), to the Humber Estuary. Along the way we organised events to raise awareness of marine conservation and these were attended by a range of people from families and schoolchildren to MPs.

► [Find out more about Living Seas](#)

Opposite: Reef scene in Heybrook Bay, Devon (David Peake)



Top: Every summer volunteers with Cornwall Wildlife Trust record numbers of basking sharks around the Cornish coast (Andrew Pearson)

Middle: A surprise sighting of a short-snouted seahorse was made in Shakespeare Bay during a Kent Wildlife Trust Seasearch dive survey (Paul Naylor/Marinephoto.co.uk)

Bottom: Bluefin tuna, Scarborough 1948. Our Seas of Plenty campaign used archive images to highlight the decline of marine megafauna (kind permission of Phil Burton)



Mark Heighes

Solent Seal Tagging Project

A new project is tracking a population of harbour seals around the Solent on England's south coast. Tracking devices have been tagged to five seals and will provide location data and information on diving behaviour as part of the Solent Seal Tagging Project.

The tags, which will remain active for about five months, will gather data on seal movements, feeding and breeding habits. The information will allow The Wildlife Trusts to highlight important sites for seals and help them to get them recognised in management and conservation plans. Data will help to assess what may be contributing to the decline in numbers.

There are serious implications for this species' survival as 40 per cent of the global population of harbour seal live here, but the UK population has declined by almost 50 per cent in some areas.

► [Read more about the Solent Seals Project](#)



National Marine Week 2008

The 7ft model sturgeon reaches the end of its journey in Hull

► Discover more about National Marine Week



Inspiring People

People are at the heart of The Wildlife Trusts. Whether it is co-ordinating local groups of volunteers, running busy events or providing outdoor classrooms – our work ensures that people have a wealth of opportunities to enjoy and understand the natural world.

The Wildlife Trusts' nature reserves and visitor centres provide well-managed, accessible and inspiring places for people of all ages and backgrounds to discover their local wildlife. In 2008–9, an estimated six million people visited our reserves and centres around the UK.

Our education teams deliver safe, effective, local learning activities and programmes directly to teaching staff, students and pupils. In 2008–9, The Wildlife Trusts engaged 5,631 schools and around 125,000 students with our outreach work.

Several Wildlife Trusts are working with local health care providers to provide opportunities for patients to experience nature in a therapeutic context. Trusts

are involved in many green exercise projects across the UK, allowing people to get their weekly workout, whilst also helping to preserve important habitats for local wildlife.

Our taskforce of 39,000 volunteers undertakes all types of work, from practical conservation such as clearing ponds and planting trees, to equally important work in our offices, or recruiting new members. Without their support our work would be impossible.

We work closely with media partners such as the BBC to inspire people about UK wildlife. In 2008, BBC Autumnwatch was broadcast from Dorset Wildlife Trust's Brownsea Island Nature Reserve. Every night for two weeks, Brownsea's amazing wildlife, including avocets, red squirrels and water voles, inspired audiences of millions. Together with the BTCV, The Wildlife Trusts also lead the Communities workstream of BBC's Breathing Places Project.

► [Discover more about our work with people](#)

Opposite: Children pond-dipping at Norfolk Wildlife Trust's Ranworth Broad Nature Reserve (Alan Howard)



Top: In 2008, the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts began management of a £50m Local Food fund to support local food projects with grant funding

Middle: Volunteers with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, part of the Viva Veolia youth volunteering project (Matthew Roberts)

Bottom: Lancashire Wildlife Trust helping members of Noor Mosque in Preston to create a wildlife-friendly garden (Lancashire Wildlife Trust)



Jamie Grier/London Wildlife Trust

Garden for a Living London

Gardening is a great way for people to get close to nature and do something positive for wildlife. But gardens can play an equally important role as part of a bigger network of wildlife-friendly spaces, providing green links across towns and cities.

London Wildlife Trust's Garden for a Living London campaign, launched at the 2009 Hampton Court Flower Show, called on gardeners to transform the capital's gardens into a network of mini nature reserves. New research shows that there are over three million gardens in Greater London, covering an area of 37,942 hectares. In the face of climate change and habitat fragmentation, this massive expanse of green space has enormous untapped potential for both people and wildlife. The Trust asked gardeners to pledge to do one of seven things to make their garden more wildlife- and climate-friendly. Pledges ranged from something as simple as using mulch or planting a broadleaved tree, to digging a pond or creating a living roof.

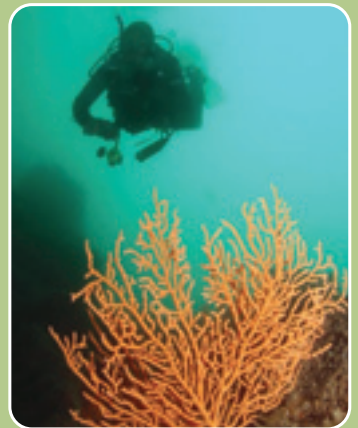
► [Visit the Garden for a Living London website](#)



Getting closer to nature
A Sussex Wildlife Trust Forest School in action (Sussex Wildlife Trust)
▶ [Find out more about Forest Schools](#)



Financial and organisational Overview



Top: A Suffolk Wildlife Trust Forest School (Matthew Roberts)
Middle: Reed bunting (Neil Aldridge)
Bottom: A volunteer recording pink seafans for Cornwall Wildlife Trust (Simon Burt)
Opposite: Pamber Forest Wildlife Reserve. This ancient woodland is owned by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and is home to rare butterflies and woodland flowers (Albert Roberts)

The Wildlife Trusts

Chief Executive

Stephanie Hilborne

Patron

HRH The Prince of Wales

President

Professor Aubrey Manning OBE FRSE

Vice Presidents

Sir David Attenborough OM CH CVO CBE FRS

Prof J Chris Baines

Nick Baker

Simon King

Prof David Macdonald

Bill Oddie OBE

Chris Packham

Julian Pettifer

Prof Sir Robert Worcester KBE

Sponsors and supporters

The Wildlife Trusts enjoy many thousands of partnerships with business and industry. Here, we are delighted to acknowledge those who supported The Wildlife Trusts as a whole during 2008–9. These include:

Corporate partners

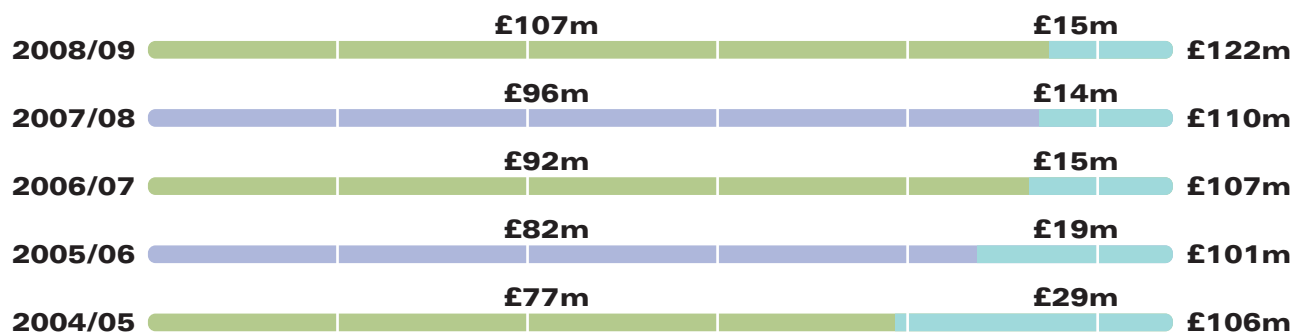
AB Agri
Aggregate Industries Ltd
Bradstone
Carillion plc
Ribena
Vine House Farm
Waitrose
Benoy
Sarasin and Partners
PKF
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Npower
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Agencies, Charitable Trusts and Lottery Boards

The Orr Mackintosh Foundation
Big Lottery Fund
Biffaward
Heritage Lottery Fund
Defra
DfES
Environment Agency
Department for Communities and Local Government
Natural England
SITA Trust
Veolia Environmental Trust
Grantscape
Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd
Esmée Fairburn Foundation
The Tubney Charitable Trust

The Wildlife Trusts' Income Analysis

Each Wildlife Trust finalises its accounts at different times of the year. The table below represents the most up-to-date figures, including the finalised amounts for previous years. In the year to March 2009, The Wildlife Trusts' total income was approximately £122 million. Excluding RSWT, the income of Trusts was £107 million.



* Figures exclude inter-trust grants and contributions

■ Individual Trusts ■ RSWT



Conservation management in action

In 2009, the rare brown hairstreak butterfly was recorded on six Worcestershire Wildlife Trust reserves, evidence that habitat management is working (Paul Hobson)

► [Find out more about the project](#)



The Wildlife Trusts' Highlights 08-09

Alderney

Launched Puffincam which broadcasted live pictures of a puffin colony on the island of Burhou over the internet, through the summer of 2009.
alderneywildlife.org

Avon

Opened Folly Farm – a stunning environmental learning and conference centre in the middle of the Trust's 100ha nature reserve between Bristol and Bath.
avonwildlifetrust.org.uk

Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire & Peterborough

Received £7.3 million HLF funding to buy 747ha of the Great Fen.
wildlifebcnp.org



Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire

Campaigned to stop the building of Weston-Otmoor 'eco-town' on the site of Woodside Meadow Nature Reserve.
bbowt.org.uk

Birmingham & Black Country

Commencement of action plan on Park Hall Nature Reserve, a 40ha wetland site which links two other landscape-scale nature conservation initiatives.
bbcwildlife.org.uk

Brecknock

Launched its Ponds and People Project in the Wye Valley, which seeks to identify ponds, encourage good management and get people involved.
brecknockwildlifetrust.org.uk

Cheshire

Successfully acquired land adjacent to Danes Moss Nature Reserve. The land is to be restored to dwarf shrub heath and a new boardwalk will be installed.
cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk

Cornwall

Over 2000 people attended the 'Discovering the Wonders of Looe's Marine Heritage' events, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Cumbria

As part of National Marine Week 2008, hundreds took part in a 'Beached Art' sand sculpture competition at St Bees.
cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk



Derbyshire

Two new tern rafts were installed at Spring Wood Nature Reserve, to provide safe breeding conditions for common terns.
derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

Devon

Campaigned successfully to protect one of the UK's finest marine wildlife sites (Lyme Bay reefs) from damaging scallop-dredging.
devonwildlifetrust.org

Dorset

Britain's rarest spider, the ladybird spider, *Eresus sandaliatus*, was re-introduced to Tadnoll and Winfrith Nature Reserve, near Wool.
dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk

Durham

Is working in partnership to deliver WildPlaces, a project designed to give people in the North East opportunities to film and learn about urban mammals.
durhamwt.co.uk

Essex

Celebrated its 50th year in style with a reception at Houses of Parliament. In June, the Trust had its biggest ever member's day with 500 attendees.
essexwt.org.uk

Gloucestershire

Celebrated the end of the six-year 'Don't Waste Wildlife' composting project. It reached 20,000 people and diverted 2,406 tons of waste going into landfill.
gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

Gwent

Over 250 people came to the Magor Marsh Open Day, with many people joining the guided walks and over 100 children enjoying pond-dipping activities.
gwentwildlife.org

Hampshire & Isle of Wight

11 acres of New Forest woodland and heathland known as Sandy Down were saved, thanks to members and supporters who raised £50,000 to buy the site.
hwt.org.uk

Herefordshire

Launched a hugely successful appeal to conserve the wildlife on the Trust's nature reserves across the county. It has now raised £10,000.
wildlifetrust.org.uk/hereford

Hertfordshire & Middlesex

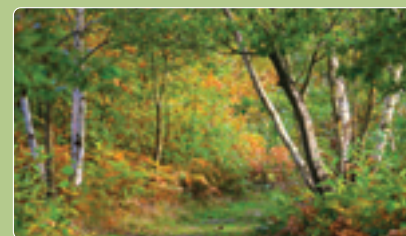
Balls Wood, a 145-acre woodland, was saved for future generations thanks to members and supporters who raised £110,000, helping to secure its purchase.
hertswildlifetrust.org.uk

Isles of Scilly

Management of the Trust land, including conservation grazing, was joined by the Marine Biodiversity Project to include all the wild habitats of the islands.
ios-wildlifetrust.org.uk

Kent

Secured funding for the implementation of a £2.3m habitat restoration project for the Trust's Blean woodland complex.
kentwildlifetrust.org.uk



Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside

Secured £8million of Northwest RDA investment to build new visitor facilities at Brockholes Nature Reserve.
lancswt.org.uk

Leicestershire & Rutland

A major habitat creation project at Rutland Water Nature Reserve was launched by Trust Patron Sir David Attenborough.
lrwt.org.uk

Lincolnshire

Will be restoring 109 hectares of former arable land to wet fenland due to the successful purchase of Willow Tree Fen Nature Reserve.

lincstrust.org.uk

Radnorshire

Trust volunteers have worked tirelessly at Shaky Bridge, on the River Ithon, to transform it from a fly-tipping hot spot to a now noted beauty spot.

radnorshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

Surrey

Acquired 25 hectares of restored farmland at Manor Farm, which was formerly intensively farmed and has now been transformed into meadows and pasture.

surreywildlifetrust.co.uk

London

Transformed East Reservoir Community Garden in urban Hackney, from a scruffy mud patch into a community space.

wildlondon.org.uk



Scotland

A five-year trial to reintroduce beavers into the wild in the UK began. The project is in partnership with the RZSS and received £1m from Biffaward.

swt.org.uk

Sussex

Cattle grazing has begun as part of the Trust's landscape restoration project at Friston Forest. The cattle are being tracked and monitoring undertaken.

sussexwt.org.uk

Sheffield

Created an urban wetland nature reserve by the River Don at Centenary Riverside on a former industrial site. Quality wildlife habitats will be enhanced.

wildsheffield.com

Tees Valley

The Trust's Wild Youth Project goes from strength to strength, with 100 young volunteers to be recruited to work on the River Tees Corridor Nature Reserves.

teeswildlife.org

Manx

The new Wildflowers of Mann wildflower nursery was created, which has proven essential for conservation work across the island.

manxwt.org.uk

Shropshire

Appeal raised funds to buy land near the River Severn to experiment with floodwater management and improve breeding habitat for curlew and lapwing.

shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

Ulster

Acquired two reserves – Balloo, a wetland in Co. Down and Moyola Waterfoot, near Lough Neagh in Co. Londonderry.

ulsterwildlifetrust.org



Montgomeryshire

Visitors to the Dyfi Osprey Project at Cors Dyfi Nature Reserve can now benefit from a new visitor centre, which was officially opened by Iolo Williams.

montwt.co.uk

Somerset

Received almost £50,000 funding from Biffaward to help create swamp marsh and fen habitats at the internationally-important Westhay Moor Nature Reserve.

somersetwildlife.org

Norfolk

Thanks to a massive fundraising effort, 100 acres of grazing marsh in the Bure Valley, adjacent to Upton Broad and Marshes Nature Reserve, was purchased.

norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk

South & West Wales

Skokholm Island was declared a National Nature Reserve, sealing its place as one of the UK's most important havens for wildlife.

welshwildlife.org

Warwickshire

Introduced free summer sessions for young people to encourage them to engage with their natural environment, learn new skills and have fun.

warwickshire-wildlife-trust.org.uk

Northumberland

Over 100 volunteer 'gorse busters' have been involved in clearing invasive gorse scrub from valuable and unique whin grassland sites in North Northumberland.

nwt.org.uk

Staffordshire

Radford Meadows saw lapwings setting up territories for the first time since the mid-90s. Pools and ditches were created.

staffs-wildlife.org.uk



Wiltshire

Water voles have been recorded at Rivermead, less than a year since a project to turn a stretch of the River Ray into a healthy and natural water course.

wiltshirewildlife.org

North Wales

Years of campaigning by the Trust and local residents to protect Eithinog Fields in Bangor from housing paid off when CCW declared the fungi-rich fields a SSSI.

wildlifetrust.org.uk/northwales

Worcestershire

50,000 reed plants were sown as part of a wetland creation scheme at Avon Meadows in Pershore, helping to restore floodplain wetlands along the river.

worcswildlifetrust.co.uk

Nottinghamshire

Thanks to a £939,500 grant, the Idle Valley will become a beacon nature reserve through enhancing natural habitats and the creation of wildlife corridors.

nottinghamshirewildlife.org

Suffolk

A 20-year partnership project with the Forestry Commission will transform Dunwich Forest into a landscape of wood pasture, heathland and wet woodland.

suffolkwildlifetrust.org

Yorkshire

Stepped up its marine advocacy campaign by appointing an officer working for the 12 Eastern Wildlife Trusts to help conserve North Sea wildlife.

ywt.org.uk



Above: Priestcliffe Lees, a Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve (Matthew Roberts)

Cover: Children in Walsall getting closer to nature thanks to the work of the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country (Matthew Roberts)



The Wildlife Trusts

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wildlifetrusts.org

Design www.fdadesign.co.uk