

Winter 2025

# Wild

Berkshire,  
Buckinghamshire  
& Oxfordshire

## THE QUEEN BEES

Looking out for early bees  
and how we can help them

## WHISPERS IN THE WOOD

Could once-native lynx roam  
Britain's forests again?

STRATEGIC PLAN

# The next chapter

Our bold plans to speed up nature's recovery locally



Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
& Oxfordshire  
Wildlife Trust

# Welcome



RIC MELLIS

The world in which we live is changing fast for both humans and wildlife. It was the recent sad passing of pioneering conservationist Dr Jane Goodall that reminded me of this.

The pace of change can feel bewildering and at times scary. But with your ongoing support, BBOWT remains resolute in shaping the world around us, so that future generations will be intimately connected to the natural world. We must remind ourselves that humans evolved as part of nature; we need it as much as it needs us – and it does.

The regulatory framework carefully built up over decades to protect our natural world is being shaken to its core by this Government. It is being dismantled, bit by bit, to allow the Government to 'Build Baby Build', frankly anywhere it likes. This destruction includes critical European protections that safeguard precious habitats and species. Local voices will be further silenced through new legislation.

It is clear that the fight to protect our natural world isn't over yet. We are working hard to make our voice heard at the national and local level. Your support has never been so important. It enables us to stay focussed on local action and buy more land for nature, while establishing deeper, stronger partnerships. Empowering local voices to be heard will be another key tactic as we push back to save nature. There is strength in numbers, so let's fight this battle together.

Thank you again for your support at this challenging time. And thank you to everyone who has donated to our Hamgreen Wood Appeal. This stunning ancient woodland is a true wildlife oasis and exactly the sort of opportunity we hope to seize more of over the coming years. There's still time to donate if you would like to. Please head to [bbowt.org.uk/hamgreen](http://bbowt.org.uk/hamgreen)

Estelle Bailey MBE, Chief Executive



PETE HUGHES

8

**Wild reserves**  
Explore crocuses and a crystal-clear chalk stream



WENDY TOBITT

10

**Nature's next chapter**  
How our new Strategic Plan will speed nature's recovery



PETER SMITH

12

**Photo finish**  
Be wowed by our Photo Competition winners

## Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust *Get in touch*

**Wild Berks, Bucks & Oxon** is the membership magazine for **Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust**  
**Contact** 01865 775476, [info@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:info@bbowt.org.uk)  
**Membership** 01865 788300, [membership@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:membership@bbowt.org.uk)  
**Address** The Lodge, 1 Armstrong Road, Littlemore, Oxford OX4 4XT  
**Website** [www.bbowt.org.uk](http://www.bbowt.org.uk)  
**President** Steve Backshall  
**Chair** George Levy  
**Chief Executive** Estelle Bailey MBE

Wherever you are in the country your Wildlife Trust is standing up for wildlife and wild places in your area and bringing people closer to nature.

*Wild Berks, Bucks & Oxon is brought to you by*  
**Editor** Benedict Vanheems  
**UK Editor** Joanna Foat  
**UK Designer** Ben Cook  
**Design** Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Design Studio  
**Print** KKN Print Ltd

A large-print version of *Wild Berks, Bucks & Oxon* (text only) is available on request. Call 01865 775476 or email [info@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:info@bbowt.org.uk)

Enjoy the extended version of *Wild Berks, Bucks & Oxon* online at [bbowt.org.uk/publications](http://bbowt.org.uk/publications)

Registered Charity Number 204330  
Company Registered Number 006800007



# Your wild winter

The best of the season's wildlife and where to enjoy it on your local patch

## WINTER SPECTACLE

### Sparkling form

Winter sunshine sparkles from the white blossom of blackthorn often found growing in thick hedgerows. Late in February the tightly furled flower buds emerge from spines along dark brown and grey branches. Then in March the flowers burst open, smothering stems in glorious blossom.

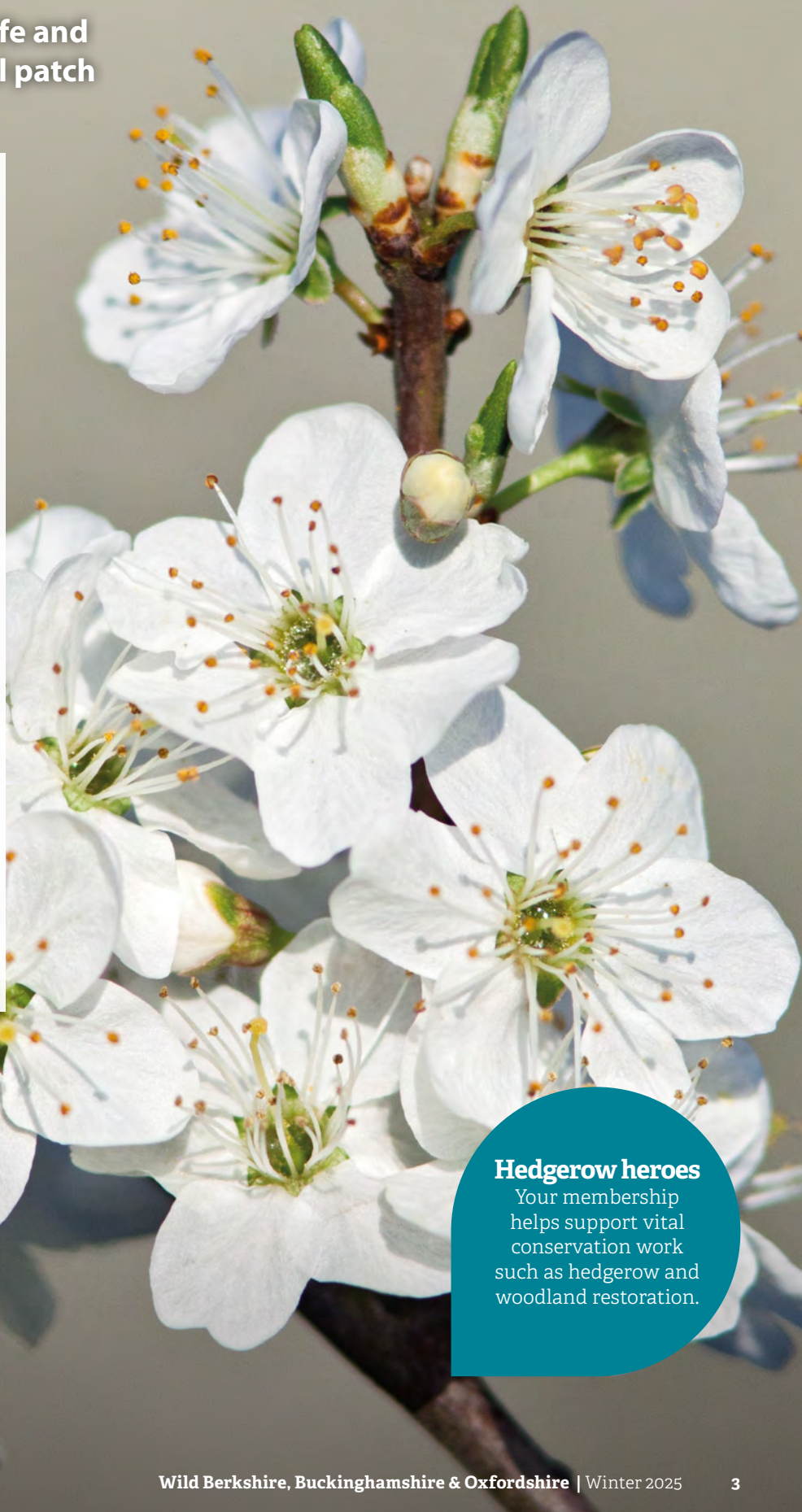
Cherry plum blossoms earlier still. Its white flowers appear in hedgerows in February at the same time as the leaves. Tongue-shaped sepals at the base of the flowers reflex back as the buds open, revealing pollen-tipped anthers and nectar to attract bees and other early pollinators.

#### SEE THEM THIS WINTER

➤ **Asham Meads:** The blackthorn hedges fringing these flower-filled meadows support a host of butterflies, including rare black and brown hairstreaks.

➤ **Grangelands and the Rifle Range:** The lower slopes of this undulating chalk grassland are peppered by a variety of thorny shrubs: hawthorn, blackthorn and buckthorn.

➤ **Upper Ray Meadows:** Flowering and fruiting hedges serve as wildlife corridors in this extensive reserve. Head to Gallows Bridge Farm for the flocks of overwintering wildfowl.



### Hedgerow heroes

Your membership helps support vital conservation work such as hedgerow and woodland restoration.

The sharp, spiky thorns of blackthorn are softened from early March as clusters of brilliant-white flowers pepper the length of its branches.

# The queen bees

Bumblebee queens wake up in warm winter sunshine.

On sunny winter days, even in January, listen for the buzzing sounds of bumblebee queens flying and feeding on winter flowers. It's too early for the queens to breed, but warmth from sunshine wakes them up from hibernation and they need to feed to restore their energy levels.

Buff-tailed bumblebee queens (pictured) are usually the first to be roused by the sun's rays, emerging from their nests to seek nectar from crocuses, snowdrops and winter-flowering shrubs like mahonia and honeysuckle. Most bumblebee queens and workers spend the winter hibernating, beneath the soil in parks and gardens, or sometimes beneath sheds or in birdboxes.

There are 24 species of bumblebee in the UK. The ones most of us see in our gardens include common carder, red-tailed, early, tree, garden, buff-tailed, and white-tailed bumblebees.

Another insect to spot in the late winter sunshine is the hairy-footed flower bee (not a bumblebee), buzzing round the pink and blue flowers of its favourite, pulmonaria or lungwort.

## HOW TO HELP BEES

► **Early risers:** Feed bumblebee queens by planting early flowering bulbs and shrubs.



## Shorties' sorties

Gliding silently across rough grassland or sitting perched on a fence post, the short-eared owl is a magical winter visitor. 'Shorties' migrate south from their breeding grounds in the north of Britain and Europe to feed on small mammals. Look out for them at Seven Barrows in the Berkshire Downs, near the River Thames at Chimney Meadows, and our reserves across the Chiltern Hills.



## PLANT THIS

Make your New Year's resolution to plant more trees: in your garden, on the allotment, or in your community: [bbowt.org.uk/volunteer](http://bbowt.org.uk/volunteer)

## CLEAN THIS

Clean then top up feeders to keep garden birds healthy through winter. Brush up nestboxes ahead of spring.



## Citizen science

Buzz on over to PoMS to record sightings of bumblebee queens. The UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme collects data on bees, hoverflies and other flower-visiting insects at a national scale. Visit: [ukpoms.org.uk](http://ukpoms.org.uk)

► **Create a buzz:** Put up a birdbox and watch tree bumblebees buzzing in and out of the nest the queen makes inside. Or drill holes in logs for solitary bees.

► **Hands off:** Resist a garden tidy up before spring, which could clear natural overwintering sites for bees.

For more tips on helping bees head to [bbowt.org.uk/actions](http://bbowt.org.uk/actions)



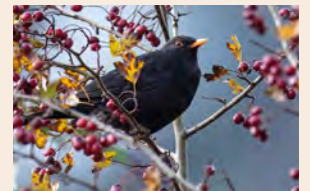
## Feathered friends

Birds offer colour and character at this otherwise quiet time of year.

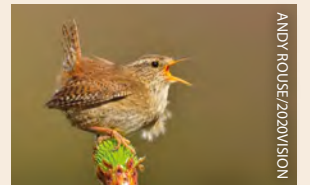
Watch red-breasted robins bob up and down on fences and treetops as they establish their territories.



Blackbirds sing melodiously on winter mornings. Their 'chink-chink' alarm calls ring out at dusk.



Catch a glimpse of a little brown wren, with a loud song of high-pitched whistles and a trill.



Light twitterings from trees herald blue tits with their distinctive yellow and blue plumage and black face mask.





# Friends in nature

People are helping wildlife, and each other, across our counties.

## Lockdown Woods unlock friendships

Newbury Friends of the Earth has been working hard since 2020, when they started their Lockdown Woods project to commemorate lives lost in the pandemic by planting trees in their honour. By 2022, five Lockdown Woods had been planted across West Berkshire – an incredible feat of community action.

In 2023, the group broadened its ambitions and set up the Newbury Nature Corridor project, aiming to join up local green spaces, including some of the Lockdown Woods, to create a green corridor for people and nature. This has been in collaboration with West Berkshire council and local schools, showcasing the rewards of working together.

BBOWT has been working alongside this group through our Community Network, helping spotlight their amazing work. This year we invited Newbury Friends of the Earth to lead us on a walk around their space, showing off the progress made. The group has already achieved so much and perfectly demonstrates our aim to empower more people to act for nature, putting nature into recovery across our three counties.

Volunteers are central to the group's success and meet monthly at the Lockdown Woods across Newbury and beyond. The sociable work parties are a great opportunity to meet like-minded people while watching the saplings change and grow. For more details visit: [newburyfoe.co.uk/get-involved](http://newburyfoe.co.uk/get-involved)

If you or your group would like to become a part of BBOWT's Community Network please visit [bbowt.org.uk/team-wilder-community-groups](http://bbowt.org.uk/team-wilder-community-groups)

## Nature Buddies

Something special is growing in Oxford, where the very first Nature Buddies has taken root thanks to a new partnership between BBOWT, Oxfordshire County Council and a group of other local organisations.

Nature Buddies are volunteers with a difference. They're neighbours, friends and community members who receive training so they can support others to spend more time outdoors. By helping people overcome barriers to joining in, they open doors to fresh air, learning, wellbeing – and a deeper connection with nature.

The first group of Buddies come from Women of OX4 and The Clockhouse (Senior) Project. Having already completed safeguarding and mental health awareness training, they are now welcoming participants into

two wonderful community spaces: a new Wellbeing Garden tucked behind the indoor bowling club on Sandy Lane, Littlemore, and the Clockhouse Garden in Greater Leys. Over the coming weeks Buddies will also learn basic first aid and horticultural skills, further strengthening the support they can offer.

This is just the beginning. The Blackbird Leys Nature Buddies network looks set to expand in the months ahead, with Oxford Hub and EMBS Community College joining the project, while other organisations including ARP, Style Acre, SOHA, The Chiltern Centre and BBOWT's Trailside Ambassadors are also keen to be involved.

What started as a pilot project is fast becoming a community movement – one where people and nature thrive together.



LOGAN WALKER

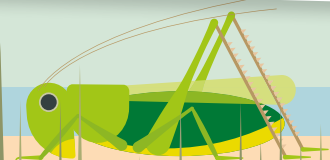


#TeamWilder

Discover more ways to get closer to nature. Join in at [bbowt.org.uk/team-wilder](http://bbowt.org.uk/team-wilder)



SARA NUNZI



# WILD NEWS

Keep up to date  
Visit [bbowt.org.uk/newsletter](http://bbowt.org.uk/newsletter) to sign up for our latest news, delivered to your inbox.

All the latest local and national news from The Wildlife Trusts

## Our selfless heroes

Without our hard-working volunteers, wildlife in our counties would most definitely lose out. Volunteers give up their time, enthusiasm and passion to help nature and connect more of us with local wildlife, and BBOWT's annual Volunteer Awards celebrates these incredible people.

Winning Lifetime Achievement Awards this year are Rodney Sims and Tony Chandler. Rodney has volunteered at College Lake for nearly 40 years, involved from the very outset on developing the concept for the nature reserve then getting stuck in with the hard work to make it all happen! At 91, his geological, ecological

and wide-ranging knowledge has informed many of the reserve's projects.

Tony has been a dedicated volunteer at Warburg Nature Reserve for more than 20 years, showing up every Tuesday, year-round, to help shape the reserve into what it is today, while training other volunteers in practical tasks such as coppicing and hedgelaying.

 We owe a huge debt of gratitude to all our volunteers who turn up, week after week, to do their bit. Thank you! Catch up on all the winners at [bbowt.org.uk/volunteer-awards](http://bbowt.org.uk/volunteer-awards)



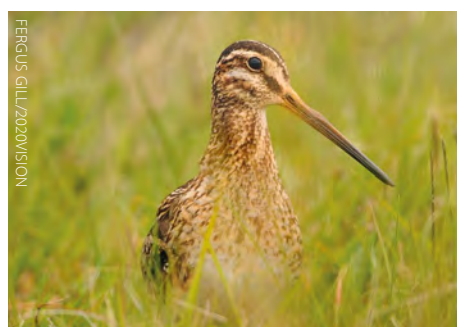
## Farming's future

How we farm is central to nature's recovery and will ultimately have significant impacts on food security.

A £180,000 grant from the Rothschild Foundation is funding a major push

toward nature-friendly farming across our counties, enabling BBOWT to appoint a Farmer Facilitator Networks Officer who now works with 11 facilitators to support around 400 farmers involved in local farmer clusters.

Farmer clusters bring farmers together to share ideas for moving towards more wildlife-friendly approaches. The facilitators play a crucial role, organising farm walks, events and sourcing funds for local projects. By identifying skills gaps and delivering tailored support, the initiative is driving real change in how land is managed, helping restore nature while safeguarding farming's future.



## Festive cheer

12 Days Wild is our festive nature challenge, encouraging us to do one wild thing a day over the 12 days of Christmas. In those quiet days, winter wildlife is just waiting to be explored! Your wild acts could be little things to help nature, like feeding the birds, or ways to connect to the natural world, like stargazing. Learn more at [wildlifetrusts.org/12daywild](http://wildlifetrusts.org/12daywild)



## Business spotlight

We were delighted to welcome OCU Group to Chimney Meadows and Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre for recent Wild Work Days. Teams removed invasive Himalayan Balsam and coppiced willow. OCU also supported car park restoration at Sutton Courtenay, with plans for similar work at another BBOWT site.



## Ramp revamp

Visitors to Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre can now enjoy smooth, safe access to the bird hide thanks to a new wheelchair-friendly path. Volunteers cleared away the old rotten ramp before contractors rebuilt the path, as well as decking around the centre. The £7,425 project was funded by FCC Communities Foundation.



# UK NEWS

## Working for wildlife

We're excited to launch a 12-month partnership with Crowcon Detection Instruments after they nominated BBOWT for an Impact the Future Fund grant supporting projects at Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre. We also extend our thanks to English Provender Company Ltd, St John's College, and University College Oxford for renewing their Investors in Wildlife memberships. If your business would like to act for nature, please contact us at [partnerships@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:partnerships@bbowt.org.uk)

## Hamgreen Wood appeal

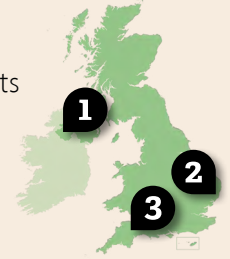
Thank you so much to everyone who has already donated to our £300,000 appeal to secure the future of Hamgreen Wood,

an ancient woodland home to rare bat and butterfly species. Two-thirds of this hundred-acre site is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest and is one of the largest remaining tracts of ancient woodland in the area. There's still time to donate to protect this very special place. Visit [bbowt.org.uk/hamgreen](http://bbowt.org.uk/hamgreen) or phone 01865 788300.



## UK HIGHLIGHTS

Discover how The Wildlife Trusts are helping wildlife across the UK



### 1 Once in a lifetime

When Peter McEvoy first stepped foot on 90-acres of farmland in County Fermanagh, he knew it was a special place: the last remnants of species-rich grassland and centuries-old woodland in Northern Ireland. Ulster Wildlife is now the proud new owner of Fedian Nature Reserve, brimming with wildflower meadows, bird-friendly hedgerows and ancient woodlands. [wtru.st/Safeguarding-nature](http://wtru.st/Safeguarding-nature)



### 2 Cuckoo, cuckoo

Two cuckoos, named Arthur and Ashok, have been fitted with lightweight satellite tags to track their remarkable trans-Saharan migration. The cuckoos from Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Worlingham Marshes nature reserve will join over 100 others in the British Trust for Ornithology's long-running Cuckoo Tracking Project, to help understand the cuckoo population decline. [wtru.st/Cuckoos-tagged](http://wtru.st/Cuckoos-tagged)

### 3 Pine marten kits born

Devon and Somerset Wildlife Trusts are among those celebrating the birth of wild pine martens in a pioneering reintroduction project in the south-west of England. Recorded on site, exclusive footage shows the first kits born into the wild in Devon for more than a century. [wtru.st/Pine-marten-kits](http://wtru.st/Pine-marten-kits)

Once common species, like tree sparrows are now red-listed



## A decade of nature-friendly farming brings wildlife back

Rare birds, bees and butterflies are returning to farms across England thanks to a decade of nature-friendly farming. The Jordans Farm Partnership – a collaboration between The Wildlife Trusts, Jordans Cereals and LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) – has supported 27 farms since 2015 to create tailored conservation plans.

From planting hedgerows and wildflower margins to restoring ponds and improving habitat links, farmers have transformed their land for wildlife. Over half have reported sightings of new or

returning species, many of them rare or endangered.

Red-listed birds like the tree sparrow, nightingale and goshawk have reappeared, alongside the rare meadow clary plant, found in just 26 UK sites. Other highlights include breeding stone curlew in Hampshire, scarce emerald damselfly in Suffolk and brown hare in Leicestershire.

This inspiring partnership shows what's possible when farming works hand-in-hand with nature – creating healthier landscapes for wildlife, farmers and future generations.



Inkpen Crocus Field

# Winter wonders

Climb the hills and cross the streams to discover spectacular scenery at BBOWT reserves this winter, and before you know it the first spring flowers will be blooming.



PETE HUGHES

## 1 Inkpen Crocus Field

**Postcode** RG17 9PT

**Great for...** Carpets of crocuses

**Size** 3 hectares

**Map ref** SU 370 641

**what3words** pulps.sonic.update

No one knows exactly how the crocuses got to Inkpen Crocus Field. Some say 12th-Century Crusaders brought them back from their native habitat in central Europe; others believe they are garden escapees that have taken over this quiet slope.

Whatever the truth, these diminutive violet flowers have become one of the most popular and extraordinary seasonal attractions in the BBOWT estate. Each year, just as February slips into March, tens of thousands of these beautiful bright blooms erupt out of the ground to create a purple carpet that draws human and animal visitors from miles around. The display offers a veritable feast of early pollen for the first bumblebees and overwintering butterflies.

Banker and naturalist Sir Charles

### The gift of life

Do you know someone who loves nature? BBOWT membership, which includes our beautiful nature reserves handbook\*, is a perfect present at Christmas – or any time of year.

\*When paying by Direct Debit

Rothschild, founder of the society that later became The Wildlife Trusts, declared this site a nature reserve on his famous list of Rothschild Reserves, and its splendour was also noted by botanist George Claridge Druce.

Around the spring-fed stream at the bottom of the site are fine old meadows rich with wildflowers and butterflies, including gatekeepers and ringlets fluttering between the heath spotted orchids. Look out for pignut, a relative of cow parsley which grows from tubers commonly known as the 'nuts in May' gathered in the nursery rhyme.

To make a day of it, why not explore our nearby Inkpen Common reserve, a rare remnant of ancient heathland fringed by oak and birch. Find out more about it at [bbowt.org.uk/inkpen-common](http://bbowt.org.uk/inkpen-common)

PETE HUGHES

## Living history

Inkpen Crocus Field and Bacombe Hill are among the very first nature reserves to be established in the world, given protection by the movement's founder Sir Charles Rothschild.

## MY WILD ESCAPE

Inkpen Crocus Field may be best known for its early display of wild crocuses but has interest year-round. There are wild flowers and insects in summer; fungi, autumn colour and hedgerow fruit for wildlife; then winter trees and views up to the North Wessex Downs and out over rolling countryside into Wiltshire.

The Ingle, a spring-fed stream, rises at the eastern boundary, trickling west before disappearing again just outside the reserve. It can be crossed by wooden footbridges at both the top and bottom of the slope. Red kites, buzzards, sparrowhawks, kestrels, tawny and barn owls patrol above, while pheasants, deer, hare and even fox cubs and a young badger have been spotted.

*Alex King, Volunteer stock watcher, Berkshire*

Got a favourite nature reserve? Tell us about it! Email [info@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:info@bbowt.org.uk) with the subject heading 'My wild escape'.



## Tread carefully

Please stick to the footpaths. Every one of our reserves is home to vulnerable wildlife and our staff and volunteers work hard to protect their precious habitats.

## 2 Bacombe Hill

**Postcode** HP22 6EL

**Great for...** Fragrant juniper trees

**Size** 25 hectares

**Map ref** SP 864 074

**what3words** hawks.tags.puff

Stand atop Bacombe Hill and enjoy the most fantastic views over Wendover and the Aylesbury Vale, with red kites soaring above the windswept hillside. This site, too, was first protected by Sir Charles Rothschild for its precious,

species-rich chalk grassland.

Explore the scrub and discover the rare population of juniper – a shrub that has declined drastically across the Chilterns and which supports several rare insects including juniper shieldbug. The berries are famously used to flavour gin and have a wonderful aroma. Orchids also thrive in the grassland here, including pyramidal, chalk fragrant and bee orchids.



## 3 Letcombe Valley

**Postcode** OX12 9JU

**Great for...** Chalk stream charm

**Size** 8 hectares

**Map ref** SU 378 862

**what3words** coil.backlog.asked

In the depths of winter, the crystal-clear waters of the Letcombe Brook chalk stream still bubble quietly through this hidden gem of a reserve, one of only four chalk streams in the whole of Oxfordshire.

The waters are home to truly

special wildlife including water voles, which we have been protecting for years, and fish such as bullhead, brown trout and brook lamprey. Kingfishers, herons and little egrets take advantage of this rich biodiversity, as do Daubenton's bats, which swoop across the stream to pick off insects at the surface.

If you want to spend more time here, why not join our volunteer work parties and help us maintain this magical habitat?



# Fast forward



We have achieved so much over the past five years of our Strategic Plan, but could the coming years promise even more? Assistant Chief Executive Karen Hartshorn outlines our ambitions as we look towards 2030.

The Trust exists for one reason, which is to ensure 'more nature everywhere, for everyone'. That's quite a grand statement, so a supporting strategy allows us to talk about what we are planning to do, how we're going to do it, and where and when our members will see progress.

Our 2021-2026 Strategic Plan *Wilderness* set out three goals to help us focus:

- 1 Put nature into recovery, aiming for 30% of land well-managed for nature,
- 2 Empower people to take action for nature, and
- 3 Secure our own future.

### On target

The good news is we managed to achieve or get close to most of our 2026 targets.

Through partnerships, influence and our

direct work, more than 100,000 hectares of land was better managed for nature and wildlife. We led the way on habitat banks and had two of the first seven registered Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) sites in the country. We signed up more than a thousand Wildlife Ambassadors to help campaign for nature – thank you if you're one of them! We worked with new community groups, from faith-based urban groups to rural farmer clusters. And we went over 29,400 memberships for the first time ever (thank you again!).

Finally, we launched a Nature Recovery Fund, now standing at £1m raised thanks to people like you. The money raised has helped us to host events and hustings in the lead-up to the 2024 General Election, create ponds and scrapes (shallow ponds that hold rain or flood water seasonally), improve fencing to protect ground-nesting birds, and provide training and equipment for our volunteers. Every penny given makes a difference to BBOWT, and this fund will continue into our new strategy.

**Our Nature Recovery Fund has helped fund wildlife-friendly features like scrapes, such as here at Duxford Old River, part of Chimney Meadows.**





Bernwood Meadows lies at the heart of our Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and Ray project area.



We must empower the next generation.

**Help us do it!**  
 Support our work to speed nature's recovery with a donation to our Nature Recovery Fund. Head to [bbowt.org.uk/SOS](https://bbowt.org.uk/SOS) or call **01865 788300** to help us achieve even more for local wildlife.

positively for nature. BBOWT's programmes, campaigns and resources will support communities, farmers, businesses, councils, landowners, gardeners, members and schools in ways that are meaningful to them. We will use community organising principles to reach more people, provide more opportunity for young people and entry-level roles, and facilitate a renewed volunteer base. You may see us going out to more schools, while increasing public programmes at our visitor and education centres.

development and infrastructure. So, to enable new large-scale change for nature, we will explore and launch a philanthropic Impact Fund – a bold initiative to finance transformative landscape projects that could combine rewilding, regenerative farming, community hubs and other pioneering models of recovery.

'More nature everywhere, for everyone' is as relevant and important as ever, so that's staying exactly the same. We have 65 years of expertise, history and support behind us, and we plan to harness that goodwill to achieve great things for nature in the years ahead.

**Looking ahead**

We are now looking forward to 2030. Our new strategic plan is an evolution of our *Wilder* plan, building on the achievements of 2021-2026 whilst adapting to a rapidly changing and more volatile world. We know there will be challenges in the years ahead; we can see the climate shifting and feel the political

**Local wildlife wins**

The Trust helped to develop Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) in all three counties. By 2030, we'll have used LNRS to guide our priority work areas and achieve more than 30% of land in our three counties well-managed for nature.

**“We need you – lots of you – to take action for nature on a grand scale.”**

and economic uncertainty. We must empower the next generation to value nature and harness the power of digital technology to help us.

Nature underpins healthy economies, healthy food and healthy people, and we need to make sure that message is reaching decision-makers. And we need you – lots of you – to take action for nature on a grand scale, however you can.

If we get it right, by 2030 you will see people across our three counties acting

Our advocacy will shape the policies and regulatory frameworks that matter for wildlife and nature's recovery.

We will deliver our Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and Ray (RBOR) project to demonstrate how to restore wetlands and riverside habitats at scale, and we'll look for new landscape partnerships across other priority areas. Collectively, these will cover more than 70,000 hectares (more than 12% of our local land area).

It is well-known our region is full of

-  **3** registered Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) sites
-  **118,247** hectares of wider countryside conservation projects now delivering positive outcomes for nature
-  **86%** of participants of our programmes report an increase in their wellbeing
-  **1,017** Wildlife Ambassadors campaigning for nature
-  **1** site, Duxford Old River, undergoing rewilding through natural processes

# Photo finish

Submissions to this year's Photo Competition were of an exceptional standard. Here are our winners!

Overall Winner and Winner of the Mammals and Other Animals Category: Common frog by Peter Smith.



**H**early congratulations to the winners of this year's BBOWT Photography Competition. The standard of this year's competition was as sky high as summer's swifts soaring far overhead! We always look forward to judging day – poring through the hundreds of entries and admiring the simply stunning creativity and beautiful wildlife captured in your photos, though it doesn't make whittling things down to our final winners easy!

This year we settled on Peter Smith's splendid photo of a bathing frog as our overall winner. Peter explains how he snapped it: "I knew that common frogs congregate every year to breed in a small pond at Letcombe Valley, but no one knows exactly when they will do so, only

that it is usually in February." Peter kept an eye on local nature reports, as well as visiting Letcombe Valley on several occasions to try get the timing perfect. "I managed to capture this individual in the late afternoon sun, with the reflections from the background foliage making the water appear golden," adds Peter.

Judges were bowled over by the beautiful light and sense of character captured in the frog's eyes – as if he had a story to tell. It's a stunning moment in time that turns a relatively ordinary wildlife sighting into the quite extraordinary.

Peter's well-earned prize bundle includes a smart bird feeder camera, while all our winners win a workshop with renowned local wildlife photographer Steve Gozdz of GG Wildlife Experiences.

Winning photos will also feature in our 2026 calendar – a must-have for any wildlife lover and the perfect Christmas present.

As in 2024, we also ran our People's Choice Award, which this year goes to Thomas Roberts for his heartwarming photo of a family of great crested grebes.

"To capture the image, I had to lay down on the ground and wait patiently," says Thomas. "My patience capturing this beautiful moment finally paid off when the great crested grebe family swam past me, opening a window into their world."

Thank you to everyone who entered. We were overwhelmed by so many impressive entries, and you can admire all the winning, runner-up and highly commended photos at [bbowt.org.uk/photo-competition-2025](https://bbowt.org.uk/photo-competition-2025)

**Buy the calendar – and more!**

Don't miss out on your copy of the 2026 calendar. It costs just £10.99 with all proceeds going towards helping local wildlife. Order yours while stocks last at [bbowt.org.uk/shop](http://bbowt.org.uk/shop)

This year we are also delighted to offer a range of seasonal e-cards – beat spiralling postage costs while raising funds for nature. Head to [dontsendmeacard.com/charities](http://dontsendmeacard.com/charities)



**Winner, Butterflies and Other Insects, Paul Jaskulski**



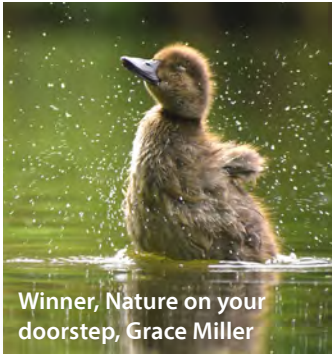
**Winner, Birds, Tom Eastwood**



**Winner, Mobile phone photography, Craig Allen**



**Winner, Children and Teens, Ben Gray**



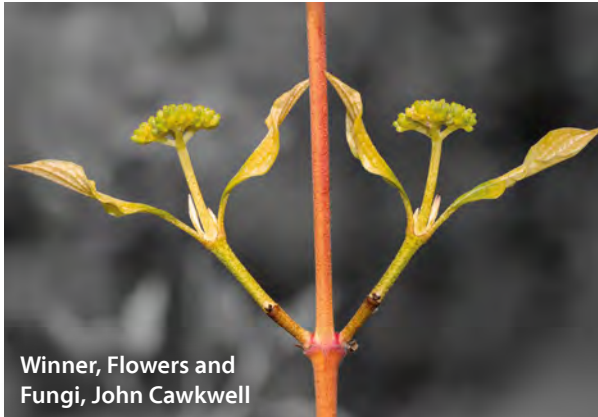
**Winner, Nature on your doorstep, Grace Miller**



**Winner, People's Choice, Thomas Roberts**



**Winner, Landscapes and People, Paul Jaskulski**



**Winner, Flowers and Fungi, John Cawkwell**

# A lasting legacy

In an ever-changing world, Head of Philanthropy, Laura Pepper, shares a personal insight into the transformative impact gifts in wills have on our work.



**N**ext year, I celebrate ten years of working at BBOWT. I feel fortunate to say that I have enjoyed every minute. This is mainly due to the people I meet and work with every day, as we all share a deep commitment to the natural world.

In many of my discussions with supporters, I often find myself recalling BBOWT's achievements over the last ten years, normally in response to their questions about how a gift in their will could have the greatest impact. Impact comes in many forms, and gifts in wills have proved vital in allowing us to remain buoyant in the most challenging years. They've also enabled us to purchase land, often saving it from degradation or development.

Income from gifts in wills has accounted for eight percent of income over the last decade, and I would argue that this has been transformational for our local charity. It allows us to diversify and, crucially, to be nimble in a volatile and changing world.

A few years ago, a series of large gifts in wills offered our trustees and directors the unique opportunity to create innovative, more strategic workstreams within BBOWT. They would drive core income and help nurture the growth of positive societal change. These workstreams became central parts of our 2021-2026 Strategic Plan and included the creation of both our Future Nature ecological consultancy and two of the first habitat banks in the country, enabling nature's recovery whilst providing new sources of income from consultancy and Biodiversity Net Gain. They helped shape our new Communities Team and Volunteer Team, accelerating the incredible work we do to inspire and support people at a grassroots level to act for nature.

We're still navigating the cost-of-living crisis, an uncertain political scene and the huge costs of ash dieback. We have necessarily spent a lot of time analysing our resources, sometimes making painful changes to ensure every pound is spent



carefully and for nature. Here, it is your generous legacy income that offers us the chance to be hopeful about the future, to be innovative, to be nimble, and to save the places we all love.

Having worked for BBOWT for nearly a decade, it has been incredible to see how the foresight of our supporters in remembering a charity close to their heart in their will can achieve so much for our local wildlife. They have left behind something truly remarkable that will live on.

If you would like to chat about leaving a lasting legacy for local nature, please do drop me a line.

Contact Laura Pepper in confidence by email at [laurapepper@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:laurapepper@bbowt.org.uk) or visit [bbowt.org.uk/gifts-in-wills](https://bbowt.org.uk/gifts-in-wills)

# NATURE'S UNSEEN ENGINEERS

Mycology expert **Ellen Winter** reveals how fungi shape our world.

More than 15,000 species of fungi have been recorded in the UK, though less than a third are visible to the naked eye. The mushrooms and toadstools we do see are fruitbodies, like apples. We rarely see the body of the fungus – the apple tree.

Years past, my walk to primary school took me along suburban verges lavished with eye-catching mushrooms. I was fascinated by bright white lawyers' wigs, spongy yellow boletes bruising blue when poked, and translucent parasols appearing one day and gone the next, but fungi themselves hide all around – and inside – us!

## Closer to humans than plants

One reason fungi are largely invisible to us is the way they eat. Fungal structure consists of mycelium, a microscopic tangle of thread-like hyphae, or single celled fungi like yeasts. Both live and

feed inside materials such as soil, wood, intestinal tract, even petrol – basically, anywhere they can get carbohydrates. Like animals, fungi absorb food from their environment, but animals digest and absorb nutrients internally, while fungi do this externally.

Only in 1969 were Fungi confirmed as separate from Plants, despite fungi being more closely related to animals. Fungi grow their structure from material more like our fingernails than plant cellulose.

## Fungi change the world

More recently, we've started to unravel the unseen ways that fungi modify the world. Fungi influence ecosystems through decomposition and soil structure. One recently recognised influence is the mutually beneficial relationship between plant roots and soil fungi.

Closer than hand in glove, mycorrhizal partnerships are so globally vital that if all fungi vanished overnight, 80% of plant species would immediately struggle to survive. These plants trade sugars from photosynthesis for water and essential minerals provided by soil fungal partners.

The increased harvesting power provided by mycorrhizal fungi helps plants cope with extreme conditions, such as last summer's drought. Ongoing research suggests plants can also biochemically communicate threats such as insect attacks to surrounding plants purely via soil fungal networks – sometimes called the 'wood wide web'.

## The unseen cost

Being invisible comes at a cost. While 95% of global mammal species have been documented, just 6.3% of an estimated 2.5 million fungal species have been named. And people don't love and protect what they don't know. Even in the UK, one of the ecologically best documented countries in the world, fungi are under-recorded, and mushrooms are often casually picked or destroyed.

The fungal kingdom is so understudied that UK firsts still turn up annually and keen novices can record rarities. Beginners are encouraged and there's always something new, even for experts. Fruitbodies are not just found in autumn and winter, but all year round. So, if you spot an interesting mushroom or you'd like to learn from others, contact your local fungus group, such as the Bucks Fungus Group ([bucksfungusgroup.org.uk](http://bucksfungusgroup.org.uk)) or the Fungus Survey of Oxfordshire ([fungusoxfordshire.org.uk](http://fungusoxfordshire.org.uk)).

COMMON BONESETT: ALY AGARIC; SCARLETTA BOLETE © JON HAWKINS; DARK BONESETT © ED MARSHALL; SQUIDHEAD; HORN OF PLENTY; PARASOL; MUSHROOM; GUY EDWARDS/2020/IRON; JELLY BAR © CHRIS LAWRENCE; MADRE INCA © MARCUS WEHLE; OSTER MUSHROOM © MARCOLO STOREY



# Life in a Teasel Head

Julie Gould, Wilder Childhood Officer, and Becky Williams, Wild Network Officer, at Cheshire Wildlife Trust, share their passion for the magical world of winter seed heads.

Two years ago, Julie shook a teasel head over a patch of her garden, releasing the small brown seeds. This plant soon grew to seven feet tall, displaying fresh, bright green foliage. In the summer, the conical-shaped seed head was densely packed with lilac flowers, providing a rich nectar and pollen source for pollinators.

The magic of the teasel doesn't end with summer. In winter, its sculptural seed heads become striking silhouettes, and more importantly, they provide a rich food source for wildlife.

One of Julie's fondest memories is from her kitchen window, where she spotted a charm of goldfinches

balancing on swaying teasel seed heads. Their long, needle-like beaks root around for the small seeds. On frosty mornings, the seed heads sparkled silver in the low light.

Teasels are just one example of how leaving plants standing throughout winter can benefit wildlife. From the warmth of your house, watch birds such as house sparrows feeding on flowerheads like rudbeckia.

Consider delaying the cutting of your herbaceous borders until early spring and leaving leaf piles intact. This is a unique habitat that provides cover for ground-foraging birds, such as dunnocks, as well as hibernating frogs and hedgehogs. Hollow plant stems are a vital overwintering home for insects like ladybirds, earwigs and butterfly larvae. Uncut ivy and hedgerows also offer protection and food. This winter, resist the urge to tidy too much.

Here are Becky's favourite seed heads to be left in the garden through winter:



## **Echinacea**

Their spiky seed heads stand tall through winter, offering shelter for insects and food for seed-loving birds like finches.



## **Honesty**

These sculptural, papery seed pods provide shelter for insects and lingering seeds when food is scarce.



## **Ivy**

Its evergreen leaves shelter nesting robins, while fruits and seeds provide food for other birds in winter.



## **Knapweed**

Thistle-like knapweed bursts with nectar-rich purple blooms in summer. By autumn, its fluffy seed heads feed goldfinches.



## **Miscanthus**

This wind-rustled grass offers hiding places for birds, mammals and insects, plus nutritious seeds in winter.



## **Rudbeckia**

These bright summer blooms leave behind crispy, black seed heads that feed birds and shelter insects.



## **Sea holly**

Spiky, thistle-like sea hollies that thrive in dry, coastal spots. Loved by pollinators in summer and birds in winter.



## **Sedum**

Sedum's flower heads offer late autumn nectar for bees and shelter for overwintering insects.



# MISSING LYNX



**Dr Deborah Brady** introduces a secretive animal from the UK's past and the partnership project exploring its potential return.

Nature is like a puzzle. There are lots of different pieces, with such a wide variety of shapes, sizes and colours that it's hard to imagine them all merging. But somehow, they do. They fit together seamlessly, creating something strong and spectacular: a healthy ecosystem. A community of animals, plants and other organisms interacting with each other and the landscape in which they live. Nature in balance.

Here in the UK, we have lots of wonderful wildlife. But some of the important pieces of that puzzle are missing. One of those pieces has a graceful, feline shape, with tufted ears and a short bob tail. It would once have sat within a mosaic of trees, never far from its preferred prey, roe deer. A missing link. The missing lynx.



**Dr Deborah Brady** is lead ecologist for The Lifescape Project and manages The Missing Lynx Project.

## Lost lynx

Lynx are woodland cats. They're about the height of a Labrador, but lighter, with grey to golden-brown fur that can be plain or speckled with black markings. They are elusive, live in low densities and like to avoid people. They are most at home amongst the trees, with lots of understory plants to hide them as they hunt. Across most of Europe, their main prey is roe deer, though they also feed on other hoofed mammals like reindeer and chamois. Occasionally, they might eat smaller prey, such as rodents, hares, foxes and birds. They are most active between dusk and dawn. For thousands of years, lynx were a critical part of our ecosystems. As top carnivores, they would have helped regulate other animals like deer and foxes. The remains of their prey would have fed birds, beetles and other scavengers.

Lynx bones have been found in 32 cave sites across England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. These bones tell us lynx were still here when the Romans arrived and when Hadrian's wall was built. The most recent lynx bone found so far belonged to an animal that died around 1,500 years ago. But it's unlikely this was the last lynx. They're still mentioned in poems and other cultural evidence exists beyond that century, too. It's most

likely that we lost our lynx during the medieval period, around 800-1,000 years ago. They finally disappeared due to hunting and habitat loss.

Lynx faced similar issues across the rest of Europe. By the 20th century, they had been lost from many of the countries they once called home. However, in Europe, lynx are now making a comeback. Lynx have been reintroduced in countries such as Germany, Switzerland, Poland, Slovenia and Italy. Could they one day return to Britain, too?

The Missing Lynx Project was formed to explore this question. It's led by The Lifescape Project supported closely by Northumberland Wildlife Trust and The Wildlife Trusts. The project is exploring the ecological, practical and social feasibility of reintroducing lynx. This is basically asking three key questions. Is there an area in Britain where lynx could live? How would bringing lynx back work (e.g. where would they come from)? And would local people accept lynx back in the landscape?

### Could lynx live in Britain ?

The first step was to examine whether there was anywhere with the right habitat for lynx. To test this, the Lifescape Project followed a similar approach to that used in Germany, where lynx have been successfully reintroduced. This meant using advanced computer modelling techniques, drawing on the most recent and detailed data on lynx ecology and Britain's

## Lynx lived wild in Britain for thousands of years.

They were most likely lost during the medieval period, around

# 800 YEARS AGO

landscapes. Essentially, a virtual Britain was created in which simulated lynx could live. Knowledge from over 50 years of monitoring European lynx populations helped make the lynx behaviour as realistic as possible. Lynx reintroductions in different areas were tested using the model, under lots of different scenarios, and the outcomes studied.

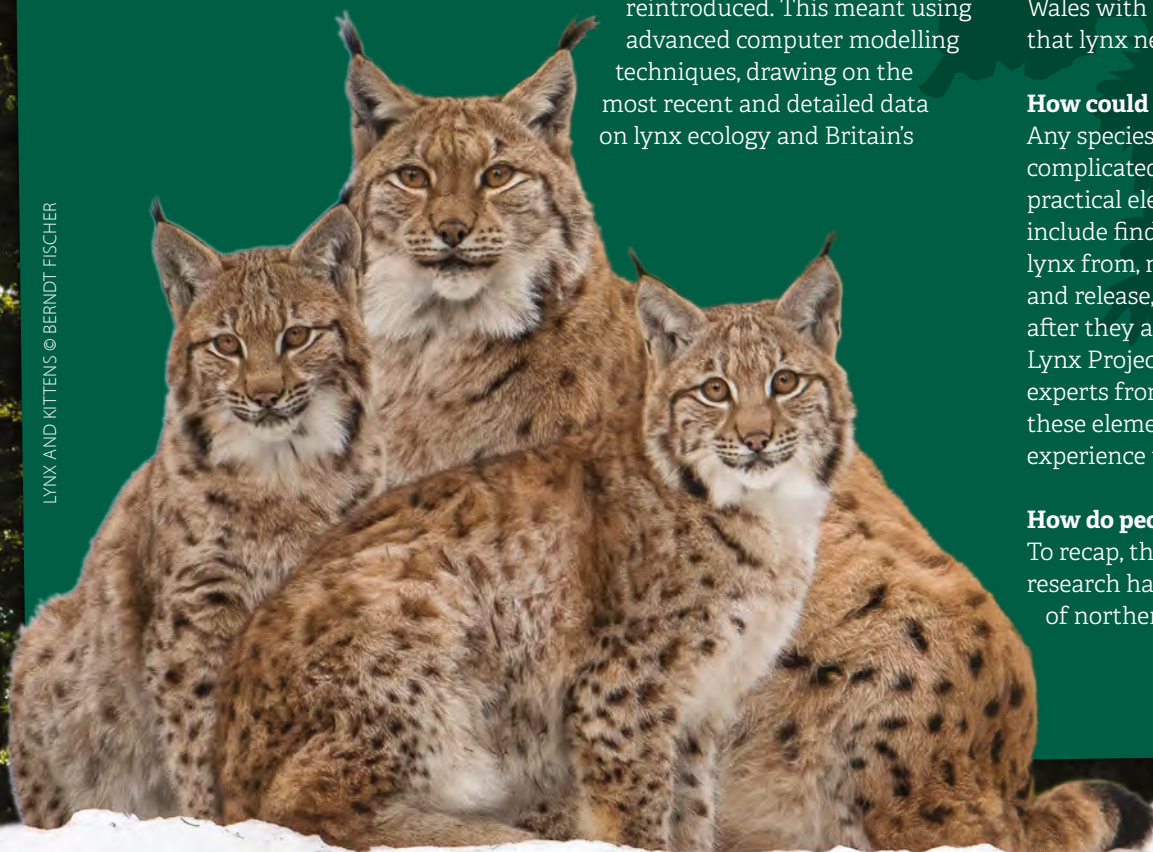
This research found that if lynx were to be released in Northumberland, they could grow into a healthy population covering north-west Northumberland, the edge of Cumbria and the bordering areas of southern Scotland. This is currently the only area in England and Wales with the extensive forest habitats that lynx need.

### How could we bring lynx back?

Any species reintroduction is a complicated process. There are lots of practical elements to consider. These include finding the right place to get the lynx from, managing the translocation and release, and monitoring lynx after they are released. The Missing Lynx Project is working closely with experts from across Europe to explore these elements. There are decades of experience to help guide the process.

### How do people feel about lynx?

To recap, the Missing Lynx Project's research has shown that there's an area of northern England and southern



Scotland that could support a healthy population of lynx. We also have lots of expertise from across Europe on how to manage the practicalities of a successful lynx reintroduction. But – crucially – a reintroduction could only take place if local people are accepting of the animal back in the landscape.

For more than a year, the project has been sharing its findings with people in the area identified by the modelling; opening discussions about lynx and providing a variety of opportunities for everyone to share their views. As part of this, a travelling Missing Lynx exhibition toured the area to bring the lynx to life. We welcomed almost 10,000 visitors across 15 venues, from village halls to agricultural colleges and at iconic local landmarks. The project has held meetings, hosted community workshops and conducted one-to-one interviews. We also held focus groups for people with shared interests in the area – there are groups for farming, forestry and business, as well as a Lynx Community Group with 117 members.

In addition to all of the face-to-face conversations, the project provided a questionnaire for people to record their views on lynx. We had responses from just over 1,000 people who live in the project region, with 72% of them supporting a lynx reintroduction there. Overall attitudes towards lynx were positive, but it's important to listen to the voices of those with concerns. Much can be learnt from how people live alongside lynx in Europe and the project's next step will be to keep working with local communities, exploring how a reintroduction project could be managed to maximise benefits and reduce risks. Together, with the acceptance of the local community, we can bring back our missing lynx.

What are your views on lynx reintroduction?

Let us know at [missinglynxproject.org.uk/share-your-views](https://missinglynxproject.org.uk/share-your-views)

*“Bringing back lynx could benefit wildlife more widely – something that is sorely needed in this nature-depleted country. We have pushed many native species to extinction, and it makes sense to bring missing wildlife back where feasible. Bison and beavers have invigorated degraded habitats and this consultation shows there’s now an opportunity for us to bring back lynx too.”*

**Rob Stoneman, Director of Landscape Recovery for The Wildlife Trusts**

*“The fact that 72% of respondents in the project region support a potential lynx reintroduction is hugely positive. Locals are proud that our region is a stronghold for threatened species such as red squirrels and water vole – so it’s no surprise that they’re in favour of bringing more back. The chances of ever seeing this beautiful creature are very rare, but communities have let us know that they recognise the benefits of restoring this beautiful animal.”*

**Mike Pratt, Chief Executive Officer of Northumberland Wildlife Trust**



# 6 places to see starling murmurations

**D**uring the winter months, many people travel to special Wildlife Trust nature reserves up and down the country an hour before dusk to witness one of nature's greatest shows – the starling murmuration.

To begin with fast-moving flocks of starlings arrive from all directions, like a blur in the skies above. Onlookers await in silent anticipation, as breathtaking numbers of starlings increase from groups of hundreds to thousands.

When tens of thousands and upwards have arrived, the murmuration performance begins. The throng of starlings become an awesome spectacle of black swirling shapes as they tumble and swoop in the sky in a synchronised aerial display. The mass of birds twist, turn and soar in mesmerising geometric patterns.

Then on the minute of dusk, the starlings descend in their thousands like a waterfall of birds. They pour out of the sky onto roost sites in trees, reedbeds and nature reserves and it's all over. The lucky spectators will never forget this fleeting moment of incredible beauty and will go home very happy indeed. Here are six places to see starling murmurations.



## See the spectacle for yourself



### 1 East Chevington, Northumberland Wildlife Trust

Flocks of starling swirl in wave-like patterns in their fabulous murmuration attracting hundreds of visitors each year. Terns, water rails and snipe, skylark and stonechat can also be seen, while large flocks of pink-footed geese fly overhead.

**Where:** Druridge Bay, NE61 5BG

### 2 Brockholes nature reserve, The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside

Head to the floating Visitor Village in November and December to witness the swirling and swooping murmuration that turns the sky above the lakes into a starling spectacle. Up to 100,000 birds gather; so many that you can hear their wings beating.

**Where:** Preston, PR5 0AG

### 3 Ripon City Wetlands, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Ripon City Wetlands nature reserve is famous for its incredible twisting waves of starling murmuration. Best viewed from the path by the central reedbed, watch the cloud of starlings grow as more join – and then descend in a rush of wingbeats and chattering into the reedbed below.

**Where:** Ripon Racecourse, HG4 1UG

### 4 Teifi Marshes, The Wildlife Trust for South and West Wales

The stunning Teifi Marshes is one of the best wetland sites in Wales and a great place to experience the sights and sounds of a starling spectacle. Head to a hide or watch from the board walk as thousands of starlings perform a glorious murmuration over the marshes before descending into the reedbeds to roost for the night.

**Where:** Cilgerran, SA43 2TB

### 5 Thameside Nature Discovery Park, Essex Wildlife Trust

Watch the spectacle of a murmuration unfold from the accessible 360° viewing platform of the Nature Discovery Centre. Watch the resident starling acrobatics above with the Thames Estuary as your backdrop.

**Where:** Thurrock, SS17 0RN

### 6 Fishlake Meadows, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Fishlake Meadows comes alive in winter as up to 80,000 starlings sweep across the dusk sky in murmuration. This fluid ritual draws watchers to the wetland reserve with great views from the canal path and viewing platforms.

**Where:** Romsey, SO51 7AB

## Did you spot any murmurations?

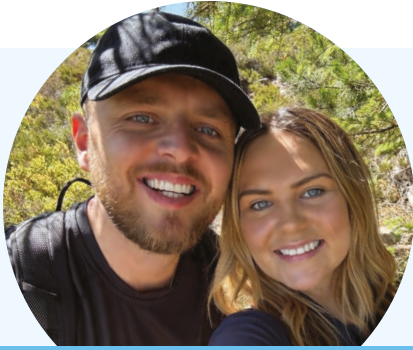
We'd love to know how your search went. Please share your best photos with us!





@wildlifetrusts



@thewildlifetrusts



## The Geordie Ramblers

 @geordieramblers  @geordie\_hiker

### We are nature



We both grew up in the north-east of England and were blessed to be surrounded by the wild beauty of forests, coastlines, historic castles, valleys and rolling moorland. We remember our muddy boots after school, rock pooling, riding our bikes until the sun set over the city, flasks of tea on blustery hilltops and walking for miles with our parents without seeing another soul.

To share our adventures, I set up @geordieramblers and Steph @geordie\_hiker. This was before we even knew each other. It's funny looking back, we were just two strangers posting walks, reflections and the quiet magic of what felt real to us. The boggy bits, the windswept cliffs, early starts, aching legs and our full hearts.

We met completely by chance in the tent aisle of an outdoor shop. Steph was full of confidence and questions about wild camping. That moment turned into hours, favourite trails, wildlife and the sense of belonging in nature. A week later we were hiking Blencathra together.

We're not about ticking off peaks, we share real moments, places and our love for these wild places. Whether it's the silence on a solo hike or a deep chat halfway up a climb, it gives you room to breathe and space to reflect, particularly after a busy week at work. We were saying what a lot of others were feeling.

We've had magical moments with wild deer in the Scottish Highlands, spotted a red squirrel leaping through trees in Kielder, an otter slipping silently into a river at sunrise, a barn owl silently gliding over a frosty field at Bamburgh Castle. Each one felt like a gift from the land that we love so deeply.

But barriers to getting out on a hike are real for people. Everything from lack of transport, to not feeling 'outdoorsy enough', to thinking you need expensive gear. We've heard people say, "I didn't think someone like me belonged in those spaces," and friends say, "I never thought this was for me." That hit us hard.

So, we started sharing more beginner-friendly routes, hosting inclusive meetups and talking openly about imposter syndrome. We have written e-Books on beautiful beginner walks and created free guides to get people started. We believe nature should be for everyone.

Steph promotes access to women in the outdoors and runs navigation workshops with mountain leaders. Our community interest group @tynetosummit runs community walks every month in beautiful places across the North-East. We love it when people are surprised to find themselves laughing on a hilltop, instead of queuing at the bar.

We've recently become new parents, and yes, with shorter distances, more bags and snacks, it's possible to hike with a baby. Luca's eyes open with wonder when he's out in nature. A rustling tree, a buzzing bee or the sparkle of water may be his first memories. We want our son to grow up knowing that joy can be found in simplicity, in nature and the land we love.

Recently, The Wildlife Trusts embarked on an exciting venture to save Rothbury Estate in Northumberland. With part already in Wildlife Trust ownership, it's open to those looking for adventure. However, with 2,600 nature reserves across the UK, Alderney and the Isle of Man, there's a nearby adventure awaiting everyone!



[wtru.st/rothbury-appeal](http://wtru.st/rothbury-appeal)

#### 12 DAYS WILD

Create space for inspiration, connection and what truly matters this Christmas with 12 Days Wild. *"The most breath-taking things in life, a sunrise, a breeze, the sound of trees... cost nothing, yet offer everything"* – Scott.

Sign up and we'll help you discover something magical this Christmas.

[wildlifetrusts.org/12dayswild](http://wildlifetrusts.org/12dayswild)

#### The Geordie Ramblers

Steph @geordie\_hiker and Scott @geordieramblers have built over 300,000 followers on Instagram. They've been named the Hero of Northumberland for their @tynetosummit hiking community and have won national awards simply for sharing their love of the countryside in the North-East and Lake District.

# Our impact

Your support helped us achieve all this and more over the past year...



**Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
& Oxfordshire  
Wildlife Trust**



**80+** nature reserves managed for wildlife



**60,000+** members



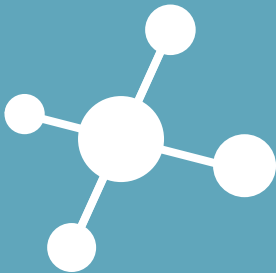
Nature conservation projects delivered across **21,000ha**



**280** biological surveys completed by 140 volunteer surveyors



**7,400+** pupils from 177 schools visited our learning centres



**720** people engaged with our Community Network activities



**10%** school visits made possible by our bursary scheme



**£512,182** received from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop the Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and the Ray project



**1000+** Wildlife Ambassadors campaigning for nature



**24** farm opportunity plans provided for the Ray Farmer Cluster



**850** children attended our wildlife clubs for 8-17-year-olds



**268** new volunteers recruited



**95%** of our responses to planning applications resulted in better outcomes for nature



**1,100+** local people engaged with our Wild Bicester and Wild Banbury projects

Read our latest Impact Report at [bbowt.org.uk/publications](https://bbowt.org.uk/publications)