



Wild fen habitat in Lincolnshire. Photo Dave Lavash

protect remaining populations of the threatened species as part of the 'Save Our Squirrels' project, one of the largest species-conservation initiatives in the UK. Volunteers monitored squirrel numbers, recorded sightings and gave guided walks to visitors and people from local communities. More people have been exploring the **diverse landscape** of **East Cleveland**, its wildlife, its geology and ammonite fossils, and the alum industry.



Nature-conservation volunteer in Cheshire © Tom Marshall/Cheshire Wildlife Trust

People in **Cheshire** learned about the **new wetland habitats** that are being created along the rivers Gowy and Mersey, and found out how to look after the area's natural heritage.

Practical placements with the **Cumbria** Wildlife Trust will help 12 people develop **marine-conservation skills**, increasing the Trust's capacity for conserving marine heritage for the future.

Pupils from **Bolton** St Catherine's Academy explored the heritage of the Seven Acres Local Nature Reserve and **experienced life as woodlanders**, learning practical skills such as how to make their own furniture.

**Young people** in **counties Tyrone** and **Fermanagh** have learned about natural heritage and developed outdoor skills. Slievenacloy Area of Special Scientific Interest was acquired from the Forest Service, developed into a **nature reserve** and opened up to the public for the first time. Situated in the valley between the Divis and Colin mountains in the **Belfast Hills**, the site is particularly important

for orchids, birds and fungi, and offers pedestrian and wheelchair access all year round.

**Landscapes** across **Scotland** have been transformed with a five-year project to conserve 96 nature reserves and protect wildlife habitats and endangered species. Access to 52 of the reserves was enhanced with 63km of new or improved paths, new wetlands were created at six reserves, and volunteers gave more than 10,000 days of their time to the scheme.



Skomer Island puffins. Photo Dave Boyle/WTSWW

Land adjacent to the Hill of White Hamars reserve on Orkney was purchased to help conserve nationally important **maritime heath**, grassland and lichen heath.



The rare red squirrel

## How you can support The Wildlife Trusts

Now is the time for governments around the UK to make the right decisions to help nature recover on land and in our seas. In England, the Natural Environment White Paper is now imminent. Recent Scottish legislation has made some progress. The Welsh Assembly Government is working on a Natural Environment Framework. To protect our seas, we need to ensure the Marine Acts are implemented.

The Wildlife Trusts now look to governments to show leadership, remove obstacles and take bold steps to help society create *A Living Landscape* and secure *Living Seas*.

Help us to ensure a bold and ambitious agenda by supporting our calls for:

- a visionary and ambitious Natural Environment White Paper for England, a Natural Environment Framework for Wales, and measurable progress on a National Ecological Network for Scotland to allow for the recovery of nature;

- implementation of the Marine and Coastal Access Act and the Marine (Scotland) Act by the designation of Marine Protected Areas in England, Wales and Scotland by 2012, and the creation of Marine Protected Areas by the Northern Ireland Assembly under the proposed Northern Ireland Marine Bill;
- the Government to maximise funds towards nature's recovery and people's enjoyment of the natural world through the full range of funding it can influence.



## Have your say on Lottery funding for heritage

Between 2013 and 2019, HLF expects to have a significantly increased annual awards budget of around £300million.

We are now consulting on the future of Lottery funding for heritage, and would appreciate the views of parliamentarians and the people they

represent. Tell us what you think our priorities should be, what we should continue to do, and what we should do differently. Your views will help us shape HLF's strategy for 2013-2019.

As part of the consultation, we will be exploring how we can better support biodiversity and nature conservation in the future. We will also review our Landscape Partnerships grant programme. This is the UK's only major source of funding for landscape-scale projects that invest in cultural, natural, archaeological and built heritage all at once, and improve public access, community participation and learning. Since 2004 HLF has invested £96.6million in 59 Landscape Partnerships and other area schemes.

Visit [www.hlf.org.uk/consultation2011](http://www.hlf.org.uk/consultation2011) by 26 April to register your views.



Front-cover images: Learning how to light a fire; exploring coastal heritage; a sleeping dormouse; Hickling Broad reserve, Norfolk (Photo David Ward) Above: Slievenacloy Nature Reserve, Northern Ireland (Photo Ulster Wildlife Trust), and frogs in an urban area of the North East (Photo Geoff Hill)

For more information, or if you would like to visit projects in your area, please contact:  
**Heritage Lottery Fund:** Jon Armstrong, 020 7591 6129, [jona@hlf.org.uk](mailto:jona@hlf.org.uk), [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)  
**The Wildlife Trusts:** Stephen Hinchley, 07585 903 590, [shinchley@wildlifetrusts.org](mailto:shinchley@wildlifetrusts.org), [www.wildlifetrusts.org](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org)

# Valuing our natural heritage

Sixteen years of The Wildlife Trusts and the Heritage Lottery Fund working together



## A pivotal moment for nature

**Nature is vital to our lives and well-being. But it has suffered greatly over recent decades. There is a growing recognition across the UK that to halt this decline we need to maximise investment in and value our natural heritage – both on land and at sea.**

The Wildlife Trusts and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) have been working together to protect and restore nature across the UK, and to help people understand the value of natural heritage and its importance to everyone's future.

Our joint work shows what can be achieved. Over 16 years HLF has invested around £100million in Wildlife Trusts projects. We now look forward to initiatives from governments around the UK as an opportunity to ensure that more can be done for nature and people in the future.

### About HLF

Using money from the National Lottery, HLF sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. Over the past 16 years we have awarded over £390million to more than 3,000 projects to support nature conservation across the UK. In all, 9% of our funds have gone to nature-conservation projects.

### About The Wildlife Trusts

There are 47 individual Wildlife Trusts covering the whole of the UK with more than 800,000 members. We have a shared vision to create *A Living Landscape* and secure *Living Seas*. We manage more than 2,250 nature reserves, and every year we advise thousands of landowners on how to manage their land for wildlife. We run marine conservation projects around the UK, collect vital data on the state of our seas and celebrate our amazing marine wildlife. Every year we work with thousands of schools, and our nature reserves and visitor centres receive millions of visitors.



# HLF and The Wildlife Trusts have been working together for more than 16 years to conserve the UK's precious natural heritage, and help people learn about and look after it.

## Here are just a few examples of what we have achieved together.

The Holmewood Estate at Holme Fen National Nature Reserve, near **Peterborough**, is undergoing restoration to become one of the largest protected wetlands in the UK. This forms part of the Great Fen project, which aims to restore 3,000 hectares of lost fenland – one of Europe's largest **habitat-restoration** schemes.

Habitats such as **reedbed**, **fen** and **sedge beds** have been restored at **Norfolk's** Hickling Broad reserve, while in **Suffolk**, people new to nature conservation have taken part in an education programme to help them look after local **wildlife habitats**.

The **acquisition** of Abbotts Hall Farm, **Essex**, allowed sustainable coastal defences and coastal marshes vital for wildlife to be developed, while wetland areas at five nature reserves are being improved to protect the endangered **water vole** in **Hertfordshire**.

**Diverse habitats** – including woodland, meadows and heathland – have been improved for people and wildlife throughout **London**. One example is Sydenham Hill Wood, now home to 200 species of

trees and flowering plants, and an important site for **volunteering** and **community learning**. Across town, school pupils, elderly people and people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities were among the **diverse groups** that helped to create a slice of nature at a disused site next to the East Reservoir, in a deprived area of Hackney.

Between 2004 and 2009, 27 people across **Berkshire**, **Buckinghamshire** and **Oxfordshire** took part in one-year paid nature-conservation **traineeships**: 21 of the participants went on to get jobs in nature conservation. And people from some of



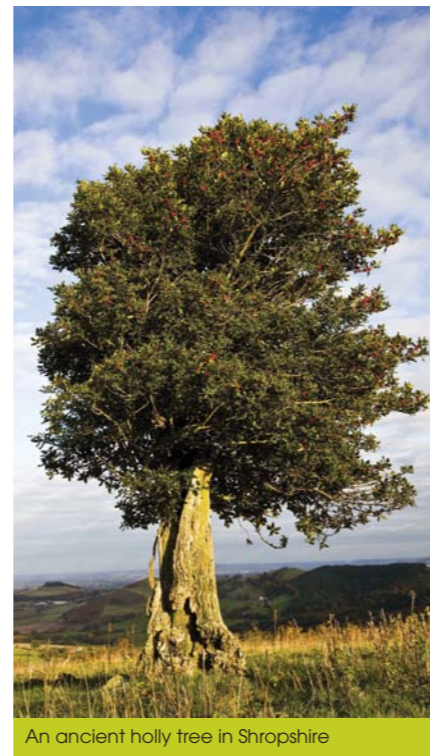
Abbotts Hall Farm, Essex



School children at London's East Reservoir

**Surrey's** most **deprived areas** are getting involved with green spaces through practical conservation training, guided walks and family activities.

In **Kent**, visitors now have better **access** to the Blean, one of the largest tracts of ancient



An ancient holly tree in Shropshire

semi-natural woodland in England. Large-scale **conservation** work is underway here, encouraging the regeneration of deciduous woodland to conserve rare species, and new trails suitable for all abilities have been created.

**New paths** and entrances were installed at the extended Winnall Moors reserve in the heart of **Winchester**, with chalk streams, floodplain woodland, pasture and fen meadows restored, and a wild game fishery created. Existing **wood pasture** and meadows were also conserved at Ebernoe Common reserve in **Sussex**, and arable land was restored to woodland and pasture.

Volunteers in Cornwall are exploring and learning about important **coastal and marine habitats** at **St Agnes, Polzeath, Helford, Fowey** and **Looe**. At Wembury Marine Centre near **Plymouth**, improved **interpretation** is helping visitors learn about local rockpools, home to a wealth of marine wildlife.

Around 200 **volunteers** surveyed ancient trees across **Dorset** and local communities were advised on caring for these, while in the **Mendip Hills** educational activities helped **children and their families** learn about the area's rich wildlife and how to look after it. People can also **learn about nature** at the 18th-century Folly Farm near **Bristol**, restored and developed into a regional environment centre.

Coombe Hill Nature Reserve in **Gloucestershire** was extended with the acquisition of a 22-hectare site important for the restoration of **wetland habitats**, while Clouts Wood and Markham Banks near Wroughton, **Wiltshire**, were acquired to allow the **conservation** of endangered habitats and the creation of interlinking wildlife havens.

Working to promote the **conservation of endangered species**, people in the Dyfi Valley, **Powys**, learned how to protect the Cors Dyfi reserve's pair of **ospreys** – one of just two pairs in Wales. In **North Wales**, endangered **hazel dormice** are benefitting from new nest boxes, restored woodland sites and the creation of over 1km of hedgerow.

People from 25 communities in **Gwent** gained skills in maintaining their local churchyards for the future, **surveying wildlife** and exploring graveyard inscriptions. Visitors are making the most of their trip to **Skomer Island** and **learning** about its diverse natural heritage – including the spectacular puffin – thanks to better physical



A grazing sheep at Wharcliffe Heath, Sheffield

access and engaging new interpretation.

Ecological surveys and projects to improve access and encourage members of the local community to volunteer in **site management** have taken place throughout 11 reserves in **Brecknock**. And 10 nature reserves across **Radnorshire** benefitted from a **volunteer-management** and leadership training programme.



A nature-conservation trainee using a brush cutter. Photo BBOWT

In **Birmingham**, **local residents** helped to restore Moseley Bog, the childhood playground of JRR Tolkien and an area of semi-natural woodland and fen vegetation.

Our projects help to raise awareness of endangered species such as the stag beetle



Young people learning about Cornwall's coastal heritage

Twenty **on-the-job training** placements will be created across the **West Midlands**, focusing on traditional nature-conservation skills and the ability to train others in these skills. **Young people** in the **Staffordshire Moorlands** explored the diverse natural habitats in their area through practical conservation activities.

The Hollies, a unique landscape in **Shropshire** containing nearly 500 **ancient holly trees**, was purchased, restored and made accessible with help from local volunteers. The historic buildings of Lower Smite Farm in **Worcestershire** were

restored and developed into an **environmental-education centre**, while 12 communities in **Herefordshire** learned about their **local commons** and devised plans for practical action to protect, conserve and celebrate them.

**Schools** across **Derbyshire** have been creating wildlife areas in school grounds to give young people a greater understanding of wildlife and increase the habitats available to native species. At Shenton Railway Cuttings and Brown's Hill Quarry nature reserves in **Leicestershire**, **young people** aged 13–19 learned about

protecting wildlife habitats, and developed nature-conservation skills such as improving ponds and creating wildlife-viewing areas.

**Wild fen** habitat is set to be restored at Willow Tree Fen, increasing **Lincolnshire's** fenland three times. In **Nottinghamshire** the disused Sutton and Lound gravel pits, an important habitat for birds, were developed into a wetland **nature reserve**. In **Northamptonshire**, land was purchased and restored to **woodland** to join up two existing woods and recreate the ancient Dodhaws Wood.

Working on a **landscape scale**, existing heathland was restored and new heathland created in **South** and **West Yorkshire**, and local people learned about this important habitat through public events and school education sessions.

Four **walking trails** around Flamborough Headland in **East Yorkshire**, as well as podcasts, audio clips and storyboards, were developed by local people to reveal the area's fascinating heritage.



People in Surrey improving local green spaces © Kois Miah

Across the **Darlington** area populations of the **great crested newt** have been mapped, and people are learning about the important environmental role of this endangered species. In **Northumbria**, nine new **red-squirrel** reserves are helping to