

4



FORTY  
YEARS OF  
PROTECTING  
URBAN  
WILDLIFE

# Impact Report

2019-2020



# 19/20 IN NUMBERS



**Reserves we manage**



**34**

**sites assessed for protection as Local Wildlife Sites through the planning system**

**51**

**Planning applications were responded to, of which 21 were refused or improved to protect local wildlife**



**98**

**Number of outreach visits we carried out to schools, colleges and care homes**

**240**

**species recorded on our nature reserves**



**655** **Volunteers contributed over 11,300 hours**



# We've been busy bees



YEAR 2 NATURAL PROSPECTS TRAINEES



VOLUNTEERS LITTER PICKING

## Planning Applications

Our work to monitor and comment on planning applications is critical not only in protecting wildlife sites, but also in making sure that new developments include good quality habitats and provide for wildlife. In 19-20 we responded to **51** planning applications, **21** of which were refused or improved for wildlife in line with our advice.

## Salmon in the Stour

We have continued our Salmon in the Stour project with partners the Environment Agency, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and Severn Rivers Trust. The project aims to improve the River Stour and its tributaries for wildlife and people by removing barriers to fish, naturalising modified channels, addressing pollution and enhancing bankside habitats.

## Natural Rivers & Green Corridors

Natural Rivers and Green Corridors is a three-year project to deliver a landscape-scale approach to green and blue infrastructure improvements in Birmingham. It involves activities to restore and enhance habitats and improve ecological connectivity within public open space corridors of the upper River Rea sub-catchment in south-west Birmingham and along the River Tame corridor in west Birmingham. The project is a partnership involving Birmingham City Council, the Environment Agency and the Wildlife Trust. The Trust's role is to undertake woodland and watercourse enhancements through the planting of locally native woodland wildflowers, to undertake woodland thinning works and to plant wetland vegetation.

## Natural Prospects

A total of **13** trainees have now embarked on new environmental careers through the Natural Prospects training programme and a further **7** trainees joined us for the second year of the programme.

## EcoRecord

**240** species were recorded on our Nature Reserves during last year. This is based on the records on our database, but there are probably quite a few records that we haven't entered yet! **This includes:**

True Flies	63
Bees, Wasps, Ants, Sawflies	39
Birds	29
Beetles	21
Butterflies	17

## Volunteering

We had a huge increase in new volunteer registrations in 19-20 from office-based volunteers, fundraisers and practical conservation volunteers. **655** people volunteered over **11,000** hours!





CHILDREN LITTER PICKING

### Schools & Community Groups

We worked with **42** schools, helping them to get **7,271** children learning outside the classroom. **4,500** people attended our walks, talks and family activities and we delivered programmes to **56** community groups to bring people closer to nature

### Providing advice to others

We advised 93 land managers on an area of land covering a total of 1,010 hectares and an additional 20 kilometres of watercourse. Over 750 hectares of this land and all of the watercourse length are designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) or Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINCs).



HAY STREWING AT ALL SAINTS PARK WINSON GREEN

### Landscape-scale nature conservation

The Trust manages **7** nature reserves and **2** education centres for wildlife, with over **200,000** visitors benefitting from contact with nature in 19-20. Working with an army of dedicated and skilled volunteers we

manage and enhance habitats including woodlands, meadows, hedgerows and ponds. We are working towards the creation of a local Nature Recovery Map and Strategy which will enable us and our partners to increase the extent and quality of natural habitats.

### Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation supports the Trust to deliver biodiversity improvement projects in areas of public open space across Birmingham and the Black Country. In 19/20 **45** biodiversity projects were delivered which included meadow creation, woodland enhancement, river restoration and hedgerow planting. Thanks to funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation we were also able to purchase a bespoke otter mascot which was a great addition to our events and fundraising activities.



BUCKET COLLECTION AT NEW STREET STATION



# 19/20 SUCCESSES & HIGHLIGHTS



## Deer's Leap Wood

In 19-20 the Trust secured funding to undertake restoration of the main pond and further restoration of the Shireland Brook. Tree works and clearance of historic tipping was also undertaken. The Deer's Leap Wood volunteers have continued to attend our Friday volunteer days, and continue to work with the Friends of Deer's Leap Wood and the Deer's Leap Residents Association. Together they carry out important work such as maintaining paths, weeding the newly planted hedgerows, cutting the meadows and clearing rubbish from the brook.



## My Wild Day of Action

Thanks to the Neighbourly platform we received £3000 in funding from TK Maxx and Home Sense to deliver 6 My Wild Day of Action events across Birmingham and the Black Country from May to August 2019. The events were aimed to encourage local communities to volunteer by supporting a range of conservation activities. 238 people attended these events and we collected 37 bags of litter as well as taking part in educational and practical activities such as pond dipping, path clearance and amphibian surveying. 11 of the attendees also joined us as a member as a result of the events too!





## Natural Rivers and Green Corridors

Natural Rivers and Green Corridors is a three-year project delivering a landscape-scale approach to green and blue infrastructure improvements in Birmingham and Sandwell. Habitats are being restored and ecological connectivity improved in the upper River Rea sub-catchment and along the

River Tame corridor. The project is a partnership involving Birmingham City Council, the Environment Agency and the Wildlife Trust.



# Ecological Evaluation of the Black Country Green Belt

In the next 20 years the urban area of the Black Country is due to expand at a rate not seen since the middle of the 20th century. Studies commissioned by the local planning authorities have concluded that in the period up to 2038 new land must be found for over 71,000 homes, whilst an additional 870 hectares will be required for employment land. Due to be adopted in 2024, the Black Country Plan will allocate the land needed to meet these targets, and this will include parts of the Green Belt previously protected from development.

In 2019 the Wildlife Trust and EcoRecord were commissioned by the local authorities to produce an Ecological Evaluation of the Black Country Green Belt as evidence to inform the Draft Plan land allocations. This extensive assessment demonstrated that large parts of the Green Belt is of high ecological value, meaning that poorly planned and placed developments here would be seriously damaging to wildlife and wild places.

The local authorities are holding an 8 week public consultation on the Draft Plan in summer 2021, where they will be asking members of the public and other stakeholders to comment on the draft policies and proposed land allocations. The Wildlife Trust's Ecological Evaluation of the Black Country Green Belt provides everyone with the information they need to have their say and influence what the future Black Country will be like for wildlife and people.

Information on the Black Country Plan process, the evidence (including the Ecological Evaluation of the Black Country Green Belt) and details of the public consultation can be found at <https://blackcountryplan.dudley.gov.uk/t2/>

### What we want from the Black Country Plan:

- A Nature Recovery map and strategy to be produced to help bring about nature's recovery
- The adoption of a natural capital approach to strategic land use, maximising the benefits of green space and nature to people
- Regeneration of town centres as desirable and vibrant residential areas, reducing pressure for new developments elsewhere
- Full account to be taken of the evidence provided for the Green Belt review, with only sites of low ecological value considered for new development
- Strong environmental policies implemented across the whole Black Country
- Sites to be released in stages to avoid allocating land for development that may later be found to be unnecessary
- Recognition of the value that brownfield sites can have for wildlife and people
- A commitment to meet the 10% biodiversity net gain target for all new developments in accordance with the draft Environment Bill
- Some of the profits from new developments invested in creating new wildlife-rich green spaces
- All designated Local Wildlife Sites to be protected from development





## Esmée Fairbairn Funding

The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation supports the Trust to deliver biodiversity improvement projects in areas of public open space across Birmingham and the Black Country. Much of this work is undertaken with dedicated volunteers without which the projects would not be possible. In 19/20 we delivered 45 biodiversity projects which included meadow creation, woodland enhancement, river restoration and hedgerow planting. Hundreds of volunteers donated their time to make these projects happen.





# Poly Roger

Last Summer, environmental charity 'Hubbub' donated the Poly Roger to the Trust, after 138 of our volunteers showed how useful it would be as we collected 28 bags of litter in just six days. One of only three such boats made from recycled single-use plastic, the punt can carry 12 people and is powered by a rechargeable electric motor, making it an impressively sustainable boat.

The Poly Roger starred in an episode of Springwatch featuring the exciting discovery of otters using the canal network in central Birmingham.

Skipper Jake Williams is now charting a new course through our local canal network, taking schools, community groups and volunteers on wildlife tours and plastic fishing trips that help clean up our waterways, whilst showcasing and protecting the vibrant nature and wildlife found there.





# We couldn't have done it without **you**



In our Autumn magazine we shared our highlights and successes from 2019-2020 but we couldn't have done it without the support of our members, volunteers, donors, fundraisers, funders, business supporters and partners.

A great big thank you to everyone who helped protect, restore and create wild spaces across Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton – you are all **wildlife heroes!**

## Community Groups

- Christ Church Quinton
- Deers Leap Residents Association
- Friends of Deer's Leap Wood
- Friends of Fibbersley Nature Reserve
- Friends of Hill Hook
- Friends of Manor Park
- Friends of Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood
- Friends of Rowley Hills
- South Birmingham Members Group
- Tettenhall & District Horticultural Society
- Transition Stoubridge

## Funders

- Awards for All
- Children in Need
- Dudley Council Innovation Fund
- Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
- European Regional Development Fund
- The Environment Agency
- Making Connections Walsall
- National Express Foundation
- National Heritage Lottery Fund
- People's Postcode Lottery
- Reaching Communities
- Roughley Charitable Trust
- Saintbury Charitable Trust
- Tesco Bags of Help
- The Community and Environment Fund of High Speed 2
- The Joyce Farley Foundation
- TKMaxx and HomeSense
- Veolia
- Waitrose Wolverhampton

## Wild Work days

- AECOM
- Balfour Beatty
- Bullring and Grand Central
- CDK Global
- EDF Energy
- National Grid
- Price Waterhouse Cooper
- Siemens PLC
- TA Cook
- Tandem Property

## Wild Wellbeing Day

- University of Birmingham

## Pro Bono Support

- Giants and Titans
- Gowlings LLP
- Sadler's Brewery

## Royalties

- Nick Groves
- Vine House Farm

## Business Members

- SCC International (Silver)
- Tata Consultancy Services (Silver)
- Wienerberger (Bronze)

## Charity Partners

- Hogan Lovells





# We couldn't have done it without **you**



## Partners

- The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts
- Birmingham City Council
- Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
- City of Wolverhampton Council
- Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
- Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
- Mayor of Dudley
- Natural England
- National Grid
- Black Country Global UNESCO Geopark
- South Staffs Water
- Highways England
- Sustainability West Midlands
- Sanctus Limited

- University of Wolverhampton
- University College Birmingham
- Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce
- Riverside House
- Warley Woods Community Trust
- City of Birmingham Orienteering Club
- Martineau Gardens
- Birmingham Museums Trust
- The Community Environment Trust
- Midlands Arts Centre
- Hubhub
- Greener Birmingham
- Wildlife Fundraising Central
- ENTRESS

## Donation Box Venues

- Quinton Chippy
- Allegro Lounge, Northfield
- Baked in Tettenhall
- Bantock Park Tea Room
- Cakebox, Kings Heath
- Connaught Vets, Kingswinford
- Daffodilly's Florist, Bournville
- Eco Maniax, Stourbridge
- Goose at Selly Oak
- IDP Group, Coventry
- Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge
- Kings Heath Pet Centre
- Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath
- Paul's Florist, West Bromwich

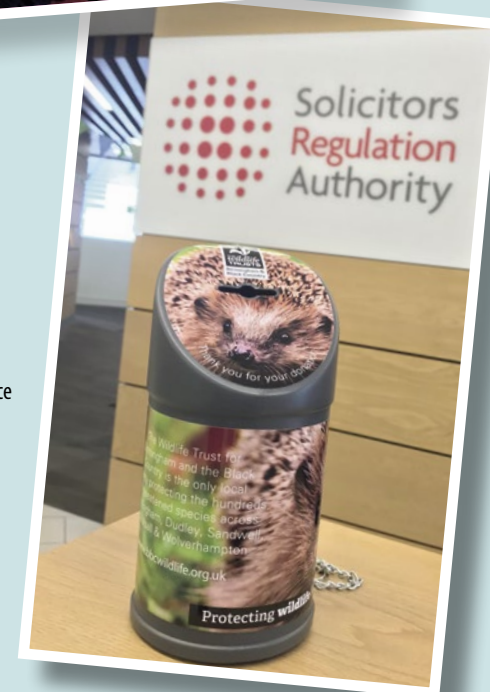
- Powis & Partners, Stourbridge
- SCC International, Birmingham
- The British Oak Pub, Bournville
- The Chapel House, Gornal
- The Dark Horse, Moseley
- The Fellows, Dudley
- The Greenery, Kings Norton
- The Hop and Scotch, Kings Heath
- The Patrick Kavanagh, Moseley
- Toby Carvery, Kings Norton
- West Park Tea Room
- Wisteria Hair, Woodsetton

## Major Donors

- David Green

## Prize Draw Donors

- Arena Hair, Amblecote
- Everyman Cinema
- Hilton Garden Inn Brindley Place
- Mockingbird Cinema
- The Bear Grylls Adventure
- Vine House Farm Bird Food





## Income and expenditure for year ending 31st March 2020

	2020	2019
<b>Income</b>		
Membership, Donations, Legacy	457,838	252,640
Other Income	6,407	9,040
Charitable Activities	1,035,238	716,381
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>1,499,483</b>	<b>978,061</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Conservation, Engagement & Influence	863,364	706,134
Raising Funds	37,234	40,142
Overheads	111,205	122,349
Governance	13,797	9,894
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>1,025,600</b>	<b>878,519</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>473,883</b>	<b>99,542</b>
<b>Total Funds brought forward</b>	<b>663,218</b>	<b>563,676</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIE FORWARD</b>	<b>1,137,101</b>	<b>663,218</b>

### Full accounts can be downloaded from:

**Companies House:** [gov.uk/government/organisations/companies-house](http://gov.uk/government/organisations/companies-house)  
**Charity Commission:** [gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission](http://gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission)  
**The Trust website:** [bbcwildlife.org.uk/about/publications](http://bbcwildlife.org.uk/about/publications)

## Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2020

	2020	2019
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>139,432</b>	<b>159,309</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors	512,547	150,863
Cash at bank and in hand.	671,651	539,840
	<b>1,184,198</b>	<b>690,703</b>
Less creditors amounts falling due in less than one year.	186,529	178,876
Net Current Assets	997,669	511,827
Total Assets less Current liabilities	1,137,101	671,136
Less creditors amounts falling due in more than one year.	0	7,918
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,137,101</b>	<b>663,218</b>
<b>Funds represented by</b>		
Restricted Funds	255,851	165,964
Unrestricted Funds - Revaluation Funds	59,239	59,239
Unrestricted Funds - Designated Funds	323,550	159,759
Unrestricted Funds - General Funds	498,461	278,256
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>1,137,101</b>	<b>663,218</b>







**The Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust**  
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Registered charity number 513615

Website [bbcwildlife.org.uk](http://bbcwildlife.org.uk)  
[facebook.com/WTBBC](https://facebook.com/WTBBC)  
[twitter.com/WTBBC](https://twitter.com/WTBBC)  
[youtube.com/BBCWildlifeTrust](https://youtube.com/BBCWildlifeTrust)



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