



Wildlife Trust for
**Beds, Cambs
& Northants**

Annual Review

2021 - 2022



wildlifebcn.org

Company Registration No. 2534145 (England and Wales)
Registered Charity No. 1000412

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

This report covers the year from April 2021 to March this year – an eventful time for everyone that might best be characterised by one word: uncertainty. A result of transitioning to a 'new normal' in our workplaces, political upheavals at home and abroad and soaring prices for everyday utilities and essentials. The natural world, on the other hand, needs certainty. Swallows follow the same migration routes each year, insects gather nectar from the same wildflowers and trees drop their leaves every autumn.

In many ways our work therefore involves protecting the natural world from the uncertainties of human activity. Whether that's ensuring there is space for wetland birds at our Summer Leys and Godmanchester reserves to tackle the 35% decline in this habitat in the past 50 years (see pages 4-5), standing up for green spaces in the face of potentially damaging development (p9) or creating new opportunities for chalkland butterflies to thrive as climate change takes hold (p11).

Climate change is, of course, the ultimate future uncertainty, and helping wildlife adapt to the very real challenges is an increasing focus for our work at the Trust. New weather patterns are now very real, like the storms which wreaked havoc in our woodlands and the mild, wet winters which have exacerbated the spread of Ash Dieback (p5).

Measuring and managing our own greenhouse gas emissions is vital if we are to lead the way in the fight against climate change – which is why I am delighted to see us measuring and reporting our emissions for the first time (p11).

But if there is one thing which we can be certain about, it is that we need more good people like you supporting us, as we fight for a future with nature at its heart. That's why I am so excited to see us inspiring new generations of environmentalists through our

Young People's Forum and our family events and outreach work (p6-7). We are monitoring species like otters and the many amazing flora and fauna included our recent Wilder Future report (p10-11), and we are forming vital partnerships with others like the Cambridge Nature Network and farmers across our region to make a difference on the ground (p8).

And that's all just in the past year. Even more exciting are two large and ambitious projects we are working towards in the future – the purchase of two farms, Speechly's and Strawberry Hill, which will become new outposts in our fight to protect peatland habitats and to reconnect people and nature (p12-13).

The antidote to uncertainty is to plan for a better future. We may not know which way the world will turn in the coming months and years, but by continuing to support the work of our Wildlife Trust through your membership, through volunteering and through donations and legacies, you are ensuring nature in our three counties and beyond is safer, and more accessible to the communities we live in.



William Stephens,
Chair of the Council

Cover image: Starlings at Summer Leys by Lester Cooper, WTBCN Photo competition 2021 finalist

STRATEGIC REPORT

Our Vision

People close to nature, in a land rich in wildlife

What do we do?



Nature conservation on our nature reserves

We manage over 100 nature reserves including some of Britain's rarest habitats such as ancient woodlands, wild fen, and wildflower meadows.



Provide nature conservation advice and support to landowners

We work beyond the boundaries of our nature reserves by advising landowners who own and manage important sites for wildlife.



Monitor and research wildlife

We carry out surveys to enable us to monitor population trends and assess the success of our practical habitat management.



Inspire a love of nature

We support people to learn more about local nature through our events, training workshops and school programmes and we help them reap the benefits of simply connecting with nature.



Advocate for wildlife

We campaign for a Wilder Future by lobbying local and national government for better protection of wildlife, and we review and respond to local development plans, ensuring we can achieve the biggest impacts possible.



Provide vital green spaces to all sectors of society.

Improving people's lives and wellbeing by giving them places close to their communities to meet, escape, and unwind.

We do all of this work with a Nature Recovery Network in mind, because we believe that a well-connected landscape is better for wildlife and for people.

Why is our work important?

Nature has an intrinsic value, but healthy green spaces also provide ecosystem services like:

- Climate regulation
- Mental and physical health improvements
- Pollination of food crops
- Flood alleviation
- Healthy soils

Pressures such as agricultural intensification, urbanisation and climate change are affecting our wildlife

41% of UK species have seen numbers decline since 1970*

15% are under the threat of extinction*

*State of Nature Report 2019



Bee orchid by Leo Hiller, WTBCN Photo competition finalist

RESERVES

Summer Leys Nature Reserve

This reserve continues to be one of our most popular visitor sites and over the past year we have worked to make it more welcoming for both nature and people.

In September, thanks to funding from Natural England and a generous 'in memoriam' donation, we carried out a major habitat improvement project including clearing and reprofiling two islands to increase the area for waterbirds to breed, roost and feed.

Vegetation was removed at the end of last year with an old track opened up to act as a woodland ride. We cut back scrub around the lake to open up the habitat for the benefit of ducks and carried out major works on Hawthorn and Gull islands. A causeway was built to Hawthorn Island and both islands were cleared to create habitat for breeding waders and overwintering wildfowl.



Gull Island in progress



Godmanchester restoration project

A much-needed habitat enhancement project was carried out at Godmanchester Nature Reserve thanks to a grant from the Anglian Water Flourishing Environment Fund. The project saw diggers used on site to redefine lake channels and edges, creating more complex and muddy areas which are ideal for the wading birds that feed, breed and shelter there.

The reserve is home to a range of species and attracts regular visitors from the surrounding area. The work was carried out during winter to minimise wildlife disruption and also included reedbed cutting, willow tree pollarding and clearance of vegetation from islands.



BCN

Ash Dieback and tree planting

Ash Dieback has affected many thousands of trees in Cambridgeshire woodlands and over the past year we have begun the huge task of removing diseased trees at reserves such as Brampton Wood and Lower Wood. They are being replaced with new habitat including the planting of saplings of several species in case the current flush of ash seedlings go the same way as their parents.

Last year, our Monitoring and Research Team began a programme of monitoring to keep an eye on the spread of the disease. Within the areas surveyed already, ash accounts for a significant proportion of the tree canopy from 13% at Short Wood, to 42% at Brampton Wood, and 65% at Waresley and Gransden Woods. Of the ash trees we recorded, there were obvious signs of Ash Dieback - 28% at Brampton, 47% at Short Wood, and 84% at Waresley and Gransden.



Tree planting Lower Wood

Storm damage



Gamlingay Wood

Many of our reserves have taken a battering in the last year as storms hit the region, leaving fallen trees in their wake and a huge clear up operation for our reserves staff.

In October a mini tornado swept through parts of Northamptonshire leaving several of our reserves with blocked paths and fallen trees. Just 20 minutes of destructive weather resulted in two weeks of chainsawing and hauling logs to ensure our reserves were safe for visitors.

Then earlier this year the triple whammy of storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin swept across the region. Many reserves were affected including Lower Wood in Cambridgeshire which has lost an estimated 10% of its trees.

Sadly extreme storm events like these are predicted to increase as a result of climate change and its impact on our weather patterns.

WILDLIFE AND COMMUNITIES

Events roundup

In 2021, as Covid restrictions eased and people started to head to organised events once more, we picked up the challenge of rebuilding our community engagement work. In the last financial year our staff and volunteers organised 537 events attended by thousands of people across the region.

This included everything from baby and toddler groups, through to youth rangers, family events, guided walks, celebrity talks, crafting and in-depth wildlife training workshops. We have expanded and professionalised our event programme and finished the year by appointing a new Events and Engagement Lead to take our outreach programme even further and connect more people with nature in our three counties.



Welcoming visitors to Summer Leys

Summer Leys Nature Reserve in Northamptonshire got a major boost in March with the arrival of a new Visitor Centre. We have also welcomed two new Communities and Wildlife Officers, Megan and Nicole, who will be based at the centre and will be focussed on hosting events, helping members to discover wildlife on the site and recruiting new members to the Trust.



New directions for the Team at the Great Fen

The Communities and Wildlife Team at the Great Fen – with new manager Sara Hennessy – has been busy after Covid restrictions, going back into schools, welcoming school visits to the Ramsey Heights Countryside Centre, and putting on public events. The Team is also reaching out to new audiences as part of the development phase of our major Peatland Progress National Lottery Heritage Fund project (see page 13).

A key aim of the project is to increase participation from young people aged between 11 and 24, an age bracket which often becomes disconnected from the nature conservation movement. In particular we aim to show how nature can benefit young people's mental wellbeing. Communities and Wildlife Officer Rebekah O'Driscoll is forging new relationships with community-based groups to develop these ideas, working in partnership with Peterborough charity The Young People's Counselling Service to explore nature-based therapies for anxiety and other mental health issues, and with the local Kite Trust, a charity for LGBTQ+ young people.



Brand refresh

This year we gave our image a refresh with a new updated logo. As well as our logo we have looked at our brand as a whole and worked with others across the Wildlife Trusts movement to present a more modern and unified image.

But while we have updated how we present ourselves to potential supporters we haven't lost track of our past – the Wildlife Trusts' iconic badger remains. The design was based on market research carried out with members and potential members to choose an image that would help us stand out and grow our profile.

We have been gradually introducing the new look across our reserves and communications, starting with our digital channels and magazine and updating clothing, printed materials and interpretation boards as they run out or come to the end of their useful lives.



Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants

Young People's Forum launch

Giving teenagers a seat at the table in the Wildlife Trust movement is vital to inspire the next generation of conservationists. We recently launched a new Young People's Forum for the Trust and the group first met in person in March at our Cambourne Nature Reserve for a tour with Conservation Director Matt Jackson. The Forum is there to help the Trust engage better with teenagers and young adults as well as giving them a voice. Over the coming months they will be advising staff on how to communicate and inspire the younger generation, how to improve diversity and inclusion in our workplace and on our sites and creating content for our social media channels and website. They will be working with Matt Hayes, who was appointed as one of our youngest ever Trustees at our AGM last year.



Bradgers Hill

Luton has been a key focus for our engagement work over the past year offering us the chance to reach new audiences in a community in which we've previously had limited presence. We publicly launched our Bradgers Hill Wilder Futures project in the town in November after delays due to Covid. The event, attended by local MP Sarah Owen, saw the start of our work connecting the local community to a beautiful wildlife site just outside the town. We have run sessions in the nearby Bushmead Primary School to introduce children to the nature on the hill and started a weekly wildlife gardening club in the Bushmead Community Hub. During two afternoons with Year 7 and 8 pupils at two local high schools we planted more than 300 native trees to expand the ancient Hay Wood at the top of Bradgers Hill.



ADVOCACY, ADVICE AND PLANNING

Launching the Cambridge Nature Network

Launched in May 2021, the Cambridge Nature Network saw us joining forces with other local conservation groups including Cambridge Past, Present and Future to embark on a vision for new areas of meadow, woodland and fens around the city. The project has already seen the planting of a new woodland near Coton, the restoration of 58 veteran willow trees on Sheep's Green in Cambridge City, and the creation of 20 acres of important chalk grassland habitat at Wandlebury Country Park.



Our CEO Brian Eversham and Wildlife Trusts CEO Craig Bennett met South Cambridgeshire MP and chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Environment Anthony Browne at our Trumpington Meadows reserve in February. They spoke about environmental issues including the proposal for a new Wildbelt designation which would help bring land of low biodiversity value into wildlife management.



Working with farmers

We have engaged with farmers across our region in recent months helping them to increase biodiversity on their sites. We are now a trusted source of up-to-date information regarding the progression of the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) which is beginning to replace the current Countryside Stewardship scheme. In the partnership John Clare Countryside (JCC) area we have worked with farmers to put together a bid for the new Landscape Recovery theme of the highest tier of ELMS. In the Nene Valley our Farming for the Future project has funded farmers to create wildflower rich flood plain meadows through seeding as well as providing capital funding to allow management, such as conservation grazing, to take place. This benefits ground nesting and wading birds.

Engagement with farmers in the JCC area and the Cambridge Nature Network (CNN) area in Cambridgeshire has been gradually increasing. A landowner within the JCC area has now had a whole estate plan drawn up suggesting how the land can be managed to make it more nature friendly, by creating linked corridors, bigger buffer areas and habitat extensions to local reserves and SSSIs. In the CNN another landowner is now looking at potential funding sources to create wet grassland areas which will complement Little Wilbraham Fen.



Doubling nature: Ox-Cam arc and East West rail



The Oxford-Cambridge Arc has the potential for significant impacts on nature in our region, and we continued to work hard in recent months to speak up for wildlife at every turn.

Last year the Government was committed to producing a 'spatial framework' for the Arc, which includes our counties together with Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. The framework would have looked at infrastructure and housing targets, and raised concerns about increased pressure for development in our region. Working with partner organisations, we responded to a public consultation about the framework to highlight the need for environmental limits to be properly considered.

A change of minister and name, to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, has led to a move away from the spatial framework approach by the Government. This may signal lower aspirations for housing and infrastructure growth, or a move to higher growth being delivered through local plans.

We had previously urged leaders of local authorities in the Ox-Cam Arc area to adopt a series of Environment Principles, including doubling the minimal biodiversity compensation required for developers in the new Environment Act. We have worked with partners to continue to push for these Environment Principles to be adopted in local plans. Central Bedfordshire draft local plan takes this approach and we hope others will follow suit. We have also kept a close eye on plans for an East West Rail link, and have engaged with residents' groups, stakeholders and decision makers. We continue to argue that the current proposed southern approach is likely to have considerable impacts for wildlife.

Planning casework

Housing development, transport links and energy production pose a challenge for wildlife in our region. We continue to work with councils and other agencies, speaking up as the voice for nature in the planning process.

Over the past year in Northamptonshire we have commented on 15 planning applications to protect Local Wildlife Sites from degradation or ensure they are enhanced as part of other proposals. We've worked with the planning case officers at Bedford Borough Council to protect wildlife and enhance habitats in 26 applications. In Cambridgeshire we have reviewed 176 applications over the past year, responding to 139 of these.

The Sunnica Solar Farm proposal covering thousands of acres across East Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk has been one of the most significant proposals in our region in recent months. While we recognise that the climate crisis is the biggest single threat to wildlife we are very concerned at the potential impact on chalk grassland, wildflowers and stone curlews on the site if the current proposals are not redesigned. We have coordinated a collective ecological response to the proposal from Wildlife Trusts, RSPB and local authorities in the area. As a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project the final decision will be made by central Government.

We monitored the application for more than 300 houses in the Ise Valley adjacent to our nature reserve at Tailby Meadows following its permission which was granted on appeal in 2017. While the development of this land is a huge disappointment to many, we are doing all we can to secure the long-term healthy future of the nature reserve.

In Central Bedfordshire we are working with partners to assess the impacts of development proposals on the edge of Toddington which could have an impact on the important habitats at our Dropshort Marsh Nature Reserve.



RESEARCH AND MONITORING

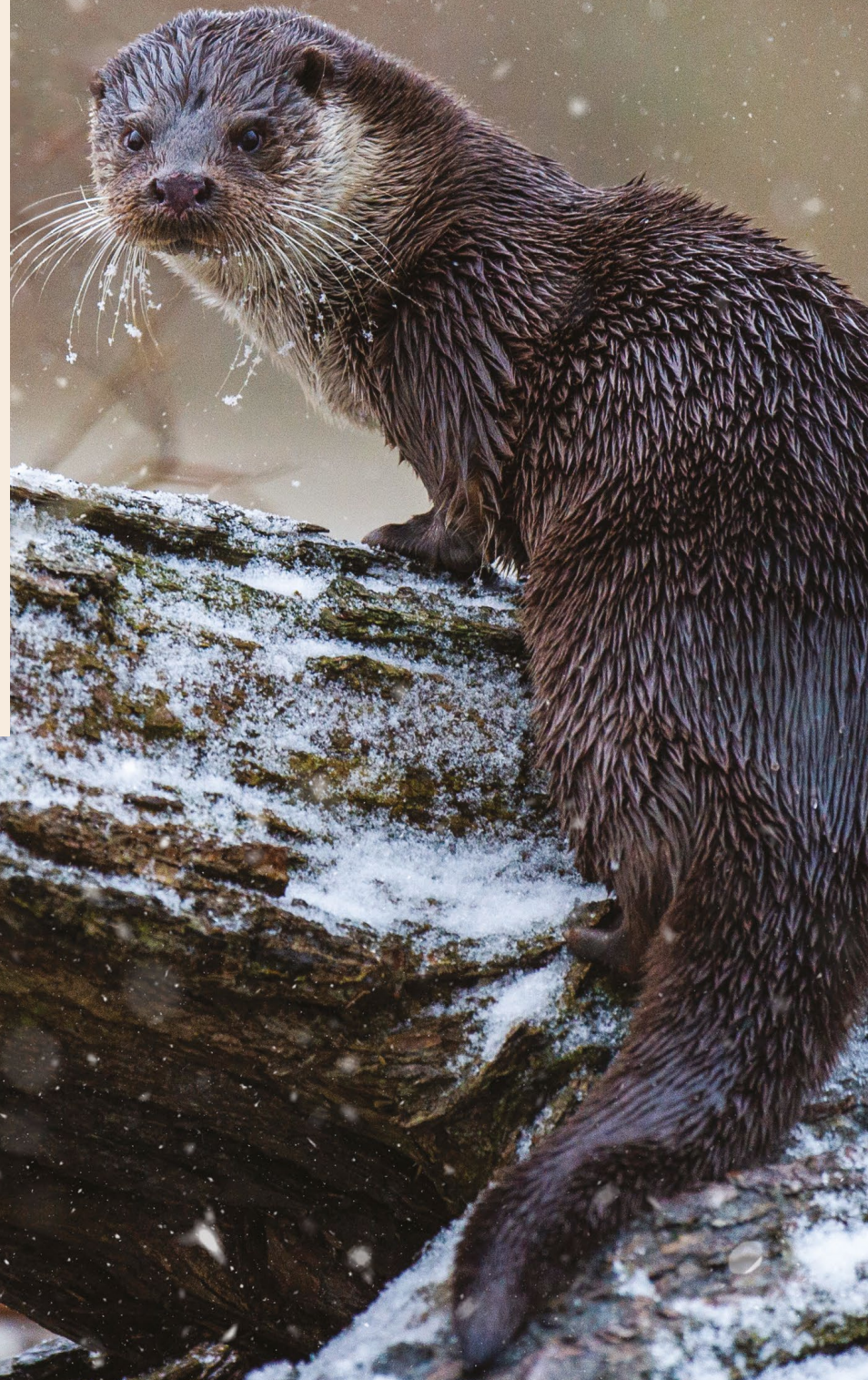
Five-year otter survey

The latest five-year otter survey carried out by our conservation team and the Cambridgeshire Mammal Group shows their numbers are bouncing back along our riverbanks.

The survey saw 50 volunteer surveyors visiting nearly 300 sites - mainly under road bridges crossing watercourses - to look for signs of otters, often in the form of their spraint (droppings).

After low numbers in the early '90s the results show there is now a relatively stable population with otter signs on all main watercourses over the last 10 years. In the future we are hoping to work with the Wellcome Trust on DNA analysis of spraint to give a more accurate insight into population size and the territory size of an individual otter.

The survey is growing in profile with regional BBC news, local radio and newspaper coverage.



Otter in snow by William Parkinson, WTBCN Photo competition 2021 finalist

Wilder Future report

The Wilder Future report - an in-depth 88-page document celebrating conservation across our three counties - was launched in March at an event at Cambridge University Museum of Zoology.

The report shines a spotlight on rare, endangered or unusual species and habitats across our reserves and other wild places and looks at some of the work we have carried out over the years to protect them, from the tansy beetle in Cambridgeshire and the birdlife of the Nene Valley to the variety of elm species in our area and the stoneworts of the Fens.

Monitoring and Research Manager Josh Hellon said: "There's so much to shout about in this region; people talk to us daily about amazing species and places, and while we have had all this in our heads to date it's not been collated in a publication before."



Read the report in full at wildlifebcn.org/wilder-future-report

Measuring our carbon

We, along with the wider Wildlife Trust movement, have committed to a goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The main priority is to reduce our avoidable emissions and our dependency on fossil fuels. We have been taking an evidence-led approach to understand our emissions across all our operations, including fleet transport, energy, staff travel, commuting and water.

We now have a carbon reduction strategy and annual action plan in place, have started the transition away from petrol fuelled tools and equipment to renewable powered ones and have set up a new sustainability hub to provide resources and guidance for staff.

Emissions from all our activities, excluding livestock*, were 189 tonnes of CO₂ in 2020-21, the most recent year we have analysed. Transport related emissions accounted for a significant proportion these emissions. In the future, we will be adding more categories and refining auditing so we build up a much more comprehensive picture of our overall footprint year on year.

This is dwarfed by abated emissions from the Great Fen, where we are safeguarding several hundreds of thousands of tonnes of carbon in the peat, equivalent to over 2 million tonnes of CO₂, according to experts at Cranfield University. If erosion had continued at the same rates as before we began restoring the land, this figure would instead show emissions over 300 times the Trust's annual CO₂ emissions.

Banking on butterflies

Last year we launched a pioneering project to experiment with new habitats for butterflies on two of our Bedfordshire reserves. The Banking on Butterflies project was launched with Cambridge University and supported by funding from the People's Postcode Lottery Nature-based Solutions Fund. A series of novel habitat structures was constructed on chalk grassland at Totternhoe and Pegsdon nature reserves in September as part of the ongoing study which will look at how banks can provide a range of microhabitats and microclimates to benefit a wide variety of species in our changing climate. Target species include the small blue and chalk hill blue butterflies. It is the first research of its kind looking at the effectiveness of bank design in mitigating the effects of climate change.



*There are currently no accepted methods for estimating emissions from pasture-fed traditional-breed stock.

MAJOR PROJECTS FOR THE FUTURE

Strawberry Hill

The purchase of a Bedfordshire farm which has been left to rewild for 25 years is set to be one of the most exciting land acquisitions in our Trust's history.

Surrounded by an intensively farmed landscape, the 150-hectare Strawberry Hill Farm is a unique opportunity for us to save a site rich in nature and create a wild visitor destination.

In the 1990s an enlightened farmer gave up sowing crops and turned his land over to nature. Strawberry Hill has now been transformed from arable fields to the largest area of scrub and young woodland in our region. A recent bird survey showed healthy populations of nightingales, willow warblers, whitethroats and garden warblers with habitat ideal for turtle doves. With a farmhouse, barns and outbuildings and ample land, the site is also an ideal location for a high-quality nature-based visitor attraction. There is room for a visitor centre, café, playscape, education facilities, offices for our staff and even a forest school training centre.

The site is at the geographical centre of our three counties and is less than an hour's drive from all the main urban areas we cover, creating an excellent opportunity for engaging with the public. Brian Eversham, Trust CEO, said: "We are hugely lucky to have the opportunity to purchase this site now. It is a remarkable opportunity for us to save some unique

habitat and create a place where people can be inspired by nature.

"It is rare to find somewhere which supports so many species, has potential to attract even more, and has space to create the visitor facilities we so desperately need if we are to reach new audiences and grow our membership and profile.

"I am very excited by the opportunity Strawberry Hill provides us and I am looking forward to creating something really special here in the coming months and years."

In order to give us time to raise the funds to purchase the freehold of the site, it has initially been bought, for us to manage, by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Julia Davies of We Have the Power with help from some generous philanthropic lenders.

We are extremely grateful to these philanthropic partners who have ensured the site is safe from being returned to intensive agriculture, giving us the time to raise the funds needed through grants and an appeal.

We will soon be embarking on a research and development project, engaging with local stakeholders and the community to ensure we create a site which attracts new audiences without impacting on the species present.

Peatland progress

Last year the National Heritage Lottery Fund announced an £8million Heritage Horizon Award to our Trust to help fund our visionary new project - Peatland Progress - which will tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and the anxieties of the next generation.

The grant, alongside our own fundraising and a generous legacy from Mr James Kemp, will help to buy Speechlys Farm, the jigsaw piece which will finally connect the two precious National Nature Reserves in the Great Fen in Cambridgeshire, achieving the underlying vision of the Great Fen Living Landscape. Species will soon be able to move from Woodwalton Fen in the south to Holme Fen in the north without leaving land owned or managed by the Wildlife Trust BCN.

We began Stage One of the project, the development period, this year. This involves all the landscape design and feasibility work as well as community consultation to gather local views and ideas. We will be raising match funding over the coming months to enable us to complete the purchase of the farm. Then next year the project will enter the delivery period following the submission of our Stage Two application to the Lottery.

Peatland Progress will see us turning the new land from brown to green and blue as we create wetlands which will benefit nature whilst locking carbon in the ground, and prevent the loss of peat soils. We will also scale up the pioneering work we have carried out during our People's Postcode Lottery funded Water Works

project. The wet farming, or paludiculture, trials have seen us planting crops such as sphagnum moss which tolerates a higher water table, and working with world leaders in Climate Change science to provide evidence that a change in the way we farm peatland landscapes like this can protect the soil and reduce CO² emissions. All this whilst providing habitat for wetland birds, insects and other species.

The public engagement side of Peatland Progress will see us working with youth groups to explore how nature and the outdoors can help address mental health issues like anxiety. We will also be connecting even more with local communities. At New Decoy Farm we will be creating a new visitor-friendly landscape as well as unveiling a Mobile Inspiration Hub - a "tiny house" made from sustainable materials derived from wet farming crops. This can be used in the Fen or out and about visiting local communities, businesses, farmers and landowners to spread the word.

Kate Carver, Great Fen Project Manager, said: "Peatland Progress is going to be a hugely exciting adventure for our Trust and for the local community. Bringing together the challenges of creating wetland habitat, influencing future farming practices, tackling mental health issues and creating wild spaces for people makes this one of the most important upcoming conservation projects in the UK. We are extremely grateful to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and all the partners, local residents, farmers and volunteers who are helping to make this a reality."



Strawberry Hill Farm



Great Fen

FINANCE

Total income: £7,136,862

£2,405,227

Donations, legacies and corporate sponsorship

We are hugely grateful to all those individual and organisations who have given to fund our work over the past year. We remember with gratitude our generous supporters from whom we received a gift in their Will.

£1,488,170

Membership (and Gift Aid)

Our members and corporate members not only provide substantial unrestricted funds that can be used where the need is greatest, they also give strength to our voice when advocating and campaigning for wildlife.

£696,230

Grants

The grants we are awarded each year are vital to ensure some of our most important projects can continue. Competition for grants is always high so we are thankful for the belief and support of the trusts who have given over the past year.

£558,557

Rural Payments Agency

Payments made by DEFRA for the environmental stewardship and management of land.

£1,006,488

Land advice, advocacy and management contracts

Income resulting from partnerships with land owners such as councils and property developers where an improvement for wildlife can be obtained.

£982,190

Business activities

Income from products and services we sell – including from our Nene Wetlands visitor centre and online shop – land rents, and event fees charged and other activities helping to create a sustainable income.

Total expenditure: £5,837,955

£2,623,323

Nature reserve management

With over 100 nature reserves in our care, we continue to spend the majority of our income on maintaining and improving these precious habitats for wildlife.

£1,393,708

Conservation outside our reserves

Key to building strong Living Landscapes and to creating a Nature Recovery Network, this work encompasses our advocacy and advice for land managers, work on our waterways and partnership projects.

£1,122,317

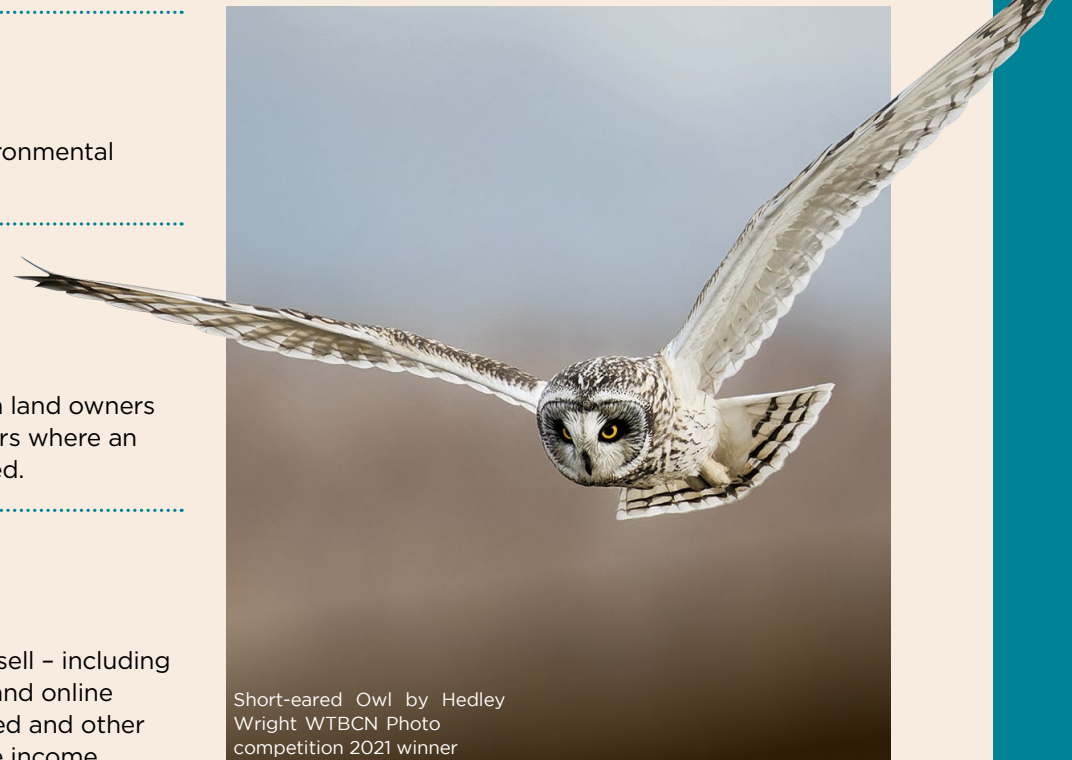
Fundraising & Income Generation

Costs invested in generating financial support.

£698,607

Education and community engagement

Inspiring a love of nature is central to our mission. People will not protect what they do not love.



Short-eared Owl by Hedley Wright WTBCN Photo competition 2021 winner

SUPPORTING OUR WORK

We are very proud to be associated with some of our region's most sustainable and forward-thinking businesses, and exceptionally grateful for their ongoing support for our work.

Thanks to all those that have supported us, including:

Corporate Partners

Arm Ltd, Ewing Associates, Fujifilm UK Ltd, Prologis UK Ltd, Warner's

Corporate Investors

Anglian Water Services, The Biodiversity Consultancy, Cambridge University Press, Colpac Ltd, Henderson & Taylor, HCR Hewitsons, Scott Bader, Scudamore's Punting Co Ltd, UK Power Networks, Unilever Research Colworth,

Corporate Supporters

Alpro Soya, Athene Communications, Cambridge Econometrics Ltd, Cambridge Steiner School, Cambridge Water Company, Campkins Cameras, Center Parcs Woburn Forest, Cranfield University, Dawson Wam, Dojima Sake Brewery, Downing College Cambridge, Eastern Tree Surgery, Granta Park, Greens of Soham Ltd, Holidaycottages.co.uk, Hunts Wildlife Landscapes, Jesus College Cambridge, Jordans-Dorset-Ryvita, Kier WSP, The Marshall Group of Companies, Perkins Engines Co Ltd, Richard Buxton Environmental & Public Law, RWE Generation UK, South Cambs District Council, Spendlove Contracting, Tarmac, University of Northampton, Welcome Genome Campus, Whittlebury Park

Funders

We are grateful to be supported by a large number of funders, trusts and grant making organisations who have given money for a wide range of projects in the past year.

Anglian Water Flourishing Environment Fund, Cambridge Conservation Initiative, Cambridge Water Company PEBBLE Fund, Christopher H R Reeves Charitable Trust, Constance Travis Charitable Trust, DEFRA, Douglas Compton James Charitable Trust, Dovehouse Trust, D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust D S Smith Charitable Foundation, Environment Agency, Eric Stanton (Northampton) Trust, Forestry Commission, Gamlingay Community Turbine Ltd Tithe Fund, IBC Employees' Charity Fund, Jack Patston Charitable Trust, John Lewis Community Matters, Linder Foundation, Maud Elkington Charitable Trust, Mrs B L Robinson's Charitable Trust, National Highways, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Natural England, Nenescape Landscape Partnership Scheme, Penchant Foundation, People's Postcode Lottery, Restore Our Planet, Robin and Henrietta Woods Charitable Trust, St Mary's Charity, Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund, Veolia Environmental Trust, Wild Flower Society, William Haddon Charitable Trust, Wixamtree Trust.

Legacies

Legacies are a vital part of the funding we receive to continue our work at the Trust. We are grateful to all those who have included gifts in their Will, no matter how large or small.

Money left to us in legacies has supported a wide range of work over the past year from purchasing vital equipment, publishing key scientific reports and buying land. One such gift came from wildlife lover and long-time supporter Hubert Bean. His gift allowed us to extend our reserve at Kings Wood in Bedfordshire.

The wood is nationally important but had been split up and sold off in small blocks in the 1960s, leading to inconsistent management. The site was later declared a National Nature Reserve and we have been working with partners to bring the whole site into proper management for wildlife.

Mr Bean's legacy ensured we were able to act quickly and purchase the land adjacent to our reserve when it came up for sale.

We remember with gratitude all our generous supporters from whom we received a gift in their Will during this year, in particular:

- Janetta Smith
- Gerd Browne
- Gigi Crompton
- Peter Cain
- James Kemp
- Mary Shirville
- Ronald Selbourne
- Doris Martell
- David Good
- Peter Warner

Highlights in numbers

2,000

trees planted by volunteers at a new woodland near Cambridge as part of the Cambridge Nature Network

50

staff and volunteers out surveying as part of our five-year otter survey in January and February

250

metres of wooden boardwalk installed at Flitwick Moor reserve in Bedfordshire thanks to three grants

44

elm tree microspecies recorded in our three counties as detailed in our *Wilder Future* report

350

photos submitted for our 2021 photo competition

3,006

new members recruited to our Trust

1,579

active volunteers registered across our three counties



Wildlife Trust for
**Beds, Cambs
& Northants**

wildlifebcn.org



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Company Registration No 2534145 (England and Wales)
Registered Charity No. 1000412