



30x30 nature recovery projects by The Wildlife Trusts

What is 30x30?

Two years ago, The Wildlife Trusts launched a vision to put nature into recovery across at least 30% of the UK's land and sea by 2030, starting an appeal to raise £30 million to begin the work.

The Wildlife Trusts' 30x30 campaign takes its lead from The UN [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (CBD). This is an agreement between countries based on natural and biological resources, which has proposed that at least 30% of the world's land and seas should be protected to prevent the destruction of the planet's biodiversity.

The UK Government has since adopted the 30x30 target, though has made slow progress and believes that far more land is protected for nature than is the reality. A [report on the progress of 30x30](#) this year revealed that only 3.22% of England's land and less than 8% of England's seas are effectively protected and managed for nature. There is a long way to go to achieve 30x30 and The Wildlife Trusts are leading the way.

The Wildlife Trusts' 30 by 30 projects include:

- **Pentwyn – Radnorshire Wildlife Trust**
Purchased in October 2021, using private loan finance, Pentwyn in the Welsh uplands will be transformed into a humming, buzzing and chirruping oasis where the calls of threatened birds can be heard once more. It lies beside other wild land so there is good potential to help wildlife thrive again across a wider area by expanding and connecting wild habitat.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUFtc5JqBF4
- **Archers Green – Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust**
A 20-acre site near to Welwyn Garden City that contains rare habitats including chalk streams and grasslands. It is home not to water voles, the UK's fastest declining mammal, and important pollinators on which entire ecosystems depend.
www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/archersgreen
- **Strawberry Hill – Beds, Cambs and Northants Wildlife Trust**
150 hectares of rewilded land at Knotting Green, Bedfordshire and the largest area of scrub and young woodland in the region. In the 1990s a farmer gave up sowing crops and turned his land over to nature. Thanks to private loan finance, the site has now been acquired by BCN Wildlife Trust.
www.wildlifebcn.org/news/exciting-opportunities-strawberry-hill
- **Wild Woodbury – Dorset Wildlife Trust: In 2021**, Dorset Wildlife Trust acquired 170 hectares of land in 2021 for a large-scale community rewilding project near Bere Regis. Plans include rewilding 150 hectares of the land including 11 hectares of naturally regenerated woodland and 30 hectares of new wetland. Rewilding and rewetting the site will help create a wilder Dorset with cleaner water, carbon storage and new habitats for wildlife.
https://youtu.be/igUr93Mq_5Y

- **Martlesham Wilds – Suffolk Wildlife Trust**

A new, 289-acre acquisition on the edge of the River Deben. The site home to a wonderful array of plants, animals and invertebrates. Suffolk Wildlife Trust will establish thickets of hawthorn, blackthorn, gorse and wild rose, supporting growing flocks of linnets and yellowhammers. Dartford warblers will move in and in time, hopefully turtle dove and nightingale will return.

<https://youtu.be/hOB0QFdrdIM>

- **Gun Moor Meadow – Staffordshire Wildlife Trust**

Acquiring this new area of upland is an exciting chance to extend Gun Moor Nature Reserve. Situated north of Leek, Gun Moor offers fantastic views of The Roaches and is already home to endangered upland bird species like snipe and redpoll.

<https://youtu.be/Yx7TktuAOVg>

- **Helman Tor – Cornwall Wildlife Trust**

When a rare opportunity came along to protect 97 acres of land neighbouring their Helman Tor nature reserve, Cornwall Wildlife Trust quickly moved to secure the site. Expanding Helman Tor is laying the foundations for the largest nature recovery project in Cornwall. Many rare and valuable plant communities thrive here, and wildlife lovers will spot all manner of butterflies, dragonflies, birds, mammals and reptiles.

<https://youtu.be/VW86W5xqsiM>

- **Honeygar – Somerset Wildlife Trust**

Somerset Wildlife Trust is letting nature get to work on this former dairy farm at the heart of the Somerset Levels by re-wetting drained peat soils to lock-up carbon, allowing nature to take over and 'wild' the 87-hectare site (214 acres) which backs onto the River Brue. The emphasis is on restoring natural processes and seeing what comes, but the expectation is that over time it will become a new wetland with abundant wildlife including lapwing, snipe, skylarks, egrets and otters.

<https://youtu.be/M4mbeB0egvA>

- **Pewley Down Fields – Surrey Wildlife Trust**

Pewley Down Fields was saved for people and nature by rapid community action to buy this rare chalk grassland; home to nesting skylarks, chalk hill blue butterflies, bumblebees, wild thyme and orchids. An extraordinary community bid, from Surrey Wildlife Trust, a generous benefactor and public donations, raised over a million pounds in just three weeks.

<https://youtu.be/OluNpt2KEcc>

- **Pencnwc Mawr Wood – The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales**

Pencnwc Mawr Wood is a rare surviving remnant of the Welsh temperate rainforest, scarcer even than tropical rainforests. Its lush broadleaved trees are home to breeding hazel dormice, barbastelle bats, both classed as vulnerable to extinction, and butterflies in woodland glades. The Celtic rainforest once stretched along the western uplands and into deep Welsh river valleys.

- **Great North Bog – Yorkshire Wildlife Trust**

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is working with counterparts in Cumbria, Durham, Lancashire and Northumberland to restore a gigantic swathe of peat bog across the north of England. The Great North Bog project aims to put over 4,000 hectares of upland peatland under

restoration management, with estimated annual savings in carbon emissions of at least 8,590 tonnes of carbon dioxide per hectare, per year.

- **West Chevington – Northumberland Wildlife Trust**

Northumberland Wildlife Trust has purchased a 327-hectare piece of land at Druridge Bay as part of its bigger plans for a wilder Northumberland. The site is a former opencast coalmine and will showcase how nature can recover in this manufactured landscape.

- **Astonbury Wood – Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust**

Swathes of spring bluebells, ancient oaks, autumn fungi and bird song make Astonbury Wood a cherished haven for wildlife and people. Close to Stevenage, the wood is home to bats, badgers, and the greater spotted woodpecker. A successful local petition to the wood's owner, Hertfordshire County Council, enabled Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust to become the preferred buyer when it came on the market. It took just five weeks for Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust to raise the money to buy a long-term lease and secure the future of this irreplaceable ancient woodland.

- **Peatland Progress – Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust**

Peatland Progress is a pioneering project tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and the climate anxieties of the next generation head-on. It aims to complete a vast sustainable, working wet fen landscape, rich in wildlife; to develop climate change science, and to put the fens at the heart of local prosperity and wellbeing.

- **Dropping Well Farm – Worcestershire Wildlife Trust**

Dropping Well Farm is the missing link that connects four surrounding nature reserves; a bigger, better and more joined up landscape for nature will allow endangered wildlife to spread out and thrive. Heathland-loving plants thrive in poor quality soil, so restoration plans for this year focus on removing nutrients, including planting flower rich field margins with a 'bumble-bird' mix for insects in summer and bird seed during winter, improving soil health and water infiltration.

- **Expanding Emmett Hill nature reserve – Wiltshire Wildlife Trust**

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust bought 44 acres of land at Upper Minety, in the north of the county to quadruple the size of its existing nature reserve at Emmett Hill. The site, with its wildflower hay meadows, provides vital habitat for one of Europe's rarest butterflies, the marsh fritillary. Blue devil's-bit scabious, the preferred food of marsh fritillary caterpillars, was introduced to the new site, with plant plugs and seed from freshly cut hay from another nature reserve where devil's bit scabious thrives. This is the first step in supporting the butterfly's long-term recovery.