

# The Wildlife Trusts: *Wilder Spaces*



The Wildlife Trusts: *Wilder Spaces* show garden was designed and installed at the RHS Malvern Spring Festival in May 2023.

The image above, inspired by the artist Henri Rousseau and created by our partners Oxford Garden Design, was submitted to illustrate our brief to the RHS judges. It is used here to convey the combination of art and nature, and reveal the hidden details, that won all four awards available at the show.

**Wilder Spaces** is a garden designed for wildlife, that's equally a place of beauty, relaxation and interest for people.

Listed below are some of the niche habitats and planting that we used to enhance biodiversity, as well as the aesthetic appeal of the garden.

This is the approach we look to apply on all of our Wildlife Garden projects, be they a private homeowner, landowner, housing development, business or communal gardens, to design beautiful green spaces for wildlife to thrive and people to enjoy.

1. Living roof with herbs and drought-tolerant wildflowers.
2. Cladding cavities for nesting birds and roosting bats.
3. Untreated timber towers for mason and leafcutter bees.
4. Hoverfly stumpery lagoon and recycled habitat stacks with abundant nooks and crannies.
5. Standing deadwood orchard tree trunk with natural cavities.
6. Deadwood stands for ecosystems above and below ground.
7. Pond, stream and marsh habitats: permanent water is a fountain of biodiversity in a garden. An amphibian reef gives shelter to frogs, newts, toads and their tadpoles.
8. Recycled materials hibernacula (underground chambers for winter) for newts and slow worms.
9. Drilled metal boxes with sandy soil for mining bees.
10. Watercourse soft edges for wildlife to enter and leave safely. Mud, silt and sandy margins allow birds and insects to collect nest material.
11. Wet meadow area with damp-loving plants.
12. Mixed planting: non-natives for pollinators and native plants for larvae and caterpillars. In the show garden, unfashionable native plants have been chosen for the larval food they provide, such as ivy, nettle, dandelion, blackthorn and grasses.
13. Specimen multistem hawthorn tree as a structural feature, and for the wealth of species the hawthorns support.
14. Compost trench filled with leaves and cuttings, to connect habitats beneath pathways.

*These are just some of the habitats and features designed into the show garden, and many more can be created to suit the nature of each site, and the client's wishes.*

*Designed to create a thriving ecosystem, the garden will naturally balance over time, removing the need for pesticides.*



**Future Nature Wildlife Trust Consultancy,**  
is proud to have partnered with  
Oxford Garden Design and Charlie Luxton Design,  
on the ecological habitats and wildlife-friendly features of the  
Wildlife Trusts: Wilder Spaces show garden at RHS Malvern Spring Festival.



To find out more about our  
**Wildlife Garden Design Services and Ecological Surveys,**  
please chat with one of our team today, or contact us via;

**email:** [enquiries@futurenaturewtc.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@futurenaturewtc.co.uk)

**Tel: 0300 124 0958**

[www.bbowt.org.uk/future-nature-wtc](http://www.bbowt.org.uk/future-nature-wtc)

Meadow Farm, Thame Road, Blackthorn, Oxfordshire OX25 1TW