



A wilder Recovery

How to build back smarter,
stronger, greener



Introduction

Time for a nature-based economy

The economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of nature. That is why our economic recovery must boost nature's recovery

Wildlife and wild places have given us so much during the pandemic. People have found solace in the joy and beauty of the natural world like never before. But our impact continues to devastate the natural environment. Nature is now declining at a speed never previously seen. Without urgent action to reverse this, we risk bearing an unimaginable cost. The economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of nature. Its destruction has the power to erode our prosperity and undermine our ability to tackle

climate change, to produce food, to have enough water, and to remain healthy. What we choose to do next could change everything. This is our opportunity to forge an ambitious green recovery plan which recognises the role of nature in building back stronger – creating new green jobs, levelling-up local economies and securing the prosperity of future generations. But we're currently off track. The amount we spend on activities which damage nature still far outstrips our spending to restore it. Continuing with business as usual, investing in the

polluting infrastructure of the past and stripping back environmental protections in the planning system, will erode the very foundation on which our economy sits. Our recovery needs to invest in nature – kickstarted by an extra £1 billion per annum to ensure at

“We cannot afford to continue as normal. If action is delayed by just 10 years, the cost to society will double.”

least 30% of our land and sea is managed for nature by 2030. A truly green recovery means building an economy that works hand in hand with nature, securing a planning system that recognises our fundamental environmental limits and starts to bring wildlife back with a new designation to protect land where nature can recover – a Wildbelt. The Dasgupta Review shows we can no longer afford to continue as normal. If action is delayed by just 10 years, the cost to society will double. The time is now to step up and create a wilder future.



Craig Bennett
CEO, The Wildlife Trusts



Integrating nature with modern life has to become the default setting of our society

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Finding a new balance – on land and at sea



Chapter 1

The size of the task

35%
of species in England have suffered population decrease since 1970

1 in 8
Species in England are threatened with extinction from Great Britain

8%
of England protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest – our best sites for wildlife

£335m
UK Government spending on biodiversity in England for 2018/19

33%
decrease in Government spending on biodiversity in England over the previous 5 years

£3bn
a year needed to support farmers to restore nature and tackle climate change on their land

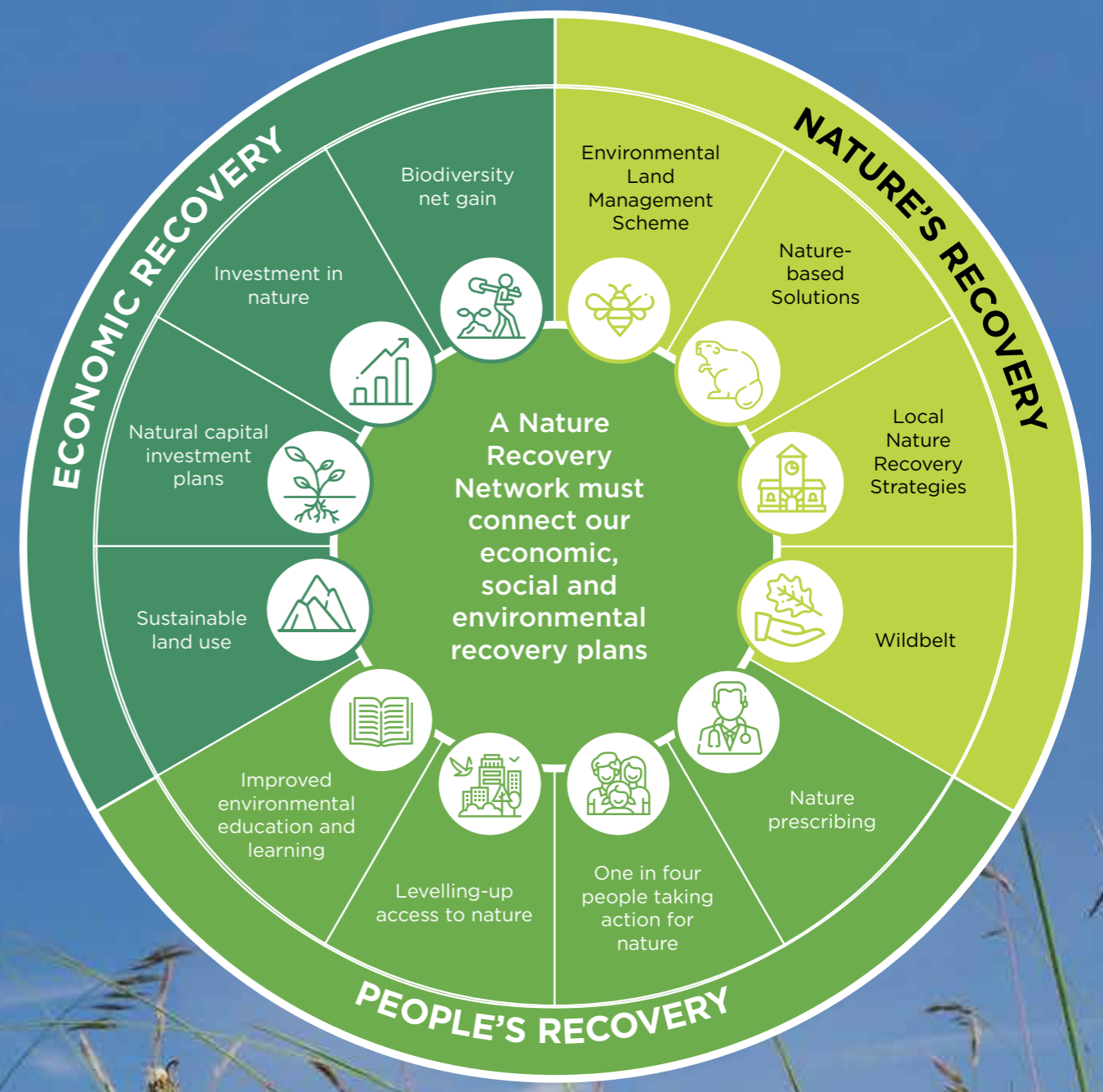
£1bn
UK Govt investment needed per year to help meet the 25 Year Environment Plan goals

Let's get nature into recovery

We can start to repair our economy, society and environment by putting 30% of our land and sea into recovery by 2030

People are part of nature – we depend on it and it depends on us. But for too long we have failed to recognise the critical role nature plays in our health, society and economy. As we recover from the Covid-19 crisis, we need to take a new and transformational approach that puts nature at the heart of a sustainable, green economy – and that starts with

managing at least 30% of our land and sea for nature by 2030. To deliver this, we need more investment in nature-based solutions, more nature prescribing, and more nature-positive planning. It means a Nature Recovery Network to join up initiatives to restore what we have lost, create more nature, and ensure we live within the means of the natural world.



What these terms mean

- Nature Recovery Network**
A national system of interlinked places that allows nature to recover and thrive across the country.
- Green prescribing**
GPs using contact with nature to improve patients' mental or physical health.
- Nature-based solutions**
Natural responses to challenges such as development, climate change, food and water security, and emergency risk management.
- Biodiversity net gain**
Ensuring developers' activities measurably improve the natural world.
- Environmental Land Management**
A new agricultural subsidy system based on 'public money for public goods' – e.g. for protecting soils to store carbon, or restoring uplands to hold water.
- Natural capital investment plans**
A plan setting out actions to achieve and maintain healthy natural assets.
- Wildbelt**
A new landscape designation to protect land being managed for nature's recovery.
- 1 in 4 people**
The Wildlife Trusts' ambition to get 1 in 4 of us taking action to support nature.
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies**
A new system of spatial strategies for nature in England, to help support a Nature Recovery Network.

Chapter 2

A restoration economy

Our economic recovery must be constructed around nature's recovery

We won't be able to rebuild the economy without also putting the environment into recovery. The Dasgupta Review into the economics of biodiversity highlights that nature has been exploited beyond breaking point for too long. Our failure to manage our most precious asset – natural capital – will have long-term economic costs.

We need a cohesive measure of economic success. One that recognises the critical inter-dependence of a successful economy and a healthy natural world.

There is a growing recognition of the importance of investing in our natural assets and the opportunities presented by a nature-based economy. Globally,

the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures will be a key driver for nature-positive innovation in finance.

Closer to home, the Government's 25 Year Plan for the Environment, the Clean Growth Strategy and the Industrial Strategy all acknowledge the need to consider our natural assets – but progress to act on these policies has been too slow.

“Recognising nature's value will increase resilience to economic and environmental shocks.”

Recognising nature's value in rebuilding the nation after Covid-19 will increase our resilience to future economic and environmental shocks. It will also provide opportunities for innovation and the new jobs and skills needed to tackle the climate crisis.

The Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund recognises the role local nature conservation projects have in creating and protecting jobs.

At The Wildlife Trusts we know what we need to do to support both nature and the economy. We have the experience and expertise to do the work. Now we must ensure that national recovery programmes are fit to recognise and deliver a zero carbon, nature-based economy.



Bees: an overlooked natural resource. But no pollinators = no crops

Surrey Hills Photography

What are natural assets?

Natural assets are what makes human life possible, such as soil, water, air and living creatures. These provide us with ecosystem services such as food, clean water, carbon storage and natural flood defences.

A green recovery must ensure our economy better protects and restores these precious assets before it is too late.

How peatland restoration is good business



Dried out by short-sighted agricultural policy in the 1950s-80s, degraded peatlands emit carbon, allow rapid rain run-off and erosion, and support almost no wildlife.

Once the drain channels are blocked the peat reverts to its natural state – with a complex, rough surface that slows and filters the flow of rainwater.



Sphagnum mosses thrive in the wet conditions, accumulating carbon from the air and laying it down as new peat. This process can continue for tens of thousands of years.



As wildlife returns, tourism benefits the local economy. Downstream, flooding is reduced, and water for households needs less treatment.



Peatland restoration by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust: the digger blocks the drains to allow the peat to re-wet



Surrey Wildlife Trust: case study

Invest in biodiversity!

Surrey Wildlife Trust has found a way to make the economy deliver nature's recovery

What is a river catchment worth? How much value should be placed on a woodland quietly existing?

Traditionally, our economic and planning systems have assigned zero worth to the habitats and species that clean our water, enrich our soil, pollinate our crops, soak up our carbon and buffer our climate.

Now, Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) has worked out a way to change that. The key is the forthcoming Environment Bill, that assigns a monetary value to 'units' of local biodiversity, and obliges local authorities to deliver nature's recovery.

"Using Defra's measures, we are setting up a company to identify the biodiversity units in a

current landscape, and the units it needs to recover," says SWT CEO Sarah Jane Chimbwandira. "In Holmesdale near Redhill, our first project area, development will result in a shortfall of 1,600 biodiversity units."

Defra's price for each unit allows developers to pay to offset the effects of their activities. "This is much easier for them, and ensures the recovery

"The company's profits can be used to set up and manage the new habitats, long term."

happens in the right place through the Nature Recovery Network," says Sarah Jane. "With our local expertise we can create a plan in a defined area."

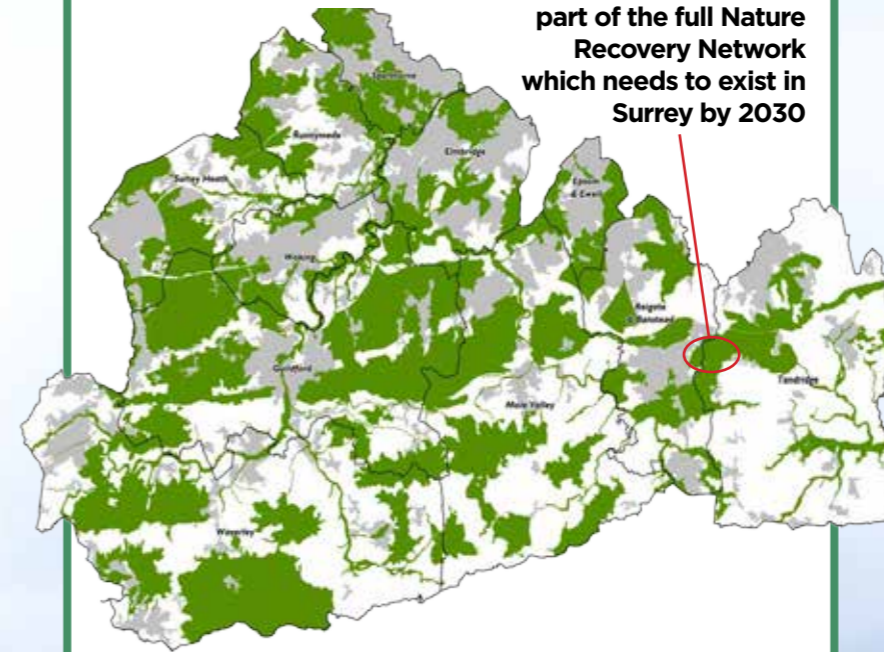
The company's profits can be used to set up and manage the new habitats long term. And anyone can deliver that management: SWT, a residents' group, or others.

"We are calling the project *Naturally Richer Holmesdale*. If we deliver 1,600 new biodiversity units from £3.5m, then over 60 years the ecosystem services will pay back around £70m. We can't say for sure, but it might produce 18 full time jobs."

That's in just one area of Surrey, five miles by two. Across the UK that's a lot of new green jobs.

Biodiversity opportunity areas in Surrey

Holmesdale is a small part of the full Nature Recovery Network which needs to exist in Surrey by 2030



Green areas show land which could be managed to restore nature and start providing ecosystem services again. Grey areas are urban.

"Continued investment in high-carbon infrastructure leaves us open to very real threats."



Richard Walker, MD, Iceland Foods; Defra Council for Sustainable Business member; TWT Ambassador

As a member of Defra's Council for Sustainable Business, I know that business leaders recognise the risks in trying to restart the old economy. Continued investment in high-carbon infrastructure leaves us open to the very real threats of the climate and ecological emergency.

We also see the economic opportunities in tackling climate change and reversing the decline in global biodiversity. My customers are concerned about their environmental impact and want to see change – less plastic, less food waste and products that use less of nature's resources.

Combining public and private investment in nature's recovery will deliver multiple benefits – helping to build a more resilient, low-carbon economy, and a healthier society.

A greener economy is a stronger economy. It is vital that all economic investment puts us on a path to winning the fight against the climate and nature emergency.

The Naturally Richer Holmesdale project area, with Redhill in the distance. The Environment Bill will assign value to its biodiversity

Chapter 3

A chance to build back better

Development doesn't have to destroy nature. It can help it recover.

Illustration: www.hilliard.design

KEEP WHAT'S THERE
Existing trees, water and meadows can be integrated with new developments. Water companies can adopt Sustainable Urban Drainage.

WILD PLAY AREAS
Large blocks of semi-natural space allow children to roam outdoors, vastly improving their mental and physical health.

PATHS FOR PEOPLE
All developments can include safe, attractive pedestrian and cycle routes with native, wildlife-friendly planting.

MULTI FUNCTION
Houses can be built to very high environmental standards. Roofs can be green or host solar panels; walls can incorporate roosts for bats, bees and swifts

LOCAL FOOD
New builds can facilitate local food production, with wildlife-permeable barriers between private and public open space.

During the pandemic people found solace in their gardens and local green spaces like never before. The Covid-19 crisis showed that the UK's housing challenge is not just about building new homes. It's about building places where people want to live and work, where they can lead happier, healthier lives. Changes to the planning system must help us plan nature's recovery – not come at the expense of the environment. There are many examples of well-sited and well-designed developments delivering real benefits for nature. But this is not the norm. Too often housing and

“There are many well-sited and well-designed developments delivering real benefits for nature.”

infrastructure worsens nature's decline. We need a positive vision for new development that puts the natural environment at its heart. By integrating nature into new developments everywhere, we can provide people with access to green space where they live and work. Green infrastructure includes parks, play areas, nature reserves and street trees, as well as rivers, ponds and other water features – all the natural elements that make a place worth living in. Every year, Wildlife Trusts influence thousands of planning applications to benefit both wildlife and people. We believe the planning system should not only deliver green infrastructure for communities but also enable long term, sustainable decision marking to ensure we live within our environmental limits and bring back wildlife.



Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: case study

Building with Nature

In Gloucestershire, developers are embracing voluntary standards that include nature.

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust has developed a new set of standards to define what good green infrastructure looks like. Co-created in partnership with both developers and planners, *Building with Nature* has helped to normalise green infrastructure in Gloucestershire – and is now being tested by 10 other Wildlife Trusts.

Drawing from evidence and good practice, *Building with Nature* defines high quality green infrastructure at each stage, from

planning and design, through to long-term management and maintenance. As well as a core set of standards, *Building with Nature* includes targets for

“So far more than 30,000 homes have been accredited using the Building with Nature standards.”

wildlife, water and wellbeing. It puts nature at the heart of development right from the start.

Developers can apply to have their scheme assessed, or Local Authorities can have their policy documents accredited by *Building with Nature*, with awards offered at both pre- and post-construction.

So far over 30,000 homes have been accredited using these standards. A green recovery should ensure this is the norm for new developments, supported by nature-positive planning.

Gloucester Services on the M5 have achieved a ‘Good’ accreditation under the scheme

How the scheme works

Building with Nature is a voluntary approach that enables developers to create places that really deliver for people and wildlife. It recognises high quality green infrastructure in policy, planning, design, delivery, and long-term

management and maintenance. It has been developed by practitioners and policy makers, academic experts and end-users, and has been tried and tested in multiple schemes from Cornwall to Scotland.

There are three levels of accreditation:



High quality green infrastructure demonstrated at the planning and design stage



High quality green infrastructure delivering benefits within the boundary of the scheme



Exemplary green infrastructure, delivering benefits within and beyond the boundary of the scheme

“The residents themselves were keen to see nature at the heart of their new community.”



Alex Willey
Director of Strategic Asset Management at Clarion Homes

“We were thrilled to receive the Building with Nature accreditation for our Barne Barton regeneration scheme in Plymouth.

“The opportunities to link in with existing green infrastructure and enhance biodiversity were identified at an early stage in the planning process not least by the residents themselves who were keen to see nature at the heart of their new community.

“The Building with Nature framework offered us a route to integrate these improvements to the development in a straightforward and effective manner that was also in keeping with our focus on putting residents at the heart of our regeneration projects.”

Clarion Homes have a Design Accreditation in place for their Masterplan at Barne Barton and are working towards a Full Accreditation.



Chapter 4

A Natural Health Service

A vast body of evidence links nature with better mental and physical health.

Evidence shows that spending time in wildlife-rich places improves our mental wellbeing and physical health. People who connect with nature every day are more active and mentally resilient, experience reduced social isolation and loneliness, and have better all-round health.

However, current policies do not fully recognise these effects on our health – and access to nature is deeply unequal. Currently, children who live in deprived areas are nine times less likely to have access to green space and places to play. In 2009, Natural England estimated that £2.1 billion would be saved annually through averted health

costs if everyone in England had equal access to green space.

A Covid-19 recovery focused on investment and development of natural assets would bring nature closer to people, level-up access to high-quality green space and play a significant role in the prevention and treatment of illness.

When we bring nature into

“People who connect with nature every day have better mental resilience and all-round health.”

people's lives we reduce health inequalities. Plus, natural health programmes located near to where people live and work can play a strong role in improving people's physical and mental health as we recover from the Covid-19 crisis.

The Wildlife Trusts run volunteering and learning programmes at local nature reserves and where people live to ensure as many people as possible can access the health benefits of nature. Investing in inclusive nature-based activities will improve people's skills, knowledge and confidence, helping them to get employment, stay active and connected to nature throughout their lives.



Volunteers at a mental health project run in an apple orchard by Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

What would a Natural Health Service look like?

1 Fair and equal access to nature

Everyone should have doorstep access to high quality natural places near to where they live, grow, work, play and age.

Greener neighbourhoods are proven to help prevent depression and other mental illnesses. People with easy access to nature are three times more likely to participate in physical activity and 40% less likely to become overweight or obese.

The Wildlife Trusts want to get 1 in 4 people active through taking action for wildlife. For five years our 30 Days Wild Challenge has invited everyone to do something wild every day in June. Those taking part recorded increases in happiness, health, connection to nature and pro-nature behaviours.



Natural environments make you healthy for free

2 Nature-based prescribing

The NHS should offer activity in nature where evidence shows it would be effective.

A study by the University of Essex into The Wildlife Trusts' programmes found that they "provide significant and important contributions to the promotion of good public health". For 69% of participants their mental wellbeing had improved after just six weeks.

Prescribing contact with nature for people with low mental wellbeing is excellent value for money. Leeds Beckett University found that for every £1 invested in The Wildlife Trusts' nature volunteering programmes, there is an £8.50 social return. People participating in outdoor nature conservation activities felt significantly better, needed fewer visits to GPs, and felt more able to get back into work.



Access to nature is a universal right

3 Embedded nature-based learning

Every child should spend at least an hour a day outside, with all education settings teaching the twin crises of climate change and wildlife loss.

Using events run by The Wildlife Trusts, UCL has conducted one of the largest studies into how outdoor activities affect children's wellbeing. It showed that children experience profound and diverse benefits through regular contact with nature.

These went beyond educational and wellbeing improvements. 79% of children reported feeling more confident in themselves; 84% felt that they were capable of doing new things when they tried; and 81% agreed that they had better relationships with their teachers.



Outdoor learning has multiple benefits

NO DRUGS REQUIRED



120mins

Spending at least two hours a week in nature is associated with good health and wellbeing.



20mins

Children exposed to green spaces for 20 minutes a day engage in five times more physical activity.



3times

People with easy access to nature are three times as likely to be active as those who do not have access.

Lancashire Wildlife Trust: case study

A Natural Health Service in Manchester

The MyPlace scheme provides a much-needed local resource and saves the NHS money.

Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust's Academy of Danger PE lessons help children play wild, learn wild, get outside and connect with nature

“People who help others, and nature, are more likely to rate themselves as happy.”



Dr Amir Khan
Bradford GP, best-selling author, TV presenter and TWT Ambassador

Doing something to help the natural environment and the people that live there gives us purpose. People who develop a genuine interest in helping others, and nature, are more likely to rate themselves as happy.

That's why I am supporting the Wildlife Trusts in their ambition to get 1 in 4 of us taking action to support wildlife, and in doing so, improving their own health, wellbeing and happiness.

In the UK, at least £15 billion a year is being spent on preventable illnesses associated with our lifestyles and social deprivation; 20 million adults in the UK are physically inactive and obesity is on the rise, along with mental ill health, dementia and social isolation. Although we recognise these factors are beyond the scope of choice for individuals, there are natural health services which can more appropriately meet these health and social needs. However, they are not currently available everywhere and are often under-resourced.

MyPlace he turned his life around after a few months:

“It got me outside to work in the environment and it helped get me away from the chaos. Even when it rained it got me out. The project made me feel happy, learning new things about nature I wouldn't have known. I'm on a decent wage and on much more than I was. It's all come together to help me.”

Schemes like this reduce pressure on the healthcare system and save the NHS money, as well as developing much-needed natural resources within communities.

Joshua had been out of work for two years when he was referred to MyPlace. He rarely had a reason to leave his house, which had led to a cycle of inactivity, depression and anxiety. But with

health through outdoor activities. The project uses green spaces to support young people and adults to reduce stress, anxiety and many low-level mental health conditions - thus improving health, wellbeing and fitness.

Run with Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, it has helped over 1,000 patients with mental health challenges, with nature a key part of their recovery.

“The project works in green spaces to support young people and adults to reduce stress, anxiety and many low-level mental health conditions.”

We know young people are incredibly concerned about the climate emergency. The Covid-19 crisis is only adding to the pressure on their mental wellbeing. But opportunities to connect with nature allow young people a path for alleviating these stresses.

Lancashire Wildlife Trust's MyPlace uses ecotherapy to help people improve their mental

Helena Dolby

“Nature faces huge challenges if it’s ever to make a comeback in the UK. We need to do more than just protect what we’ve got left. We need to create a brand new Wildbelt to make more space for nature, and allow nature to recover”.

Sir David Attenborough, President Emeritus of The Wildlife Trusts:



Chapter 5

A new concept: Wildbelt

We need to designate land for nature’s recovery.

This country is one of the most nature depleted in the world – and we are losing more every day. Numbers of many species are in freefall, whilst wildlife-rich habitats are fewer, smaller and further apart than they’ve ever been.

As we emerge from a public health emergency, we are also acutely aware that people’s dependence upon a healthy

natural world is undeniable. Yet, threats to the planning system could accelerate our nature crisis

“We know that simply maintaining existing protected sites will not achieve nature’s recovery.”

– increasing inappropriate development, pollution and disturbance. Currently, around 8% of England’s land area is designated as a protected area for conservation, but even half of this is in a poor state.

We know that simply maintaining existing protected sites will not achieve nature’s recovery or help us in our fight against climate change.

We need a planning system which makes more space for nature. Scientific evidence and emerging thinking in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity supports our call for 30% of our land and seas to be managed for nature by 2030.

Put simply, we need more of our land being managed for nature’s recovery – to help wildlife and us.

As part of the Leaders’ Pledge for Nature, the UK Government has committed to putting nature on a road to recovery by 2030. To achieve this, we need to see much more urgent action being taken on the ground.

This means rescuing the wildlife sites currently in decline, and putting aside new spaces for nature. As the UK looks ahead to the 2021 United Nations

biodiversity and climate conferences, we have a chance to set a world-leading example through ambitious action to tackle the nature crisis at home.

We need to think big if we are to ensure 30% of our land and seas are managed for nature by 2030. We need a new designation of land that is managed solely for nature’s recovery – a Wildbelt.

Wildbelt: a new idea to rebuild nature

A designation for recovery

Currently there is no designation that protects the space nature needs in the future. Wildbelt would change that.

Illustration: www.hilliard.design

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN
By being designated as Wildbelt, habitats created through biodiversity net gain would help to provide nature on everyone's doorstep.

NEW PROTECTED AREAS
Wildbelt would go beyond just protecting today's wildlife areas. It would allow us to create more space for nature and, crucially, help to connect existing sites.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS
Peatland restoration and woodland creation through the Nature for Climate Fund would be part of the Wildbelt - helping tackle the climate emergency.

WETLANDS
Wildbelt could be used to connect river corridors, lakes and floodplain habitats, helping wildlife and delivering improved water quality and flood storage.

REWILDING PROJECT
Landowners could opt into designating their land as part of the Wildbelt. This would help power nature's recovery in areas that are currently of low wildlife value.

ELM
The new Environmental Land Management scheme could help fund Wildbelt, reassuring taxpayers that their money is being invested for long-term public benefit.

Wildbelt would allow us to go beyond protecting what we have, to protecting the land that wildlife and plants need for the future. In England, there are currently no landscape designations to explicitly support nature's recovery. Wildbelt would provide a new impetus for nature recovery in low biodiversity areas, helping us reach our goal of managing 30% of our land and seas for nature by 2030. The Wildbelt would form the heart of the Nature Recovery Network - securing the long term future of land and ensuring investment in nature is targeted to the right places. For people and nature, the benefits would be far-reaching. It would enhance nature's ability to

"We need a new designation of land, that protects the space that nature needs for the future."

prevent flooding and improve air quality, boost the recreational and tourism economy, create new environmental jobs, and help tackle the climate emergency by sucking up carbon. For years, The Wildlife Trusts have been working with farmers, land managers, developers, local communities and local authorities to establish new wild spaces and restore habitats. A Wildbelt designation would capture the public's imagination, join up current Government initiatives and spur action to transform our countryside, towns and cities. It would help create communities where people can enjoy healthier, happier lives and ensure we hand on our natural environment in a better state than we found it.

Nature's recovery at sea

The marine gold standard

With the right political will, England's management of its seas could set an example to the world.

Illustration: www.hilliard.design

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS
Saltmarsh, seagrass and deep-sea mud are important carbon stores. Through effective planning they can recover and expand, helping tackle the climate and nature emergencies.

MPA NETWORK
30% of English seas are designated as MPAs. These areas must be managed and policed so that the objectives of individual sites, as well as the whole network, are met.

HPMAs
Highly Protected Marine Areas would exclude all damaging activities within their boundaries. These sites demonstrate what recovery in the marine environment looks like.

SUSTAINABLE FISHING
An Ecosystem-Based Approach rebuilds and maintains fish stocks, but also accounts for impacts on food webs, habitats and non-target species.

MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING
Coastal and offshore activities should be carried out sustainably, mindful of their impact on the wonderful array of species and habitats in our seas.

With the right ambition and action, we can achieve the gold standard of marine management, creating thriving seas and a world-leading blue economy.

At sea, the path to nature's recovery begins with the sustainable use of our marine environment. This requires an effective marine planning system which is clear on how industries can use and benefit from the sea and its resources, within environmental limits. Effective marine planning that puts wildlife and sustainability at its core can deliver for nature, people and the economy.

- It requires managing our fish stocks more sustainably and transitioning to low carbon, low impact fishing methods.

- It requires delivering renewable energy generation – such as offshore wind – strategically, with the right technologies used in the right place.

- It requires an effective network of Marine Protected Areas that is ecologically coherent and allows our marine habitats and species to recover and grow.

Protection and sustainability is key to nature's recovery at sea, so we must act now by designating at least 30% of our protected network as Highly Protected Marine Areas to safeguard our seas for the future. This will help deliver economic security, inspire a new generation who will love and care for our seas in the decades to come, and help to tackle climate change. But if ambition for offshore renewable development progresses without strenuous efforts to minimise negative impacts on marine ecosystems, it may damage the ability of those ecosystems to help lock up carbon. We cannot tackle the climate crisis by worsening the ecological crisis.

What needs to be done?

The next ten years must be a time of renewal, of rewilding our lives, of green recovery.

Nature is our strongest ally in building a resilient recovery for everyone, but for too long decisions have come at the expense of nature, undermining the very foundation on which our health and prosperity sits.

Business as usual cannot continue. To create a stronger, smarter, greener recovery, we need joined-up local and national government action to bring wildlife back into everyone's lives.

INVEST

The link between restoring the economy and restoring the natural environment is clear, but investment in environmentally harmful industries still far outstrips funding for nature.

All local and national recovery plans should drive investment in nature-based solutions, led by an additional £1bn annual UK Government investment in nature's recovery.

PROTECT

Despite current protections, wildlife is still disappearing at an alarming rate. If we don't address this now, the health and prosperity of future generations is at risk.

A new Wildbelt designation would allow communities, landowners, and public and private partners to protect and enjoy more places for nature, enriching our countryside, our towns, and our cities.

RECOVER

By making more space for nature to recover, we can improve people's health and wellbeing, create new environmental jobs, boost the tourism economy, and help to tackle the climate emergency.

To achieve this, local and national governments should ensure at least 30% of land and sea is protected and managed for nature's recovery by 2030.



Who we are

The Wildlife Trusts is a grassroots movement of people from a wide range of backgrounds and all walks of life, who believe that we need nature and nature needs us. We have more than 850,000 members, over 35,000 volunteers, 2,000 staff and 600 trustees.

There are 46 individual Wildlife Trusts, each an independent charity formed by groups of people getting together to make a positive difference to wildlife and future generations, starting where they live and work.

**Find out more about
The Wildlife Trusts**