



Sheffield &
Rotherham

Kingfisher



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Sheffield's nature?
- A feast of wildlife to
see on our reserves
- A highway for
hedgehogs

Issue 97 Summer 2018

For nature, for everyone

How you
can help...

Read the *Sheffield State of Nature* report

Download your copy at
[wildsheffield.com/
stateofnature](http://wildsheffield.com/stateofnature)

Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust

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Find out more
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Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust is registered as a charity no. 700638 and company no. 2287928. *Kingfisher* is edited by Jane Campbell and Nick Howard, designed by Ink & Water and printed by Northend Creative Print Solutions on FSC® mixed credit paper.

If you have any comments or suggestions for future issues, you are welcome to write to the editors at the Trust's postal address, or by emailing kingfisher@wildsheffield.com. If you do not wish to receive *Kingfisher* magazine in the future, please let us know by emailing mail@wildsheffield.com, calling 0114 263 4335, or writing to us at Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust, 37 Stafford Road, Sheffield, S2 2SF.

Front cover image: common blue at Centenary Riverside by Pete Quinn

Back cover image: badger by Bertie Gregory/2020VISION



A big thank you to all
our partners and funders:



Sheffield Town Trust



Building communities. Transforming lives.





The fantastic weather has made for a great time to be out and about enjoying our local wildlife. On my recent travels around Sheffield and Rotherham, I've had some great 'nature moments'. This includes seeing two lapwing (were they breeding?) standing

on a patch of rough ground below the M1 Tinsley viaduct, a beautiful grey wagtail feeding an iridescent blue damselfly to its three hungry chicks along the canal and the beautiful song of the blackcap in our Trust garden here at Victoria Hall. Nature on our doorstep – literally.

And hundreds of people have been sharing their nature moments and celebrating nature with us throughout June as part of The Wildlife Trusts' 30 Days Wild campaign. We've had some great stories and pics from our local patch – thank you if you were one of more than 1,000 people that took part locally.

And on the subject of our very local wildlife, if you haven't already heard of our *Sheffield State of Nature 2018* report, or couldn't attend the launch, then please turn to page 4 to find out more. The report provides an invaluable snapshot as to how our wildlife is faring in Sheffield (sorry, we haven't got to Rotherham – yet!). It was written as a catalyst for action – to take forward joint conservation plans for important species and habitats across the district – and we will be working on this with partners over the coming months.

Looking ahead, I really hope you can make our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 20th September. We have a great speaker booked in Patrick Barkham, author of *Badgerlands* and a *Guardian* journalist. I felt he would be particularly appropriate this year as we have just heard about the roll out of the badger cull in South Yorkshire's 'TB hotspots'. Please see our website for the latest information.

And another date for your diary – as part of 'Our Moors' campaign, I will be speaking at Hen Harrier Day in Sheffield on Saturday 4th August at Devonshire Green. Again, more information to follow on our website – do come along if you can, it would be great to see you there.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support, without which none of the above would be possible,

Liz Ballard
Chief Executive

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Just good business



What next for Sheffield's nature?

How the *Sheffield State of Nature* report can help one of England's greenest cities provide a better future for wildlife.



Holding the report (left to right): Nicky Rivers, Sara Blackburn, Angela Smith MP, Liz Ballard and Paul Richards.

In 2013, the UK's *State of Nature* report painted a bleak picture for our wildlife: in all, 56% of nearly 4,000 species assessed had declined since 1970. In April, Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust's Nature Counts partnership project published its own report - the first of its kind for Sheffield or any of Britain's major cities - to assess how Sheffield's own wildlife and wild spaces are faring.

Supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and in collaboration with a number of partner organisations and stakeholders, the *Sheffield State of Nature 2018* report draws together data and research on the city's habitats and species, along with case studies and conservation success stories, highlighting threats to local wildlife and making key recommendations to help drive positive conservation efforts throughout Sheffield.

The report's findings, summarised on the page opposite, showcase the impressive array of natural habitats that Sheffield boasts, and highlight those which are particularly under threat. The report celebrates the successes of species like pied flycatcher, nuthatch and other woodland

birds, whilst pinpointing species on the decline, including farmland bird species.

Producing the report has been a powerful incubator for collaboration, both between the Nature Counts partners themselves - Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust, Sheffield City Council Ecology Unit, Museums Sheffield (Weston Park Museum), the University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University, Sorby Natural History Society and Sheffield Bird Study Group - and the thousands of organisations, volunteers and participants who have helped collect the data used in the report.

"Having worked on the Nature Counts project for two years, including producing the *Sheffield State of Nature* report, it's clear that many individuals and organisations in Sheffield work tirelessly to build a better future for the wildlife and wild spaces we all love," said Sara Blackburn, Nature Counts Project Coordinator and Editor & Lead Author of the report.

"There's also a huge appetite for citizen science in Sheffield. The Nature Counts project saw nearly 500 people help us map the distribution of hedgehogs across the city and more than 20 dedicated people help us collect over 120 field signs of otter along 24km of the river Don.

Download
the report

[wildsheffield.com/
stateofnature](http://wildsheffield.com/stateofnature)

Ringinglow Moss by Pete Quinn

Key findings:

Over **1/3** of Sheffield is covered by sites that are designated (i.e. protected to some extent), with the amount positively managed or in a favourable condition for wildlife consistently increasing. **Over 100** Local Wildlife Sites, however, are still in need of better management.

An impressive **16%** of Sheffield is wooded, far higher than the UK average of **10%**, and **over 90%** of Sheffield's residents have access to a large area of woodland within 4km of their home.

Sheffield's woodland birds are doing well but farmland birds represent **4 of the 5** most severe declines in local bird species, mirroring a national trend.

26 out of Sheffield's **31** fish species have recolonised or been reintroduced to the city's rivers and otters have returned to the Don, thanks to tireless efforts to improve its water quality.

"Despite these efforts, local threats to wildlife, such as invasive species, remain and there's still lots we don't know about Sheffield's natural environment. The challenge now is supporting people to record, monitor and protect Sheffield's key species and habitats, and to promote the active conservation of wildlife for future generations."

The report also highlights gaps that exist amongst the wealth of information, especially with regard to long-term change, and champions targeted conservation plans for key species as well as the citywide mapping of core wildlife sites.

Nature Counts Project Manager Nicky Rivers says that the Trust is already improving data collection for its reserves, to feed into the city's wider biological records. "The Nature Counts partnership project enabled us to carry out surveys on seven of our reserves, and put together our first annual nature reserves monitoring programme. Thanks to our new Data for Nature project funded by a Heritage Lottery Fund Resilience grant, we can now build this into a more in-depth, longer-term monitoring programme."

There are also gaps in the landscape itself: 'habitat fragmentation' is a phrase that appears frequently in the report. It highlights a pressing need to make room in our city for wildlife. The report suggests that our gardens, drainage systems, roofs and forgotten corners can all be harnessed to make room for wildlife to roam - and here everyone can take action: for example planners can protect priority brownfield sites, developers can implement hedgehog highways (see page 12), and everyone can make their garden a little bit more wild.

People need their wild spaces too, and the report also highlights the importance of wild places in the day-to-day lives of local people. Over half of Sheffield residents have access to a woodland within a mere 500 metres of their home. These woodlands - which include much-loved local spots like Ecclesall Woods and Moss Valley Woodlands - make up over 60 per cent of the area's Local Wildlife Sites, places which are locally important for wildlife. Yet worryingly, more than 100 Local Wildlife Sites in the area are not under positive conservation management, and these very same places have just seen their protection under planning policy removed under the new draft National Planning Policy Framework. Sheffield has already lost five Local Wildlife Sites through habitat loss since 2011 alone, so there is clearly a pressing need to do more to safeguard this valuable urban resource.

"Understanding the state of nature in our towns and cities is critical ... It is our responsibility to make sure we pass on to future generations an ecosystem that is diverse and vibrant."

**Angela Smith,
MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge**

This is a challenge that Angela Smith, MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge, underlined when she launched the *Sheffield State of Nature* report in April:

"It is surprising just how important cities are for nature, especially a city such as Sheffield where a third of it nestles in a national park and its urban areas butt right up to rural landscapes.

"It is also well documented that contact with nature brings with it a whole range of benefits to human wellbeing, both in terms of physical and mental health. It was therefore pleasing to see this report from Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust identifying where the city is doing well and more importantly where it's not doing so well.

"Understanding the state of nature in our towns and cities is critical not least because it can inform decision making, whether that be how we manage our own gardens, our farmland or our rivers. While the report is only a snapshot it will allow us to plan that future. We must also remember we are but custodians of this land. It is our responsibility to make sure we pass on to future generations an ecosystem that is diverse and vibrant and this report will help do just that."

With over 50 environmental groups active in the area, Sheffield has an incredible history of everyday active environmental science. If conservation organisations can harness this strength and work with the support of landowners, decision-makers, academics, wildlife groups and residents to implement the report's recommendations, we can all aim with confidence towards a landscape that is truly rich and resilient, and that people and wildlife can rely on for many years to come.

Spread the word!

Share *Kingfisher* with a friend

Comma at Centenary Riverside by Pete Quinn

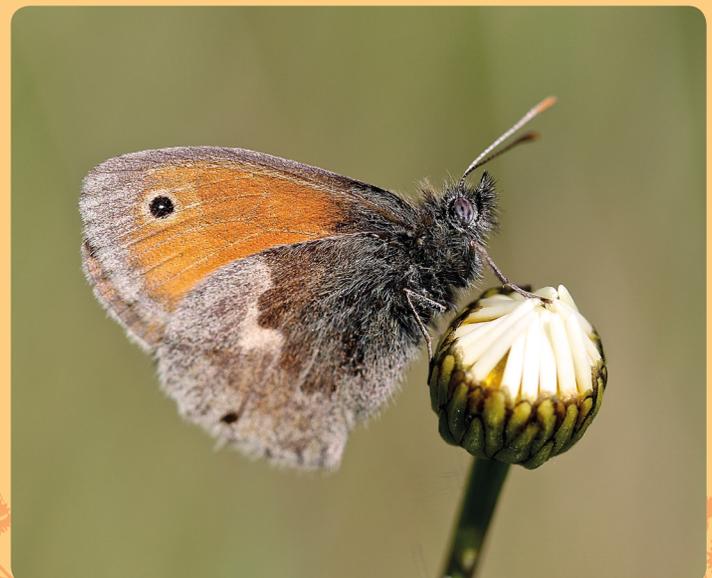
A feast of wildlife to get you all aflutter

Our meadows, woods and riverbanks are buzzing with life at this time of year, and thanks to the recently published *Sheffield State of Nature* report (see pages 4-5) we have a better picture of the incredible conservation work that has helped our wildlife thrive across the region - work that has helped Sheffield's population of pied flycatcher increase by over 300 per cent since 1975, and allowed 26 out of 31 fish species to recolonise the Don.

One of the Trust's own good news stories has been the butterfly population at **Centenary Riverside** nature reserve. Last year 23 different species of butterfly were recorded at the reserve, including the common blue (pictured on *Kingfisher's* front cover), small copper, brown argus and dingy skipper.

Considering the size of this small wetland reserve and the fact that there are only 59 species of butterfly in the whole of the UK, this is an impressive line-up. Alongside the kestrels, grass snakes, and damselflies, this makes the reserve - which was only created in 2009 - a true haven for wildlife, and wildlife photographers!

Despite these notable successes, however, there is still a pressing need to do more to help our most vulnerable habitats and species to thrive across the region, as the *Sheffield State of Nature* report shows. We are already rising to this challenge on our reserves, developing targeted conservation plans to help locally threatened and indicator species which mirror the health of the surrounding ecosystem.



Top: small copper by Rob Miller
Bottom: small heath by Rob Miller



Willow tit by Harry Hogg

Action for nature

23 species of butterfly recorded

300m of hedgerow laid

1 hectare of invasive holly cut back

400m of stream cleared

One such species, whose decline is highlighted by the report, is the willow tit. Now lost from the centre of the Sheffield region altogether, the species has suffered a 47% decrease in the area since the mid-1970s and is now the fastest declining bird in the UK.

The Rivelin Valley is one of the tit's last strongholds in the area, and over the last five years we have been working to encourage more breeding pairs to colonise our Fox Hagg nature reserve in the valley. Willow tits shun nest boxes and prefer instead to hollow out the trunk of old, rotten trees - so our task was to create more standing deadwood on the reserve. As with much of our work, this was only achievable with great patience over a number of years.

The work has been led by Fox Hagg Reserve Manager Rob Miller, who is a particular fan of this little bird. "The willow tit is a wonderful character," he said. "We know there are two nesting pairs in the Rivelin Valley, and we identified the damp woodland of Fox Hagg nature reserve as one of the best potential sites to develop habitat favourable to the willow tit."

"Next year we hope that the standing deadwood we have created will have rotted enough to allow them to excavate nesting holes. We will be monitoring the site in 2019 to see if the birds like what they find!"

Bluebells are another much-loved feature of our countryside and an ancient woodland indicator species which is under threat - and back in 2017 we raised awareness of this through our True Bluebells campaign. Since then we have been taking a targeted approach at Moss Valley Woodlands to help bluebells and other woodland ground flora to thrive through our Saving Moss Valley's Bluebells project. You may remember from the Winter 2017 issue of *Kingfisher* that the site's stunning bluebell displays, which are amongst the best in the country, were under threat from invasive holly. Thanks to a generous grant from Veolia Environmental Trust, we have been able to carry out a baseline phase one habitat survey and run monthly volunteer work days at the site. Together, our dedicated party of volunteers, our Wildscapes crew and specialist contractors managed to remove a hectare of invasive holly and - with the help of the Don Catchment Rivers Trust - clear more than 400 metres of the most botanically diverse stretch of the Moss Brook, which runs through the reserve. As well as bluebells, woodland edge species like stitchwort and wood anemone and the marginal marsh marigold, which is found in the Brook, will benefit from this work in the years to come.

Another iconic species, the hedgehog, has

seen a well-documented decline in populations of 30% over the last 10 years. In the Winter 2016 issue of *Kingfisher* we launched the Nature Counts Hedgehog Hero appeal, which resulted in you reporting over 350 sightings of our local hedgehogs. Your actions inspired us to improve the habitat at our Carbrook Ravine nature reserve for these much-loved mammals. Again, the generous folk at Veolia Environmental Trust stepped in to help. We carried out hedgehog surveys (pictured below) which identified the presence of hedgehogs at key points on the reserve and restored 300 metres of traditional laid hedgerow to provide them with their own 'hedgehog highways'. The site's walkways and bridge were improved to encourage visitors to use paths and protect the hedgehogs' foraging habitats, and improved 'hog-friendly' fencing was introduced at entrances to allow them free access whilst reducing unwelcome motorised visitors to the site.

These projects are small but vital steps towards a landscape which abounds with wildlife for us all to enjoy for years to come - but more is needed to secure this future. Our Head of Conservation, Roy Mosley, emphasises that more targeted habitat restoration on a wider scale is the next step:

"We're delighted to be able to take such positive steps for some of our most vulnerable species. As with much of our work, it will take time and collaboration with other landowners to see results. If we want our wildlife to thrive and our most vulnerable species to recover, we need to develop a city-wide approach which sees conservation organisations working with developers, planners and members of the public to map and care for a true network for nature across the region."



Surveying for hedgehogs at Carbrook Ravine

July

Saturday 7th

Black Moor Work Day
Stony Ridge car park, S11 7TW
10am - 3pm

Monday 9th

Centenary Riverside Work Day
Riverside Way, S60 1DS
10am - 3pm

Sunday 15th

Wyming Brook & Fox Hagg Work Day
Meeting point varies
10am - 3pm

Thursday 19th

Blacka Moor Work Day
Stony Ridge car park, S11 7TW
10am - 3pm

Friday 20th

Woodhouse Washlands Work Day
Furnace Lane entrance, S13 9XB
10am - 3pm

Wednesday 25th

Sunnybank Work Day
Broomhall Place entrance, S10 2DG
10am - 12noon

Thursday 26th

Greno Woods Wild Play
Woodhead Road car park, S35 8RS
10am - 12noon

Friday 27th

Greno Woods Work Day
Woodhead Road car park, S35 8RS
10am - 3pm

Tuesday 31st

Ecclesall Woods Wild Play
Woodland Discovery Centre
10am - 12noon & 1 - 3pm

August

Wednesday 1st

Ecclesall Woods Wild Play
Woodland Discovery Centre
10am - 12noon

Thursday 2nd

Moss Valley Woodlands Work Day
Meet Hazlehurst Lane layby, S8 8BG
10am - 3pm

Thursday 2nd

Greno Woods Wild Play
Woodhead Road car park, S35 8RS
10am - 12noon

Saturday 4th

Blacka Moor Work Day
Stony Ridge car park, S11 7TW
10am - 3pm

Monday 6th

Crabtree Ponds Work Day
Crabtree Close, S5 7BJ
10am - 12.30pm

Tuesday 7th

Ecclesall Woods Wild Play
Woodland Discovery Centre
10am - 12noon & 1 - 3pm

Tuesday 7th

Wyming Brook & Fox Hagg Work Day
Meeting point varies
10am - 3pm

Wednesday 8th

Ecclesall Woods Wild Play
Woodland Discovery Centre
10am - 12noon

Thursday 9th

Greno Woods Wild Play
Woodhead Road car park, S35 8RS
10am - 12noon

Monday 13th

Centenary Riverside Work Day
Riverside Way, S60 1DS
10am - 3pm

Tuesday 14th

Ecclesall Woods Wild Play
Woodland Discovery Centre
10am - 12noon & 1 - 3pm

Wednesday 15th

Ecclesall Woods Wild Play
Woodland Discovery Centre
10am - 12noon

Thursday 16th

Blacka Moor Work Day
Stony Ridge car park, S11 7TW
10am - 3pm



Thursday 16th

Greno Woods Wild Play
Woodhead Road car park, S35 8RS
10am - 12noon

Friday 17th

Woodhouse Washlands Work Day
Furnace Lane entrance, S13 9XB
10am - 3pm

Tuesday 21st

Ecclesall Woods Wild Play
Woodland Discovery Centre
10am - 12noon & 1 - 3pm

Wednesday 22nd

Ecclesall Woods Wild Play
Woodland Discovery Centre
10am - 12noon

Event Key:

Venues or times vary or to be confirmed - check website & contact us Online booking essential



Thursday 23rd

Greno Woods Wild Play 🌸
Woodhead Road car park, S35 8RS
10am - 12noon

Tuesday 28th

Ecclesall Woods Wild Play 🌸
Woodland Discovery Centre
10 - 12noon & 1 - 3pm

Wednesday 29th

Ecclesall Woods Wild Play 🌸
Woodland Discovery Centre
10am - 12noon

Wednesday 29th

Sunnybank Work Day
Broomhall Place, S10 2DG
10am - 12noon

Thursday 30th

Greno Woods Wild Play 🌸
Woodhead Road car park, S35 8RS
10am - 12noon

Friday 31st

Greno Woods Work Day
Woodhead Road car park, S35 8RS
10am - 3pm

September**Saturday 1st**

Blacka Moor Work Day
Stony Ridge car park, S11 7TW
10am - 3pm

Monday 3rd

Crabtree Ponds Work Day
Crabtree Close, S5 7BJ
10am - 12.30pm

Thursday 6th**Dragonfly Walk at Woodhouse Washlands**

Join us for a walk led by Sorby Natural History Society, British Dragonfly Society and Museums Sheffield, and help us identify the damselflies and dragonflies that might be found there. Meet at the Furnace Lane Entrance, S13 9XB
11am - 1pm

**Tuesday 4th**

Wyming Brook & Fox Hagg Work Day 🍷
Meeting point varies
10am - 3pm

Thursday 6th

Moss Valley Woodlands Work Day
Meet Hazlehurst Lane layby, S8 8BG
10am - 3pm

Monday 10th

Centenary Riverside Work Day
Riverside Way, S60 1DS
10am - 3pm

Sunday 16th

Wyming Brook & Fox Hagg Work Day 🍷
Meeting point varies
10am - 3pm

Thursday 20th

Blacka Moor Work Day
Stony Ridge car park, S11 7TW
10am - 3pm

Friday 21st

Woodhouse Washlands Work Day 🍷
Furnace Lane entrance, S13 9XB
10am - 3pm

Saturday 22nd

Blacka Moor User Forum 🍷
Stony Ridge car park, S11 7TW
10am - 12noon

Wednesday 26th

Sunnybank Work Day
Broomhall Place entrance, S10 2DG
10am - 12noon

Thursday 27th

Woodhouse Washlands User Forum
Furnace Lane entrance, S13 9XB
6 - 7.30pm

Friday 28th

Greno Woods Work Day
Woodhead Road car park, S35 8RS
10am - 3pm

October

Prepare to be spooked!

**Tuesday 30th**

Ecclesall Woods Spooky Wild Play 🌸
Woodland Discovery Centre
10am - 12noon & 1 - 3pm

Wednesday 31st

Ecclesall Woods Spooky Wild Play 🌸
Woodland Discovery Centre
10am - 12noon

#StayWild

Share your sightings!

**Find out more...**

For more information about all our events, including exact meeting points, please visit wildsheffield.com/whats-on or call 0114 263 4335. You can also find out about events by subscribing to our e-newsletter - just email mail@wildsheffield.com



Sheffield & Rotherham

Better connected, naturally

After a year of working with minority groups in Rotherham, our Natural Neighbours project is starting to see communities become actively involved in their local green spaces.

The project's Boys Club, which gives 8-13 year old Roma boys in Eastwood Village, Rotherham, the skills to become Young Rangers and help to care for their local park, took part in the Big Clean-up of Eastwood for Keep Britain Tidy. This fantastic event saw a seven ton skip being filled by over 60 volunteers from all areas of the local community - what a result! The project has also been selected as one of three nationwide pilots to trial a set of Slovak-English bilingual wildlife identification cards with local Roma families in community centres and schools from July to September.

In partnership with the British Red Cross, a mixed group of North African, Iranian, Iraqi and Kurdish refugees and asylum seekers have participated in Closer to Nature walks in green spaces around the Elim Christian Centre, including Centenary Riverside nature reserve. These walks give people a chance to learn conversational English whilst identifying plants and animals in the area, and have been a huge boost to participants.

July sees the start of year two of Natural Neighbours, with family-friendly drop-in activities over the summer holidays at Boston Park and Winterhills to introduce surrounding communities to the Natural Neighbours project. We hope to continue supporting the voices of local communities and these summer sessions are the first step towards finding enthusiastic local people to help us steer the project in these new areas.



Wild at Heart

743 nature-based activity sessions with **6800+** attendances over 5 years
1700+ people reported being more active as a result

Project evaluation carried out by the University of Sheffield's School of Health and Related Research

For nature, for everyone



Wild and well at heart

"I won't remember coming here for very long - the photographs help me."

These simple but poignant words come from Cicely, a woman who lives with dementia. They are just one of many heartfelt expressions of appreciation from thousands of older people who have gained confidence and started to enjoy life again through the Trust's Wild at Heart project over the last five years. Wild at Heart has helped Cicely access activities that she found meaningful and enjoyable - despite the dementia, she still enjoys learning and helping others.

Nigel, another participant, also has a very complex health history. He has several serious long-term conditions but he has really enjoyed being a part of Wild at Heart and even says that the project has saved his life. Nigel is in his 60s and is still working part time. Nevertheless, he manages to fit Wild at Heart into his week and comes to the sessions regularly, often several times a week. The Wild at Heart team has discussed his health conditions with him and worked out the best way of adapting the sessions to accommodate his needs.



Watch

Wild at Heart participants talk about their experiences at wildsheffield.com/wildatheart

Another participant, Margaret, faces a different challenge: she loves to be active both mentally and physically but finds life as the sole carer of a very elderly parent difficult. Joining the Wild at Heart group has reconnected her with all the things she loves doing and has helped her cope with the everyday challenges of caring.

“I’m really pleased that Wild at Heart exists. I’m pleased that it is funded by the lottery and I hope they continue to fund it... as long as I am able to get there I will be going.”

What is Wild at Heart?

According to the NHS, people over the age of 65 ‘account for the highest activity and spend’ across primary, secondary and social care. The five-year, Big Lottery-funded Wild at Heart project was born as a solution to this problem – conceived on the back of research that points to regular physical activity, social experiences and the natural world as forces for good in the fight against ill health and a loss of independence.

Over that time, the Wild at Heart team has carefully developed a programme of tailored wildlife-related activities for older people and other vulnerable and isolated adults in Sheffield and Rotherham that will improve their health and wellbeing, reduce isolation and give them the confidence to get out and about in their community. The project uses a hobby-based approach to give people opportunities to try new things and gain the confidence to continue on their own or with family or friends.

Free Exploring Wetlands experiences and more - to get schools into the wild



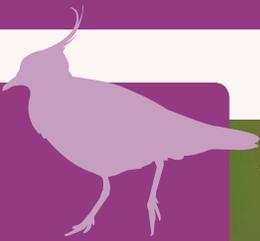
It’s the season for learning outside and Sheffield’s teachers have been rising to the challenge, thanks to the support of the Sheffield Teach Wild Network.

The network, which helps schools do more great outdoor learning, was launched on the back of Natural England evidence that 90% of teachers believe outdoor learning improves children’s engagement in the classroom. To help inspire teachers, the network recently released a video featuring Prince Edward Primary School, Yewlands Academy and Grenoside Primary teachers talking about their own experiences of outdoor learning.

Students from Meadowhead School have also got out in the wild, exploring the role of wetlands in natural flood management through the Trust’s free Exploring Wetlands experience. Teachers can find out more about opportunities like this, as well as outdoor learning news and resources, through the Sheffield Teach Wild Network e-newsletter, which is championed and hosted by Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust, supported by Learn Sheffield and made possible by players of People’s Postcode Lottery.

Sign up for the latest news, resources and tips from the Teach Wild Network at wildsheffield.com/teachwildnetwork

Watch the video and find out more about the opportunities available at wildsheffield.com/outdoorlearningwhatsnew



News in Brief

Thousands stand up against stink pits

You might have heard about the huge surge of support for our petition to ban stink pits, a keystone of our Our Moors campaign to end wildlife persecution and intensive moorland management practices on our uplands. Stink pits are areas filled with rotting carcasses and strewn with snares targeting species such as foxes, but which frequently capture non-target species like mountain hares too. With the population of mountain hares in severe decline on our Sheffield moors, we have called into question this particularly detrimental method, and more broadly the current approach to managing the Sheffield moors. Thanks to the 3,000+ of you who have signed this petition so far - please keep spreading the word as we continue to push for a better future for our moorland wildlife.

Badger cull extension? No thank you

We'd also like to thank everyone who responded to the recent government consultation on proposals to extend the badger cull to low risk areas, including South Yorkshire. Unfortunately we recently heard that the government decided to extend the cull, effectively making it a national programme. Find out more on our website.

Thanks for Acting Swiftly

In an unprecedented move, the government recently asked the public what they thought about the future of national farming policy and planning policy at the same time. Intensive farming and urban development have contributed massively to the decline of our wildlife in the past century, so these consultations, which will shape the rules that guide farming and planning, will both have a huge impact on our wildlife. Thank you to everyone who joined with us in responding: we will provide an update on developments as soon as we know more.

Look out for a more in-depth feature on our campaigning work in the next *Kingfisher*.

Why the long grass?

The verges on Sheffield's Europa Link will be looking a bit more natural and hopefully more colourful this summer. As part of our Living Highways project, we're helping Sheffield Business Park encourage wildflowers on the site - including the beautiful and uncommon bee orchid (pictured), ox-eye daisy, bird's foot trefoil, common cats-ear and cowslip. Wildflower-rich grasslands like these underwent a serious decline in the 20th century and most have been lost from Sheffield. The verges along Europa Link are the most biodiverse grass verges that have been found in the urban part of Sheffield, so we're hopeful for a fabulous display this summer!

Bee orchid by Chris Lawrence



Member's Voice: I'm running for a wilder landscape



Trust member Steve Rivers recently ran the ASDA Foundation Sheffield Half Marathon and raised an amazing £400 for the Trust. Afterwards, he told *Kingfisher* what had motivated him to do it.

"There is nothing quite like running over the rolling hills and through the ancient woods of Sheffield, and I want to be running in my seventies in the same landscape I see today. I know that Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust is working hard to make that happen, so I wanted to help.

"I decided to run the ASDA Foundation Sheffield Half Marathon, so I did it - and in under two hours! I was completely inspired by everyone on the day. It was a great experience and something I'm sure I will do again one day!"

A big thank you goes out to Steve for his fantastic effort! If this inspires you to raise money to support our work, please contact us at mail@wildsheffield.com

Hedgehog by Tom Marshall

Support our campaigns

Donate at wildsheffield.com/campaigns

A highway for hungry hogs

Summer is a critical season for our hedgehogs: they have a huge appetite for their size and rely on a steady supply of invertebrates at this time of year to fatten themselves up in order to survive hibernation.

A hedgehog can travel up to one kilometre in just one night on the hunt for food - often straightforward in open fields but more tricky when they have to move between gardens. New housing developments in particular, which carve up the hedgehog's brownfield habitat with impenetrable fences, are a particular risk to local populations.

This fragmentation of their habitat has had a huge impact on the UK's hedgehog population, which has plummeted to under a million over the last 10 years. As a result, our campaigns and planning team keeps a close eye out for planning applications which might make matters worse for our humble hog.

When we came across an application for 256 houses planned at Manor Boot, close to Manor Top, by Keepmoat Regeneration, we requested holes be put in the fencing to allow hedgehogs to roam and forage. We were absolutely delighted to find that, as a result of our request, the planning authority commissioned a 'hedgehog highway plan' and made the implementation of this plan a condition of the planning approval. We hope that when residents have moved in, some may be able to enjoy the odd nocturnal visitor to their gardens as a result!



The hedgehog highway plan for Manor Boot, developed by Ecus Environmental Consultants in partnership with Hedgehog Street.

Contact our campaigns team

-  @WildSheffield
-  Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust
-  Email us at takeaction@wildsheffield.com
-  wildsheffield.com/campaigns



Just good business

Volunteers by Peter Cairns

"We do good, because we are great" is the new social mantra for forward-thinking business leaders around the world. The trend in Sheffield and Rotherham, an area rich in both nature and industry, is no exception: environmental good practice is now as central to business success as sound financial management. Making a strong and visible investment in our area's moorlands, woodlands and waterways from the Rother to the Peak shows that a business is committed to tomorrow's customers and employees, and to the world it will share with them. A greener future is a powerfully attractive vision which businesses are increasingly aligning themselves with.

Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust works with businesses of all shapes and sizes, from sole traders to multinationals, and their support comes in many different forms too.

"Our partnership with Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust has helped increase environmental awareness amongst our partners and customers, as well as furthering the work of a very worthwhile local charity who, like us, are aiming to make a difference."

Nigel Stubleby, Northend Creative Print Solutions

Some organisations choose to show their commitment by running a fundraising activity with their staff and customers, or by donating goods or services. Often, retailers choose to offer our members a discount on products, whilst other companies have an environmental objective which can be delivered in partnership with us.

Some businesses choose to develop their relationship with us yet further and become corporate members, through a regular financial contribution. E.ON UK plc, for example, is a corporate member at diamond level, and also partners with us in education projects. Importantly, what unites us all is a common vision of a landscape rich in wildlife for everyone.

If you want to support our vision for a greener future for people in Sheffield and Rotherham, please contact our Fundraising Officer Chris Grice on c.grice@wildsheffield.com

"Yorkshire Water supports the Trust through our Biodiversity Enhancement Programme. As a result these wetlands, adjacent to several Yorkshire Water treatment works, now provide better homes for waterfowl, great crested newts, harvest mice and many other species. Our employees also volunteer their time and get hands-on with conservation work out on the reserves, and we are now a major partner in the new Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership, which is working towards a wilder and more resilient landscape for the Sheffield Lakeland area."

Ben Aston, Principal Ecologist



"It's exciting to be able to support Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust in their mission to protect the environment, having personally gained so much from outdoor spaces. From childhood memories of climbing on the gritstone moors and visiting Wyming Brook, to picking bilberries on Blacka Moor and exploring the Moss Valley, I continue to be enthralled by the diverse habitats on our doorstep."

Peter Moulam, PJ Taste

Sometimes it's the unexpected stuff that can really help. Our Nature Counts team needed black packaging boards to make hedgehog monitoring tunnels - and Andrew and Matthew Grant from Samuel Grant Packaging jumped at the chance to help. Their kind donation helped us record over 350 sightings of hedgehog in the area! You can see the tunnels in action on page 7.



"E.ON's Blackburn Meadows energy park plays an important role in sustainable energy generation for the Sheffield and Rotherham area, offsetting around 80,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide every year – the equivalent of taking more than 20,000 cars off the UK's roads. We enlisted the help of Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust's outdoor learning team to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable energy production. Thousands of schoolchildren experience their exciting learning experiences every year and I'm proud to see pupils learning about sustainable energy in a hands-on way right in the heart of our Blackburn Meadows site."

Luke Ellis, Blackburn Meadows Plant Manager, E.ON UK plc



Join us for a greener future

Supporting our work through corporate membership maximises the impact your contribution can have: membership subscriptions are 'unrestricted' income and allow us to pay for the thousand and one extra things that the Trust needs, from tools to telephones, seeds to sticking plasters.

There are four levels of corporate membership depending on the contribution the company wishes to make:

- **Diamond level £2000 + VAT per year**
- **Gold level £1000 + VAT per year**
- **Silver level £500 + VAT per year**
- **Bronze level £300 + VAT per year**

Contact our Fundraising Officer Chris Grice at c.grice@wildsheffield.com



Volunteer by Matthew Roberts

You're invited to our AGM

We would like to invite all members to attend our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 20th September from 6pm at 37 Stafford Road, Sheffield, S2 2SF. We are pleased to announce that our keynote speaker on the night will be *Guardian* journalist and author of *Badgerlands* Patrick Barkham.

The Badger: Hero or Villain?



The badger is in the news once again with the government's controversial cull expanding this autumn. Patrick Barkham will discuss the fascinating history of humans and badgers from *The Wind in the Willows* to the recent cull. Why are we always in conflict with our largest surviving carnivorous mammal? Why do we feel so sentimental about this great survivor? Is there

an alternative to culling that can solve the problem of bovine TB?

Patrick Barkham is an award-winning author and Natural History Writer for *The Guardian*. His first book, *The Butterfly Isles*, was shortlisted for the Royal Society of Literature Ondaatje prize. His second, *Badgerlands*, was hailed by Chris Packham as "a must read for all Britain's naturalists" and his third, *Coastlines*, was judged "an informative, enthusiastic and at times rapturous celebration of our shores" by Blake Morrison.

Critics have called his latest book, *Islander* (2017), "charming and attractive" (*The Spectator*), "a complete delight" (*Scotland on Sunday*) and "vibrant and full of fascinating detail" (*The Sunday Times*).

Patrick lives on the edge of the Broads in Norfolk with his family.

For more information and to book your place, visit wildsheffield.com/agm2018

Ever thought about becoming a Trustee?

Each year we seek new trustees to join our board of 13, bringing with them the skills and dedication needed so that we can continue to protect local wildlife and help people care for and connect with nature.

If you have a passion for wildlife and skills that could help govern the Trust, then we'd love to hear from you!

To find out more about becoming a trustee, including a role description, visit: wildsheffield.com/who-we-are/our-board-trustees



wildsheffield.com

For nature, for everyone