



UK NEWS

Stag beetles are one of many species in danger.

UK UPDATE

Wildlife Trusts launch biggest ever appeal to kickstart nature's recovery by 2030



As we struggled through the worst pandemic in living memory, the importance of nature in our lives became clearer than ever. Science shows that humanity's basic needs — from food to happiness — can all be met with a healthy natural environment, where wildlife surrounds us.

But sadly, nature is not all around us, at least not in the abundance it should be. Many of our most treasured species like hedgehogs, bats and basking sharks are all at risk, as well as many of the insects that pollinate our food crops.

Loss of wild places and the breaking up of those that remain into small fragments has had a disastrous effect. Only 10% of land is protected in the UK and much of this is in poor condition. While some areas of the seabed are officially protected, harmful activities such as bottom trawling are only banned in a handful of locations.

All is not lost, as we know how to turn things round: we need to see nature's recovery happening across at least 30% of our land and seas by 2030. This would enable our wild places to connect and allow wildlife to move around and thrive. The Wildlife Trusts are fighting to make this a reality through our new 30 by 30 campaign, and we recently called for a new landscape designation for England called "Wildbelt" that would put land in to recovery for nature and help us reach 30%.

Craig Bennett, chief executive of The Wildlife Trusts, said: "We've set ourselves an ambitious goal — to raise £30 million and kickstart the process of securing at least 30% of land and sea in nature's recovery by 2030. We will buy land to expand and join up our nature reserves; we'll work with others to show how to bring wildlife back to their land, and we're calling for nature's recovery through a new package of policy measures including big new ideas like Wildbelt."

Wildlife Trusts are fundraising to tackle, on a scale not seen before in the UK, the joint climate and ecological emergency. Restored habitats will capture carbon, helping to tackle climate change, and bring people the health benefits associated with contact with the natural world. There are amazing projects right on your doorstep that need support to take flight.

Craig added: "The next ten years must be a time of renewal, of rewilding our lives, of green recovery. We all need nature more than ever and when we succeed in reaching 30 by 30 we'll have wilder landscapes that store carbon and provide on-your-doorstep nature for people too. Everyone can support and help us to succeed."

Support our campaign today to bring our wildlife back:

wildlifetrusts.org/30-30-30

THE CHANGES WE NEED

Some examples of projects gearing up to help bring back 30%:

- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is hoping to restore natural processes and healthy ecosystems on a huge scale in their **Wild Peak** project, bringing back more wildlife and wild places.
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is planning a number of **reintroduction projects**, from beavers to curlew buntings and choughs.
- Lancashire Wildlife Trust is helping to combat climate change at the first ever UK **carbon farm**, which is locking up carbon and bringing back wildlife habitat as the peatlands are restored at Winmarleigh.
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust is planning to restore reed beds, fen swamps and meres, increasing water resilience on **Bourne North Fen**, supporting improved agriculture and water quality — which is good for wildlife — whilst reducing flood risk.



UK UPDATE

New ambassadors for nature

Award-winning actor Alison Steadman, Bradford-based GP and TV presenter Dr Amir Khan, presenter and filmmaker Hannah Stitfall, science communicator Sophie Pavelle and Iceland managing director Richard Walker are taking up the new role of Ambassadors for The Wildlife Trusts. The nature enthusiasts will use their voices, influence and audiences to help us raise awareness of the urgent need for

nature's recovery, and encourage more people to take action.

Speaking about her new role, Alison Steadman said, "I'm extremely proud of all the work the Wildlife Trusts do with the local communities in which they work, but have come to see that collectively, they're a force to be reckoned with. Their work is important, from big picture landscape restoration, to encouraging and supporting people like you and I to do our bit for wildlife, whether it's in our garden, or campaigning on issues close to our heart."

You can learn more about our new ambassadors and hear their views on The Wildlife Trusts' website: wildlifetrusts.org/ambassadors



UK HIGHLIGHTS

Discover how The Wildlife Trusts are helping wildlife across the UK

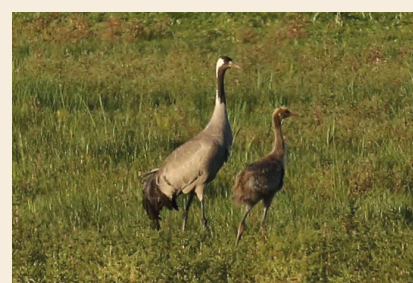


1 Hip hip hoor-hay!

Cumbria Wildlife Trust have recently taken ownership of Bowberhead Farm, home to internationally important flower-rich northern hay meadows — a rare habitat with only 900 hectares left in existence. In time these meadows could help create a joined-up network of restored, wildflower-rich grasslands across Cumbria and northern England. cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/bowberhead

2 Crane comeback

A pair of common cranes has bred at Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's Willow Tree Fen. This is the first pair to breed in Lincolnshire in over 400 years. Crane's were driven to extinction in the UK in the sixteenth century, but a small number returned in 1978 and eventually started breeding. The population has slowly grown and spread, with 56 pairs attempting to nest in the UK in 2019. lincstrust.org.uk/willow-tree-fen



3 Duke's reprieve

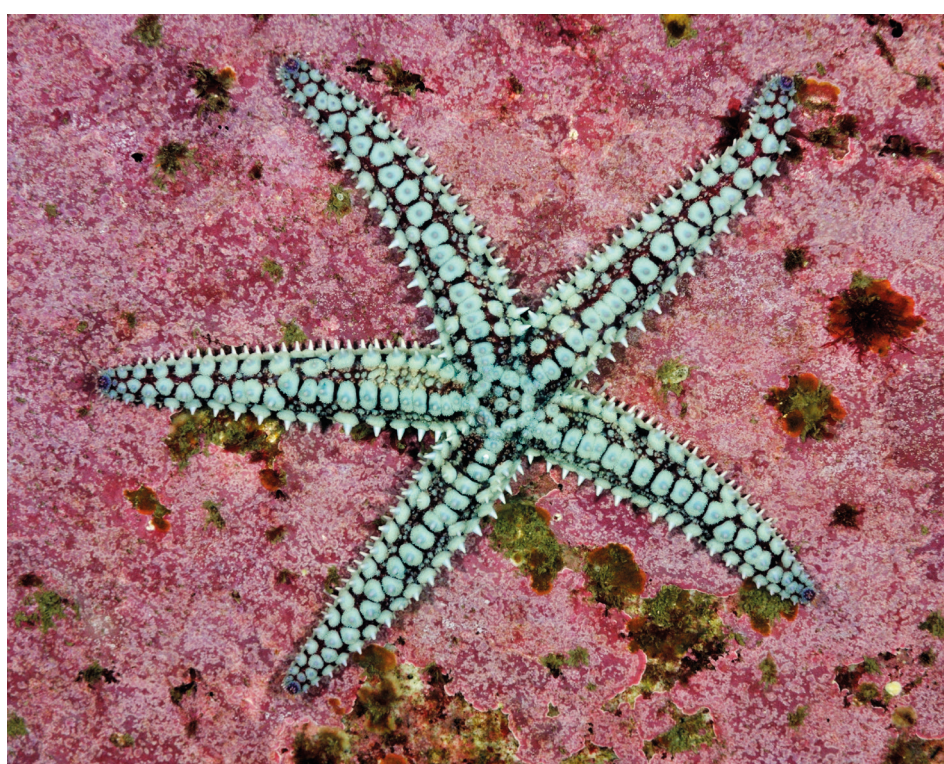
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust purchased Deacon Hill, Winchester's only remaining stronghold for the endangered Duke of Burgundy butterfly. This is a crucial piece of land in a network of sites around Winchester that are managed by the Trust with wildlife in mind. hiwwt.org.uk/deaconhill

Safer areas at sea

In 2019 an independent panel was tasked by the Government to review whether Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs) could be introduced to English waters. Over 3,000 Wildlife Trust supporters responded to the panel's consultation, backing our call for HPMa introduction. HPMAs would offer the strictest possible

protections for the marine environment, giving nature the best chance of recovery. By removing all pressure, from fishing to construction, our shallow seas, shores and diverse seabeds can become healthier, more productive and full of life once more.

wtrw.st/help-our-seas



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