



The
Wildlife
Trusts

Nature-based Solutions Showcase

*How Wildlife Trusts are restoring nature
to address local and global issues*

2023

Nature-based Solutions

The nature and climate crises are so inextricably interlinked, we cannot solve one without the other. Our response to the climate crisis will define our ability to restore nature, and efforts to restore nature are integral to limiting climate change and our capacity to cope with its impacts.

Meanwhile, degraded habitats are actively emitting carbon instead of storing it. The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries on the planet, and climate change poses further, systemic risks to the UK's nature. The latest [UK climate change risk assessment](#) listed risks to the natural environment as among the most urgent adaptation priorities for the UK.

If we [Let Nature Help](#), nature-based solutions can contribute significantly to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions for the UK. It can also go even further, helping nature and society to adapt to climate change, and simultaneously deliver numerous [public co-benefits](#) and aiding nature's recovery.

We need a rapid scale up of nature-based solutions to make this happen and ensure nature can play a central and valued role in addressing social challenges including climate change.

The Wildlife Trusts are already showing how this can be done. Across the UK, Isle of Man and Alderney, we are implementing high-quality Nature-based Solutions at scale. We take an evidence-led approach to their implementation, and champion the use of the [IUCN's Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions](#).

Here we show just one example across a range of Wildlife Trusts, representing just a small proportion of all the projects we are doing. Even this sample equates to investment of over £75 million, with support from multiple funders and partners. All of our nature-based solutions projects have nature at their heart, and all of them are helping to provide multiple benefits for nature, climate and communities.

Restoring the UK's Atlantic Rainforests

Project description:

Our Aviva £38 million Atlantic rainforest programme is the largest nature-based solutions initiative we have delivered to date. We will be using the funds from Aviva to re-create lost Atlantic rainforests across the west of the UK. These new woodlands will sequester an estimated 800,000 tonnes of carbon over the next 100 years. They will also help to slow down the flow of water in local catchments, reducing flood risk, and provide cool and shaded habitats for a range of wildlife. Atlantic rainforest is home to some very rare species such as wood warbler but now only covers less than 1% of the UK land area. These new rainforest areas will be publicly accessible and local communities will be involved closely in their restoration.

Trusts involved: Multiple Trusts across the west of the UK

Funding and funders: £38 million over 7 years from Aviva

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity
- Community engagement
- Health and wellbeing



Goblin Combe BACM Early Start Project

Project description:

- A demonstration project to create habitat for greater horseshoe bats and generate Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) credits to invest in a revolving fund for nature.
- The removal of 80% of trees within a dark, dense, low diversity plantation (covering 6.5 ha) sitting within a larger woodland area that includes SSSI ancient woodland and limestone grassland/ heath.
- The inner area (2.5 ha) will remain deforested and become rough pasture grazed by cattle, with a small number of scattered of trees remaining to become future veterans (some have been veteranised).
- The outer area (4 ha) will be allowed to regenerate as diverse scrubby woodland with a high proportion of understory species.
- The main aims are to: improve the habitat and wildlife corridors for a host of priority species (particularly greater horseshoe bats and dormice); take the pressure off the management of the adjacent SSSI; and build climate change and disease resilience through increased diversity.

Trusts involved: Avon Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: Green Recovery Challenge Fund and AWT
Timber sales. £115,000

Project benefits:

- Improving biodiversity
- Climate change adaptation



Banking on Butterflies

Project description:

Banking on Butterflies is one of a suite of projects within The Wildlife Trusts movement that are trialling innovative ways to use nature to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. We are working in collaboration with the University of Cambridge. Funding has enabled us to do pre-works monitoring and build eight experimental butterfly banks at our Totternhoe Quarry and Pegsdon Hills nature reserves in Bedfordshire. Each bank faces different directions of the compass, to produce more varied temperature conditions for butterflies and other species. We will be producing information on the importance of microclimates and guidance on how landowners can create microclimates for wildlife on their sites.

Trusts involved: Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants

Funding and funders: £26,000 project funded thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery plus in kind benefits from the Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI)

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity



Love Your River Stour

Project description:

A community-focused river restoration project centred on improving the condition of the River Stour, its tributaries and the adjacent surrounding habitat to create a corridor for wildlife to thrive. Between 2022 and early 2023, we have enhanced or created 7 hectares of woodland and 4 hectares of grassland, planted over 400 metres of hedgerow, created 6 ponds or wetland features, and re-naturalised areas of the river. This work has been supported by over 2,000 hours of volunteer time. An ecosystem services assessment of the catchment has been undertaken to better understand the benefits it provides. Just in this short period over 1,300 members of the local community have also engaged with the Love Your River Stour project.

Find out more at bbcwildlife.org.uk/LoveYourRiverStour

Trusts involved: Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: Defra's Green Recovery Challenge Fund

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity
- Health and wellbeing
- Community engagement



Peatland Restoration in Shap Fells

Project description:

Working at a landscape scale across a 540 hectare sequence of upland commons in the eastern part of the Lake District National Park and World Heritage Site, this is a long-term project to restore the peatlands of the area into a fully functioning wetland ecosystem that provides multiple benefits. The project is enhancing biodiversity; the rare Cloudberry is found in the Shap Fell bogs for example. Restoring the degraded peat also stops it from emitting carbon, returns its ability to store water and reduce flooding in a sequence of flood prone catchments, and is helping to reduce water colouration in catchments which provide drinking water for north-west England.

Trusts involved: Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: Multiple funders circa £730,000 since 2019

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity
- Improving water quality



Saltersford Farm – Added value nature protection through biodiversity net gain

Project description:

- 19 ha of land at Saltersford Farm, near Holmes Chapel purchased in 2021 with a loan from Esmee Fairburn Foundation
- Initial baseline habitats were low nature value arable and grassland
- Restoration plan for a blend of investible habitats – grassland, woodland and scrub created
- Sales of biodiversity net gain units to local developers and carbon to the local authority has enabled the repayment of the loan and the establishment of a fund for the 30 year restoration and management of the site within two years
- This project mitigates the loss of nature at development site, plus a small area of new land for nature (10% uplift on BNG); and delivers additional carbon sequestration from woodland

Trusts involved: Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: £1 million landscape investment over 30 years. Initial seed funding for land purchase from Esmee Fairbairn repaid from the sale of BNG units and carbon

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity



The Living Derwent Forest/ Derwent Connections

Project description:

Our Living Derwent Forest is a programme to connect the Northern Forest to the National Forest through new wooded landscapes. This includes orchards, hedges, forestry and parkland as well as new woodland. A key focus of the programme is to undertake landscape water management to reduce the risk of flooding, improve water quality (chemistry and temperature) and reduce wildfire and drought risk. We are working with community groups to do this to reduce eco-anxiety, as people are delivering the actions, such as tree and hedgerow planting, leaky dam construction and tree nurseries.

We are supporting land owners and managers to apply for funding for agri-environment and woodland schemes and developing a place based Payments for Ecosystem Services scheme to help provide an income for land use change.

Currently we are working with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Kew Gardens to understand the carbon budgets of different habitats.

Trusts involved: Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: £1.6 million project funded thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery, Defra and Natural England

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity
- Health and wellbeing
- Community engagement



Northern Devon Natural Solutions

Project description:

Northern Devon Natural Solutions (NDNS) is a six-year project which is accelerating the step change needed to address the biodiversity, water quality and climate crises. The project facilitates a stronger working relationship between northern Devon's land managers and nature. This is being achieved through targeted on-farm advice, ecological surveys, training and support for a wide range of nature based interventions. NDNS empowers northern Devon's land managers to increase and improve wildlife habitat, lock up carbon, manage pollution and mitigate flood risk. This is an innovative whole-farm approach, building on Devon Wildlife Trust's experience, expertise and working relationships with land managers in northern Devon.

The project delivers bespoke whole farm natural solutions plans that identify and aim to mitigate internal and external influences for each site. Nature-based solutions include grassland & wetland creation, river restoration, natural flood management schemes, woodland and hedgerow creation, soil health initiatives, beavers & nature friendly farming.

Trusts involved: Devon Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: £2.7 million over 6 years from Environment Agency, Local Authorities, charitable trusts and individual supporters

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity
- Community engagement
- Health and wellbeing
- Food security



Project description:

England's first community rewilding project. Across 170 ha of previously intensively farmed land work is now underway to restore more natural hydrology across the site, extensive grazing and natural regeneration. New open access land for the local community to connect with nature is creating space for people as well as space for nature.

This project hopes to bring wider benefits bring wider benefits to Poole Harbour downstream, which is suffering from eutrophication, as well as working with neighbouring land owners.

Data collection to enable sharing is key with soil carbon, soil eDNA, flora and fauna, hydrological and nutrient data all being collected.

Trusts involved: Dorset Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: Multiple funders including GCRF, nitrate mitigation, SANG and private finance c.£4.2 million

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity
- Health and wellbeing
- Food security
- Community engagement



The Great North Fen

Project description:

The vision for the Great North Fen is a restored landscape where nature can recover and wetland habitats will sequester and store carbon. Delivery is underway, with restoration of the Durham Carrs, a once ecologically rich fenland across the floodplain of the River Skerne.

Since 2018 over 220 ha of land has been secured across the Carrs for habitat restoration and creation, including open water, swamp, marsh and wet grassland, woodland and scrub. These habitats will support a diverse range of species, most notably large numbers of wading birds and wildfowl and the wetland plant assemblage that remains in a few isolated areas.

The project will capture carbon in newly created woodlands, cut emissions from re-wetted peatlands, and improve water quality by reducing nitrates and phosphates and managing water flows.

The scheme area is the focus of flood and nutrient mitigation research and development that will inform schemes across the country.

Trusts involved: Durham Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: National Lottery Heritage Fund, National Highways, Veolia Environmental Trust, Bannister Trust, Environment Agency, Natural England, membership appeal – £6 million over 5 years

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity
- Health and wellbeing
- Community engagement
- Nutrient mitigation



Severn Solutions for Nature's Recovery

Project description:

Severn Solutions for Nature's Recovery (SSNR) is a Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust-led project, in partnership with the owners of Hasfield Estate. The Project aims to restore naturally functioning and climateresilient habitats within the Hasfield Estate and will monitor and help quantify carbon sequestration rates and greenhouse gas emissions in semi-natural habitats including, lowland wood pasture, traditional orchards and species rich grassland.

Trusts involved: Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change at the Landscape Scale, funding administered by Natural England, £417,000

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity



Wilder Duxmore

Project description:

Environmental credits are emerging as a new way to invest in nature's recovery and tackle the nature and climate emergency through nature-based solutions. In 2020 we purchased Little Duxmore Farm on the Isle of Wight and through the sale of nitrate credits have rewilded 100 acres of intensively farmed arable land. We have been monitoring biodiversity, water and soil nutrient levels. Our aims were to rewild the site, reduce nutrient pollution through the cessation of nutrient inputs, and secure the land for wildlife in perpetuity. We worked with the local authorities and statutory agencies to develop a scheme that satisfied the necessary legal requirements for nutrient mitigation and set a gold standard for similar nature-based solutions programmes.

Trusts involved: Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: Private finance and environmental credit sales

Project benefits:

- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity
- Soil health
- Water quality



The Lugg Living Landscape

Project description:

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust have created a new wetland site on the banks of the river Lugg. The new series of pools and scrapes along the floodplain hold back water during periods when the river is high, helping to alleviate flooding downstream. The design of the wetland features will also help to remove pollutants from road surface water runoff before it reaches the river. The new wetland helps to create a stepping stone of habitats through an intensive agricultural river basin, providing habitat for waders, wildfowl and ground nesting birds, including the curlew. The site will also be used as a case study to demonstrate to local landowners what can be done to provide natural solutions to flood management whilst still using the land for grazing and hay cuts. Bird hides on site are open for the public to enjoy the site's wildlife.

Trusts involved: Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: National Highways Network for Nature.
£338,000 over 3 and a half years

Project benefits: • Climate change adaptation
• Improving biodiversity
• Community engagement
• Water quality





Wilder Blean

Project description:

The Wilder Blean project is taking a landscape scale approach to reconnecting the fragmented Blean Woods complex – the largest in England and little known outside of Kent. Spearheading this vision is the recent arrival of the first European bison to be introduced into a UK woodland at Kent Wildlife Trust's (KWT) West Blean woods.

Central to a truly wild vision is the need to create a core grazing area across the Blean landscape – which links the woods from East to West and allows animals to move naturally through the woodland. To create the conditions for bison to move freely across West Blean woods without coming into direct contact with people, KWT are constructing innovative bison tunnels. These will elevate public footpaths up and over passages for bison to move through, creating an exciting opportunity for people to experience the wildness of this land.

Bison are not the only ecosystem engineers planned for this site – we hope to soon bring beavers back into the woodland. Pine marten are definitely feasible for this site, paving the way to red squirrel reintroduction within the next decade.

Trusts involved: Kent Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: £1.5 million project funded thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery, matched with donations and sponsorship for initial 500 hectares. Seeking a further £5 million for expansion to 3,000 hectares

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity
- Community engagement
- Health and wellbeing



The Bay, a Blueprint for Recovery

Project description:

The Bay brings together Lancashire Wildlife Trust (LWT), Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Eden Morecambe, and Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust. Focusing on blue social prescribing, successful referral pathways support the very different coastal communities of Wyre, Morecambe, and Barrow surrounding Morecambe Bay. Nature and Wellbeing Groups, and Community Engagement days engage over 4,000 people every year to come together and take action for nature. From monitoring sabellaria reef, shore searches, litter picks, lobbying MPs, sea watches and much more our coastal environment is growing stronger as our communities become healthier and better connected. This year we've supported over 1,730 different actions for nature. The Bay is part of LWTs Nature and Wellbeing Service which takes over 700 referrals a year supporting mental health at a time when the NHS has a 44% rise in referrals, and an estimated 1.2 million people are on waiting lists for community based treatment.

Trusts involved: Lancashire Wildlife Trust,
Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: £880,000 over 2 years thanks to players of
People's Postcode Lottery

Project benefits:

- Health and wellbeing
- Community engagement
- Improving biodiversity
- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving water quality



Bourne North Fen – water for all

Project description:

Bourne North Fen is situated in South Lincolnshire on the confluence of two rivers in an area that gets less annual rainfall than Cape Town, while producing around 30% of the UK's vegetables. The site is being designed to 'polish' water through a series of reedbeds. The site has submerged peat which is in part oxidizing. Through the cessation of ploughing and wetting the submerged peat, carbon emissions will reduce and site will capture carbon, while providing space to store water in a flood. These ecosystem services will be sold and the business model will provide certainty to farmers in the area encouraging more nature-based solutions projects to come forward.

Trusts involved: Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders:

Land purchase: Biffa Award, Anglian Water and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. Land Purchase in 2022. £1+ million

Evidence baseline: Nature for Climate Peatland Discovery Grant – 1 site in 20+ sites included in the Fens East Peat Partnership work. January 2022-August 2023. £1+ million for all sites.

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity
- Integrated water management





Lost Effra (flood resilience around a covered river in south London)

Project description:

This project was initiated by Defra's Civil Society Advisory Board following Water for Life (2011). It focused around Loughborough Junction, Herne Hill, and Dulwich, neighbourhoods of high water stress but that also experience flood events around this stretch of the River Effra, which is largely covered from source to where it joins the Thames. Following a 1-year pilot scoping period, it enabled and trained community groups to engage with relevant organisations to provide water management strategies and take actions to maximise flood resilience. Over 25 interventions were delivered included raingardens, de-paving, green roofs, street SuDS, and guidance (Living with Rainwater), and involved housing estates, allotments, schools, community centres, parks, commercial premises and a city farm and their stakeholders. The scheme ran from 2013-19, expanding into River Wandle catchment in final 18 months. Projects received awards from CIRIA (Big Biodiversity Challenge, 2015), Sustainable Water Industry Group (2015) and Susdrain (2018).

Trusts involved: London Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: £280,000 2013-19. DEFRA, Carnegie UK Trust, Thames Water, Environment Agency, Western Riverside Environment Fund

Project benefits:

- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity
- Health and wellbeing
- Community engagement



Manx Peat Partnership

Project description:

Working with the Isle of Man Government and other public bodies, we are leading a project to map the extent and depth of peat cover in the Manx uplands and have so far mapped approximately 5,500 hectares. This has enabled us to estimate carbon emissions from upland peat and has informed key areas where restoration work will be focused. Detailed survey work has been undertaken and restoration plans drawn up for a number of sites, totalling 550 hectares, with a trial restoration of a former peat turbary undertaken in 2022. We are working with volunteers, land owners and farmers to complete our peat cover map and continue the restoration of degraded sites. We are also starting to work with the Island's agri-environment scheme to survey and restore and protect areas of degraded lowland peat.

Trusts involved: Manx Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: IOM Government, Manx National Heritage, and through our own core funding

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity
- Improving water quality
- Flood mitigation





Wissey Wetlands

Project description:

- Designed to compensate for habitat loss on the East Anglia coast due to climate change, the Wissey Wetlands are a fantastic example of reversion of land from spent arable to a habitat rich in wildlife, in an otherwise nature-depleted landscape.
- The project began in 2010 with the final groundworks completed in 2017. Since then 60 ha of reedbed have begun to establish, with 2 pairs of Bittern and 2 pairs of Marsh Harrier successfully breeding here since 2020. Although these are stars of the show, 136 species of bird were recorded in 2021 with locally important numbers of wintering wildfowl regularly using the site.
- The site is managed by Norfolk Wildlife Trust for the Environment Agency under a S30 agreement, which pays for staff, contractor time, and materials.
- The site is 110 ha in total, with wet grassland, willow scrub and non-intervention woodland complementing the reedbeds.

Trusts involved: Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: Environment Agency. £4 million establishment cost. Ongoing £30,000 annual management costs (50 year agreement)

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity



Project description:

The floodplain of the River Idle was once a landscape of teeming waders, wildfowl, otters and water voles. There were flocks of swans of national importance and our rarest waders including redshank, lapwing and curlew were common. Much of the wet grassland has been lost over the last century, so this project is working with farmers and landowners to restore and re-create wet grassland, fen, marsh, ponds and wader scrapes wherever possible. The aim is to restore a Living Landscape rich in wildlife, with thriving farms and communities, and where the peat soils can also play an important role in natural flood management and sequestering carbon. Many interventions have been undertaken in recent years to restore stepping stones of habitats, but we hope to use nature-based solutions to now restore habitats at scale, and integrate them with high value food production.

Trusts involved: Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders:

This long running Living Landscape programme comprises projects that have been funded from diverse sources including Severn Trent Water, the Environment Agency, Countryside Stewardship, National Lottery Heritage Fund, WREN and most recently the Defra Peatland Restoration fund. The aim is to secure future funds from BNG and carbon credits.

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Improving biodiversity
- Health and wellbeing
- Food security
- Community engagement



Project description:

Working with local communities, land owners and partners to restore nature at scale for the future, the project will provide a connected space for people to help deliver goals to improve biodiversity and accelerate climate adaptation.

Pentwyn farm, a former 66 ha upland sheep farm in mid-Wales, adjoining the Upper River Lugg SSSI, Radnorshire Wildlife Trust owned Cnwch Bank (80 ha), part of 2000 ha Beacon Hill common, adopting rewilding approaches, while fostering and supporting new ways of economically and truly sustainable land use. Extensive grazing, restoring climate-resilient habitats and natural function, supported by biological and environmental monitoring to quantify positive change for soil, water, air. Land use options, including low input, high quality horticulture will demonstrate options for diversifying land income and build socio-economic benefits. Further funding is being sought for targeted habitat management (seminatural ancient woodland, meadow restoration) and detailed natural capital/ ecosystem service assessments, evaluating ecosystem resilience.

Trusts involved: Radnorshire Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: Multiple funders including Funding Nature Group, SWIRE Charitable Trust, Carman Foundation, private donations and National Lottery Heritage Fund

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity
- Community engagement
- Health and wellbeing



Red burn Retention Ponds - Cumbernauld

Project description:

Scottish Water and the Scottish Wildlife Trust partnered to maximise the environmental benefits of a major Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) project at Cumbernauld Living Landscape. The scheme takes a large volume of surface water runoff through a 14 ha series of ponds that mimic a natural water catchment, filtering pollutants out of the water to improve its quality before it reaches the burn and reducing flooding. The project combined expertise from both partners in the design, build and operational phases, which has helped to navigate some complex issues around environmental risk and ensure optimal outcomes. The partnership has set up long-term monitoring sites to look at the changes over time.

Find out more at cumbernauldlivinglandscape.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Cumbernauld-Living-Landscape-Case-study-Improving-water-quality-in-the-Red-Burn-Signed-off.pdf

Trusts involved: Scottish Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: Scottish Water

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity
- Health and wellbeing
- Community engagement
- Water quality and flood mitigation



The Limb Brook Nature-based Solutions Demonstrator

Project description:

The aim of the project is to primarily slow and store flood waters in the Limb Brook sub-catchment to reduce the peak amount of water hitting downstream communities during a flood.

Installed interventions also provide benefits for biodiversity and nature's recovery through habitat creation. Further, interventions such as extension of bog habitat aid interventions such as an extension to bog habitat will capture more carbon from the atmosphere by capturing carbon from the atmosphere.

This demonstrator project will showcase the benefits of a naturebased solutions approach to achieve flood management, leading to a pipeline of similar works at a larger scale for the entire Sheaf and Porter catchment.

Trusts involved: Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: £185,000 project funded thanks to Environment Agency and players of People's Postcode Lottery

Project benefits:

- Flood risk reduction
- Improving biodiversity
- Community engagement



Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project – Charles Sinkers Fields

Project description:

The Trust purchased Charles Sinkers Fields on the periphery of Fenn's Whixall Moss National Nature Reserve to secure the future of the peatland on the edge of the 900 ha lowland raised bog. Separated from the main bog by the Llangollen Canal and losing valuable carbon through conversion to agriculture, the Trust seized the opportunity to re-wet the peaty soils. We can now retain water during the wetter months through sluices and store it on the shallow floodplain. This attracts a wide variety of birds and other wildlife as we can manipulate the water levels whilst protecting the peat. A new accessible bird hide provides facilities for visitors to view the fields and provides a gateway encouraging further exploration of the unique landscape of the Meres and Mosses.

Trusts involved: Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: £280,000 over 5 years (Marches Mosses BogLIFE project, National Heritage Lottery Fund, Defra Peatland Fund, private donations)

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity
- Health and wellbeing
- Community engagement



Honeygar – A pioneering NBS and Wilding Project on the Somerset Levels and Moors

Project description:

Somerset Wildlife Trust acquired this former dairy farm in 2021 as a site to showcase how it's possible to restore farmland for nature, and by working with natural processes, stimulate a new economic model and future for the Somerset Levels and Moors. Across its 85 hectares, Somerset Wildlife Trust's approach is to rewet and protect its rare lowland peat soils, capturing and storing carbon and greenhouse gases, monitoring and evaluating change of the land and its wetland habitats and species and enabling nature's recovery through alternative management practices. Working with a wide range of landowners, local communities, academic bodies, volunteers and partners in the landscape is a priority. Somerset Wildlife Trust want Honeygar to be an exemplar of NbS: a site whereby we can demonstrate new practices and ideas, and importantly share learning and ideas with others to inspire change

Trusts involved: Somerset Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders:

£3.26 million raised so far through supporters and fundraising of our initial £3.4 million target

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity
- Health and wellbeing
- Community engagement



Thaw Valley Water Vole Reintroduction

Project description:

The Water Vole Reintroduction project in south Wales aims to reintroduce water voles to the River Thaw and its wider catchment in the Vale of Glamorgan, within one of Wales' historical strongholds for water vole. The project is re-wiggling rivers and streams to restore a more natural ditch and trench network and improve the quality and extent of riparian habitats, both of which will benefit water vole and other species, as well as reducing flood risk. Water quality will also be improved by working with farmers and other stakeholders to enable bank improvements, reduce livestock poaching and agricultural runoff into watercourses. Reversing the proliferation of American mink is also a core project activity. After several years of careful planning and preparation – involving feasibility studies, habitat and species surveys, mink control, habitat restoration, and stakeholder liaison – the steering group is soon hoping to reintroduce approximately 500 captive bred water voles to the lower reaches of the Thaw Valley, over a two-year period (2024/25), after 3 years of planning and preparation.

Trusts involved: Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales

Funding and funders: Multiple funders circa £120,000 over 3 years

Project benefits:

- Improving biodiversity
- Improving water quality
- Climate change adaptation
- Community engagement and education



Project description:

Trent ReNEW (Re-naturalising and enhancing waterways) is a partnership project between Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency. It focuses on priority catchments within the Staffordshire Trent Valley, and aims to use nature-based solutions to reduce flood risk and alleviate flooding.

Trent ReNEW will remove over engineered structures including weirs and culverts to improve natural sediment flows and create natural banks. River restoration techniques such as creating in-channel features – side bars, riffles and back waters will be used to restore the rivers back to more natural processes. The partners will also work with local landowners to widen buffer strips and plant trees to provide additional benefits: improved biodiversity, enhanced habitats and reduced diffuse pollution. Community engagement will also be an important part of the project, to help people connect with their local green spaces and provide health and wellbeing benefits.

Trusts involved: Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: £2.9 million via Environment Agency until March 2027

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation/adaptation
- Flood alleviation/mitigation
- Improving biodiversity
- Health and wellbeing
- Community engagement



Sussex Kelp Recovery Project

Project description:

Following the loss of over 96% of the Sussex Kelp in just a few decades, 2021 saw the introduction of a landmark fisheries management Byelaw which created one of the largest areas protected from trawling impacts on the south coast. This gave the seabed a chance to recover and formed the start of the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project partnership. With baseline surveys and research, the journey of Sussex kelp recovery so far is about a collective effort with academia and local communities coming together with NGOs, government bodies, local government, film-makers and businesses with the single goal – of seeing the successful recovery of the vast Sussex underwater forest.

Trusts involved: Sussex Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: Multiple Funders circa £3 million over 5 years

Project benefits:

- Improving biodiversity
- Community engagement
- Sustainable fisheries
- Climate change adaptation



Natural Flood Management across Warwickshire

Project description:

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) are the lead partner on a range of Natural Flood Management Projects across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull. These projects install 'interventions' on rivers and streams in the landscape. The interventions range from 'leaky barriers' like the ones pictured, to shallow pools that collect water during heavy rain or trees and hedges that help to intercept the rainwater before it flows downstream. Hundreds of these interventions work together across the landscape to hold back the water in the countryside, slowing the flow during heavy rainfall and reducing flood risk further downstream. The water is slowly allowed to flow away, reducing the overall peak height of the river and in doing so the flood risk. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust work with farmers and landowners across the area who host the interventions on their land. As well as their climate benefits, these ponds, hedgerows, and trees also increase biodiversity in the landscape.

Trusts involved: Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: £300,000 per year from Environment Agency, National Highways and Local Authorities

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity
- Community engagement



Yorkshire Peat Partnership

Project description:

Yorkshire Peat Partnership (YPP) began in 2009, as an umbrella organisation led by YWT, to coordinate the restoration of the badly degraded blanket bog of Yorkshire. Since then, we have become the primary organisation coordinating the delivery of upland peatland restoration across the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the North York Moors National Park and Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We work closely with landowners, agents, gamekeepers, farmers and contractors to help restore Yorkshire's internationally important bogs. The UK has 13% of the world's blanket bog, and Yorkshire holds around 97,000 ha - around 26% of England's total resource - storing over 45 million tonnes of carbon. In addition to locking up millennia of carbon, healthy blanket bog helps to slow the flow of water from the uplands into rivers and streams, filters our drinking water and provides habitat for some amazing wildlife.

Trusts involved: Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Funding and funders: Core revenue funding £4.7 million since 2009, capital funding £ 22.7 million since 2009

Project benefits:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Improving biodiversity
- Health and wellbeing and recreation
- Community engagement
- Water quality & flood mitigation



Nature needs our help to **recover...**



If we are to tackle the climate and nature crises and secure a safer future for people and nature, we need to ratchet up the pace of action and implementation.

The Wildlife Trusts want to accelerate and expand our nature-based solutions work to meet this challenge, and we are keen to work with others to make this happen. Get in touch if you're interested in partnering with us.

Find out more about Nature-based Solutions
wildlifetrusts.org/nature-based-climate-solutions





The
Wildlife
Trusts

The Wildlife Trusts are a federation made up of 46 Wildlife Trusts and a central charity (the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts). Each is an independent charity with a shared mission.

Help us achieve our vision of 30% of land and sea to be connected and protected for nature's recovery by 2030...

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

Get in touch...



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