

Devon
Wildlife Trust



Devon's precious Nature Reserves need your help

DWT's Meshaw Moor reserve, photo: David Chamberlain

To enjoy our county's wonderful wildlife tomorrow, we need to protect it today



Restoring and maintaining Devon's most wildlife-rich landscapes, to protect our best-loved species for future generations, demands specialist knowledge - and a lot of resources.

Devon Wildlife Trust's 50 nature reserves provide homes for a staggering range of wildlife: butterflies and bats, dragonflies and dormice, wildflowers and wading birds. They also help to connect networks of green spaces across the county, enabling wildlife to spread and thrive in the wider countryside.

Behind the scenes our dedicated team is hard at work caring for these special places. It costs us more than £2,000 per day to keep up this work for wildlife. Will you help us?

DWT's Bystock Pools reserve, photo: Simon Williams

www.devonwildlifetrust.org



Creating wildlife superhighways

Devon's heathlands are being built on, smothered by invasive plants, and subjected to many other threats. As pockets of wildlife-rich land shrink and fragment, it gets ever-harder for animals to travel freely to feed and breed. With your help, we can further enhance our heathland reserves – places like Bystock Pools and Bovey Heathfield

– as havens for silver-studded blue butterflies, nightjars and other priority species. By maintaining heathland ponds for dragonflies and amphibians, and encouraging beautiful banks of bee-attracting heather, we can create habitat 'superhighways' to give our wildlife easier access to food and shelter.



Southern hawker dragonfly, photo: Neil Bygrave



Jackie Gage, Nature Reserves Officer

“Regular scrub clearance and gorse management take an enormous amount of time and effort. It’s not the most glamorous work, but it is absolutely essential in order to provide light open areas for colourful wildflowers, pollinating insects and basking lizards. With additional support, we can create more secure havens for some of our rarest species such as the fascinating narrow-headed ant (now only found at one site in the whole country, DWT’s Chudleigh Knighton Heath), and help them to spread into wider areas.”

Help us restore species-rich heathlands



Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future

Saving disappearing species

Our Meeth Quarry nature reserve is home to one of the UK's largest remaining populations of the rare wood white butterfly. While elsewhere its numbers have plummeted, at our large northern Devon reserve they have actually increased. This tremendous achievement has taken great skill and dedication from our staff and volunteers, but the butterfly's recovery here could be fragile. We need to secure additional support to guarantee the long-term resilience of Meeth Quarry, and to create new places for butterflies to flourish on our other nature reserves.



Wood white butterfly, photo: Kevin New



Louise Treneman, Wildlife Skills Trainee

“I started my training with Devon Wildlife Trust in 2017. Much of my time has been spent doing practical work alongside The Trust’s nature reserves team and local volunteers. Keeping our woodland glades and paths open to the sunlight takes constant time, effort and attention. But the hard work is worth it when I see butterflies flying between the reserves’ flourishing wildflowers.”

Help us build resilient nature reserves for vulnerable species

Putting more people in touch with nature



Wheatear, photo: Robin Morrison

Emsworthy Mire is one of the jewels of Dartmoor. Looking after its bluebells and cuckoos, wheatears and willow warblers, is our top priority. But helping visitors to connect with the natural world is also vitally important. We want more people to enjoy special sites like this, and be inspired by their wonderful wildlife. With additional funds we can create and maintain trails, boardwalks and bird hides, and provide clear signs and information to help people make the most of their visits.

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“Emsworthy Mire highlights Devon Wildlife Trust’s amazing knack of bringing people together. Local supporters donated land and money to create the reserve. I lost myself here for months, staking out access routes and habitat enhancements. DWT’s Nature Reserves Officers and fantastic volunteer group turned these ideas into reality, creating woodland paths and bog boardwalks, rebuilding walls and digging ponds. Exploring this once-impenetrable Dartmoor wilderness is still an adventure, one rewarded by the reserve’s abundant birds, bugs and wildflowers.”



*Andrew Taylor,
Volunteer Reserve Warden*

Help us
connect more people to wildlife



Helping our woodland wonders

Devon is now one of the UK's least wooded counties. This makes our woodland nature reserves (such as Halsdon on the River Torridge) particularly important as wildlife havens. Halsdon's woodland is home to nuthatches, tawny owls and great spotted woodpeckers, while its connecting hedgerows and open meadows host dormice and harvest mice. With additional support we hope to enhance all of these habitats; this will help mobile species like greater horseshoe bats by providing more flightpaths and richer feeding grounds.



Harvest mouse, photo: Paul Thrush



Ian Chadwick,
Nature Reserves Officer

“Every time I visit Halsdon nature reserve I see something new and exciting. Taking a long term approach to woodland management and sustaining a good mix of native tree species means that the reserve can absorb the effects of extreme weather events. This work also helps to limit the effects of disease, such as ash dieback. Creating open glades and rides, through traditional coppicing, enables free movement for wildlife, ensuring that our favourite small mammals can thrive year round.”

Help us manage woodlands
for our best-loved mammals



Managing water for wildlife

Over the last century the South West has lost many of its wetland landscapes. But at our South Efford Marsh nature reserve we're busy re-making one. By the clever use of a new sluice gate we're now able to control the amount of saltwater flowing in and out of the reserve. The result is the creation of a saltmarsh, with a network of channels and pools – the perfect feeding place for wetland wildlife. Otters, snipe, curlew and even spoonbills have all been seen this year. Your support can help us maintain this vital resource for nature into the future.



Otters, photo: Margaret Holland

“Over most of Devon, wildlife has to fit in with human needs - for food, shelter, energy and livelihoods. But our nature reserves are places where wildlife has priority. Here wildlife can breathe and flourish without having to compromise. Here too we can enjoy wildlife in peaceful natural surroundings. I love spending quiet times in nature reserves.

As Chair of Devon Wildlife Trust, I know that these special places are being well looked after and, with your support, they will remain secure refuges for wildlife, whatever the future brings!”



*Sue Goodfellow,
Devon Wildlife Trust volunteer and Chair of Trustees*



Caring for such extraordinary places takes money and time and is difficult to fund.

Please support the Devon Nature Reserves Fund

Your gift, no matter what size, will make a huge difference. It will be used to fund vital work on our nature reserves, wherever the need is greatest.

You can donate:

By Post

Complete and return the donation form attached to the enclosed letter.

Online

Visit www.devonwildlifetrust.org

By telephone

Please call 01392 260845
(lines are open Mon-Fri
9am-5pm)

Devon Wildlife Trust

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Registered Charity Number:
213224



It costs more than £2000 per day to manage our 50 Nature Reserves. Will you help us?

DWT's Lady's Wood reserve, photo: David Chamberlain