Our wear for wildife

The Wildlife Trusts impact report 2018/2019



Thank you!

Most people agree that wildlife and wild places are valuable and yet wildlife continues to decline on land and at sea. We have reached a point where the natural world is in a critical condition and need your support more than ever.

We need to put nature into recovery for its own sake and for everything it brings us: better health and wellbeing, climate control, flood management, employment and so much more. That is why The Wildlife Trusts launched *Wilder Future* – to build a wide network of supporters, decision makers and businesses taking urgent and immediate action for nature's recovery.

A **big thank you** to all our members, partners and supporters who helped us during 2018-19. We very much hope you will continue with us to create a *Wilder Future*.

Peta Foxall, Chair

Bty Exall

Stephanie Hilborne OBE, Chief Executive





A year for wildlife



Derbyshire beauty site revamp completed

Part of an ancient lead mining area, Gang Mine Nature Reserve in Derbyshire has been given a new lease of life! A wildflower trail, orientation panels and the restoration of the pond are amongst the changes that will benefit both wildlife and visitors. This gem of a reserve features specialist lead-tolerant flowers and glow worms!

Supporters Acted Swiftly to save Local Wildlife Sites

When the Government announced their new planning policy, Local Wildlife Sites, which provide essential refuge and habitat to many species, were not included. Thousands of supporters joined The Wildlife Trusts' Act Swiftly campaign and protection was restored in England's planning policy.

A boost to peatlands in Ireland

Ulster Wildlife is part of a partnership project, which launched in June, to restore and protect peatlands and wetlands in Ireland and Scotland. The €8.3 million funding for this project will improve the condition of these important habitats, working with local communities to manage the unique landscapes and iconic species that live there.

22,000 supporters joined our Wave of Support

In response to the Government's consultation for Marine Conservation Zones, 22,000 people joined our Wave of Support for new zones. These range from seagrass meadows in Dorset to special mud habitats in the Irish Sea. They support fantastic jewel anemones, seahorses and many other extraordinary creatures.

Joy for shearwaters in Pembrokeshire

A review of seabirds, undertaken by South & West Wales Wildlife Trust alongside the University of Oxford and other partners, showed that Skomer Island is home to around 350,000 pairs of Manx shearwaters -50% of the world's population. Not only that, the review showed a 10% rise in the population!

100 patches of land saved in Worcestershire

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust completed the purchase of its 100th land area. The newly purchased woodland neighbours the existing Knapp and Papermill Nature Reserve. This addition means the reserve now extends to over 95 acres of orchard, woodland, river and meadows for wildlife to thrive in and people to enjoy.



Saving England's rarest ant in Devon

Devon Wildlife Trust and Buglife have joined forces with Highways England to try to save the last remaining English population of the narrow-headed ant. It clings on at Devon Wildlife Trust's Chudleigh Knighton Heath, on the road verge next to the A38. This project shows the importance of road verges to connect fragmented habitats.

Young voices speak out for the environment

More than 60 MPs met with young people from across The Wildlife Trusts at our Parliamentary Reception. Green Party MP Caroline Lucas introduced the event, at which young people spoke about their views on the natural environment, including why we need to safeguard nature for the future.

A bumper year for extraordinary marine sightings

Our first ever annual marine review was covered widely across UK media. It revealed that conservation action is helping rare marine wildlife to make a comeback, from shortsnouted seahorses to undulate rays. There were also mysterious sightings of boar fish and Sowerby's beaked whale and, more worryingly, reports on sewage spills and plastic pollution.

Government initiative puts nature at heart of schools

The Wildlife Trusts are leading a ground-breaking programme – 'Nature Friendly Schools' – to bring thousands of children closer to nature to benefit their health and wellbeing. The consortium, which includes YoungMinds and the Sensory Trust, will train teachers to take classes outdoors and enable students to visit wild places.

Beavers awarded legal protection in Scotland

In May 2009 Scottish Wildlife Trust and partners released the first wild beavers into Scotland in over 400 years. After monitoring the effect on the local environment, the Government allowed the beaver population to stay, and have now granted them full legal protection, as enjoyed by other species such as dolphins and wildcats.

Badger, Ratty, Mole and Toad return for a Wilder Future

The much-loved Wind in the Willows characters returned to launch Wilder Future. Sir David Attenborough, Stephen Fry, Catherine Tate, Alison Steadman and Asim Chaudry provided the voices for a cinema trailer bringing to life the 21st Century threats faced by the characters and calling for action to help our wildlife before it's too late.



The Wildlife Trusts are a grassroots movement of people from a wide range of backgrounds and all walks of life. We believe that the natural world is the foundation of our wellbeing and prosperity, and that everything we do has an impact on it. Our supporters are helping their Wildlife Trust restore and connect up our wild places and creating new ones so that we can all enjoy a wilder future, where nature is part of our everyday lives. There are Wildlife Trusts across the whole of the UK. the Isle of Man and Alderney. Every Wildlife Trust is an independent charity.

Over coastal and marine conservation projects 850,000







Our impact

People that were inspired by and took action with The Wildlife Trusts in 2018/19.



Meet Liz, she's Wild at Heart!

After Liz suffered a period of ill health, she felt constrained and limited by her mobility. She felt like she needed a space where she could express herself, and be a part of something different. That's when she joined Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust's Wild at Heart project.

Every week Liz benefits from getting out into nature and interacting with other members of the group by walking and talking and noticing nature. The group takes the time to look closer and discover new things about the wildlife around them.

Liz has also had the opportunity to work on a programme of activities that has a positive impact on others, as well as herself. It has helped her feel part of a community and establish new friendships. In fact, the group has been so successful and supportive of one another, that they remain close outside of Wild at Heart.

Liz said: "We set the programme together and it stirs our imaginations and lets new things develop and grow. If there's a gap in the programme we get together and organise a meeting ourselves. Now I feel like I contribute in so many different ways."



Meet Emily, the beach ranger

While Emily studied Wildlife Education and Media at Cornwall College Newquay, she was keen to make a difference in her local patch, despite also holding down a part-time job. After hearing about Cornwall Wildlife Trust's Your Shore Beach Rangers, she decided to get involved.

During her time as a Beach Ranger, Emily volunteered for the Newquay Marine Group, representing them at events including the Fish Fair and Newquay Campus Freshers Fair – championing our sea-life and raising awareness of marine issues. She was also central to organising Newquay's ReFILL Cornwall scheme, encouraging businesses to become ReFILL stations and stock re-usable bottles. Her actions had a big impact on reducing single-use plastic in the seaside town, by providing spots where local people and tourists can refill their water bottles for free. Emily's college was so impressed by her efforts to improve the local environment whilst balancing her own commitments, she is used as an exemplar for other students and is already an inspiration to many of her peers.

Part of the National Lottery-funded Our Bright Future programme, Your Shore Beach Rangers



has boosted Emily's confidence and knowledge of the environmental issues faced by Cornwall's marine life.

Emily volunteered with Cornwall Seal Group Research Trust and, through her hard work and passion, has secured a paid role as the group's Creativity and Activity Ranger - a role that is very well suited to her skills. Emily has always been a real advocate for the Your Shore Beach Rangers project and the marine environment and it's a pleasure to see her continue to work hard to protect our oceans.

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Our impact

The Wildlife Trusts' work on land takes us from hidden valleys to city streets. For more than a century we have been saving and protecting wild places.

Area of land **protected by influencing planning decisions**:

13,309ha

Area of land we **provided advice on**:

229,154ha



Area of land in our nature reserves:

103,543ha



Area of land in our **Biodiversity Benchmark Scheme**:

8,700ha



These figures represent the land areas Wildlife Trusts directly impact through management and the giving of advice to other landowners. The Wildlife Trusts have an even bigger impact on land and at sea by influencing national policy, including campaigning for new Marine Conservation Zones and leading on the establishment of a Nature Recovery Network.

Length of watercourses managed:

8,358_{km}



Length of watercourses
Trusts **provided advice on**:

9,775km

Special Area of Conservation to **protect harbour porpoise**:

55,030 km²



Broads National Park, Suffolk

A new 1,000-acre wetland

Restoration of a precious corner of East Anglia is now underway, forming a gateway to the Broads National Park. Carlton Marshes will form an important new wetland spanning across 1,000 acres, and once finished will provide homes for some of the UK's most iconic species. Rare wildlife such as water voles, marsh harriers and bitterns will benefit from this fantastic new habitat: as water flows in, nature will take over.

Reeds will stretch into the distance, whilst deep pools and water-filled channels will bring birds close to the path, giving nature-lovers a window into life amongst the reeds. A new visitor centre will help make the nature reserve a national wildlife destination and one of the most accessible nature experiences in the UK.

Estimated for completion in spring 2020, it is the largest wetland creation in the Broads for a decade and has been made possible with one of the largest grants ever given to a Wildlife Trust (by the National Lottery Heritage Fund), and the generosity of supporters, culminating in over £5 million of funds raised. The nature reserve is expected to become a huge visitor attraction, whilst creating a refuge for wildlife.

Kelp Forests, **Ullapool**

#NoKelpDredge Campaign

Kelp forests are home to a wonderful array of marine wildlife from fish and crabs to anemones. They also play a hugely important role in our fight against climate change, capturing and storing carbon from the atmosphere. Found all around the coasts of the UK, forests of kelp develop in areas with a suitably rocky seabed, such as off the west coast of Scotland.

One stronghold can be found off the shores of Ullapool, a coastal village in the Scottish Highlands. Here, Ullapool Sea Savers, a group of passionate young people, work closely with Scottish Wildlife Trust to raise awareness of the challenges facing their local marine environment. When they heard of damaging plans to dredge for kelp over huge areas of Scotland's west coast they were horrified. This would have involved pulling the kelp up from its holdfast, making it impossible for it to regenerate. In defence of this crucial habitat, which underpins the coastal food web. the Sea Savers wrote to their MSPs. raised awareness online and talked to as many people as they could about the dangers of dredging for kelp.

With a tag line of "Hey Dredgers, leave our kelp alone", they also travelled to the Scottish











Parliament to make their case. Their heroic efforts were rewarded as the Scottish Parliament passed a change in the law, to restrict harvesting of kelp to sustainable methods only in Scottish seas. This not only protects this vital habitat, but also the small community businesses that rely on small-scale harvesting operations. This is an incredible achievement, providing a much brighter future for kelp in Scotland, free from unsustainable practices.

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Our impact





Biodiversity Benchmark

We believe that by working together people can change the natural world for the better. The Wildlife Trusts' Biodiversity Benchmark certification has recognised the contribution of business landowners since 2007. There are 13 organisations that have achieved this award with 53 sites between them, covering 8,700 hectares.

Aggregate Industries

Aggregate Industries helped us to develop the Biodiversity Benchmark standard and for over ten years has gained and retained certification on some of its best sites for wildlife, including the 3,500ha Glensanda Estate on the West Coast of Scotland. At its Bardon Hill site in Leicestershire, Aggregate Industries is restoring the natural heathland that once existed in this part of the country.

Sites belonging to the following organisations retained their certification in 2018-19 following an annual assessment: Center Parcs UK, Heathrow Airport Ltd, Aggregate Industries UK, Tarmac Ltd, EDF Nuclear Generation, Lilly UK, Viridor UK, Met Office, Network Rail HS1, Wrigley, Gatwick Airport, Green Park. Toyota GB commenced the assessment and certification process.









Funders

Without the financial support of our members, donors and legators we would not be able to look after wild places or inspire and enable people to take action for nature's recovery. These supporters provide the majority of our income. We are also grateful to the grants that make many of our individual projects possible. These come from several sources, including local authorities, statutory agencies, governments, charitable trusts. lotteries and funds like the Landfill Communities Fund. For example, in 2018, a loan from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation helped Staffordshire Wildlife Trust buy Gun Hill, a vitally important site for curlew, snipe and lapwing. Support like this makes it possible for us to work towards achieving our vision of people close to nature, with land and seas rich in wildlife.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund and The National Lottery **Community Fund**

Over the last 25 years, National Lottery funding has been transformational for many Wildlife Trusts. This year, North Wales Wildlife Trust and the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales launched their joint Living Seas Wales project, thanks to over £500,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. The Living Seas Live Roadshow toured the Welsh coast, bringing thousands of people closer to wildlife through augmented reality technology and inspiring people to take action for our coastal and marine wildlife.

Thanks to £33 million from The National Lottery Community Fund, The Wildlife Trusts is able to lead the Our Bright Future partnership programme, bringing together the youth and environmental sectors. Formed of 31 projects across the UK, each helps young people aged 11-24 gain essential skills, experience and improve their wellbeing.

People's Postcode Lottery

10,000 children have benefitted this year from our forest school projects in 11 major cities, thanks to the continued support from players of People's Postcode Lottery. The Wildlife Trusts has worked with 105 schools through this programme and trained over 120 teachers so thousands more children can spend regular time learning in nature.



The Wildlife Trusts...

We want to see...

Demonstrate

the value of wildlife, wild places and the natural world to society

Enable

people to act for wildlife, wild places and the natural world

Inspire

people to connect with wildlife, wild places and the natural world

Empower

people to champion wildlife, wild places and the natural world

More wildlife, more wild places and people closer to nature



Thriving communities that are connected to the natural world

A healthy, wildlife rich natural environment that benefits society

A motivated society that supports investment in, and action for, wildlife and the natural world

Our collective finances

Individual Trusts
£162.9m

Individual Trusts

£145.4m

Income

Expenditure

Income at a UK and England level

£5.1m

Central spend on Wildlife Trust activity at a UK and England level

£3.9m



- Lottery Community Fund for
 Our Bright Future and £0.4m
 from National Lottery Heritage
 Fund and £0.1m from EU Life,
 both for Red Squirrels United
 SciuriousLIFE
 - * Figures exclude inter-Trust grants and contributions



The Wildlife **Trusts**

Key People and Supporters

Patron

HRH The Prince of Wales

President

Tony Juniper CBE (until April 2019)

Presidents Emeritus

Simon King OBE Sir David Attenborough OM CH CVO CBE FRS

Chair

Peta Foxall

Vice Presidents

Prof J Chris Baines Nick Baker Ellie Harrison (from August 2018) Prof David Macdonald CBE DSc FRS Bill Oddie OBE Julian Pettifer OBE Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL

Chief Executive

Stephanie Hilborne OBE (until October 2019)

Sadly, we lost our long-standing president emeritus, Prof Aubrey Manning OBE FRSE, in October 2018.



Act now for nature's recovery:

- Join us as a member
- Volunteer your time
- Speak up for a Wilder Future
- Remember us in your will
- Work with us

Find out more at: wildlifetrusts.org

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