



Transforming Nature's Recovery - 10 threatened species to benefit

The Wildlife Trusts have launched a new programme to transform UK nature recovery and help to reverse catastrophic declines in wildlife.

Transforming Nature's Recovery is focused on rewilding projects, reintroducing keystone species and better protection for UK seas to restore natural processes and bring wildlife back from the brink, at a time when 15% of species are threatened with extinction.

The 10 species below will all benefit from the *Transforming Nature's Recovery* programme. They are all listed as 'Priority Species' under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework, as well as many holding places on the IUCN Red List.

Species	Location	Conservation Status
Water vole – a small, charismatic mammal found along waterways in the UK. Collections of nibbled stems and grass will be found around their burrows with a distinctive 45 degree cut at the ends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archer's Green, Herts 	Endangered on both the Great Britain and the England Red List for Mammals. Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.
Curlew – a tall wader with a distinctive downcurved bill and eerie, 'cur-lee' call, found across wet grasslands, moorlands, farmland and coasts. It can be distinguished from the smaller whimbrel by the longer bill and plain head pattern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ughill Farm, Sheffield • Welsh Marches • Pentwyn, Radnorshire 	Red under the Birds of Conservation Concern 5: the Red List for Birds (2021) and Listed as Near Threatened on the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.
Yellowhammer – a distinctive bright yellow farm bird, about the size of a sparrow. During winter, it joins a mixed flock of sparrows, finches, and buntings to feed on seeds and invertebrates around farms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ughill Farm, Sheffield 	Red under the Birds of Conservation Concern 5: the Red List for Birds (2021). Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.

<p>Grey partridge – a farmland bird which prefers running to flying. The grey partridge is common in parts but is declining around much of the country. It feeds on seeds, leaves and small invertebrates.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ughill Farm, Sheffield 	<p>Red under the Birds of Conservation Concern 5: the Red List for Birds (2021). Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.</p>
<p>European eel – a snake-like fish lacking the distinctive scales and gills of conventional fish. Found in freshwater (rivers and ditches) but breeds in the Sargasso Sea, in the west Atlantic Ocean.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severn Vale 	<p>Listed as Critically Endangered on the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.</p>
<p>Pine marten – an elusive, nocturnal mustelid, commonly found in woodlands. Mostly chestnut-brown in colour, the pine marten has a characteristic pale yellow 'bib' on its chin and throat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Marches 	<p>Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.</p>
<p>Small pearl-bordered fritillary – characterised by the row of 'pearls' on the underside of its hindwings, this small butterfly is found in damp grassland, moorland, and open woodland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pentwyn, Radnorshire 	<p>Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.</p>
<p>Freshwater pearl mussel – a rare and endangered species of mollusc, found in only a few river systems in the UK. Can filter up to 50 litres of water a day through its gills, therefore improving water quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Marches 	<p>Listed as endangered by IUCN. Protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.</p>
<p>Spiny lobster – This pretty lobster was made extinct in many areas through overfishing in the 1960s and 70s, but is now making a slow comeback due to conservation measures. Research has shown that spiny lobster populations benefit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pembrokeshire, Wales 	<p>A species of principle importance in Wales, classified as a Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework, globally listed as vulnerable by the IUCN Red List.</p>

<p>from the designation of Marine Protected Areas. We know that many lobsters will spillover into the surrounding non-protected area in search of new territories and food; giving a wider benefit and potentially supporting a small fishery if sustainably managed.</p>		
<p>Common skate – The largest species of skate in the world. They live on sandy or muddy seabeds, down to depths of 600m. Whilst mostly feeding on crustaceans with their powerful jaws, common skate have the speed and manoeuvrability to catch pelagic species such as mackerel too. Genetic research has found that the common skate is actually 2 species: the blue skate and the flapper skate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once common to all shores, common skate are now only seen in the Celtic Sea, Irish Sea and off the coast of North-West Scotland. 	<p>A species of principle importance in Wales, Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework, common blue skate and flapper skate are globally listed as critically endangered by the IUCN Red List.</p>

An briefing document about The Wildlife Trusts’ new programme, *Transforming Nature’s Recovery* is available [here](#). **Images** and **footage** are available via this [DROPBOX](#) folder. Please note that these are for one-off use only in connection with this story and The Wildlife Trusts. Please credit photographers.