

# Bringing nature back

5 years to 2030



**Impact report**  
April 2024 to March 2025



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Thank you

As we approach the halfway mark to 2030, we are reflecting on everything Suffolk Wildlife Trust has achieved so far towards the UK's 30-by-30 goal in Suffolk

With just five years to go until 2030, we want to take the opportunity in this annual report to update you on the steadfast progress the Trust is making towards our strategic goals for nature.

Our wildlife advice, landscape recovery and nature reserve teams remain relentless in their focus on creating bigger and better-connected habitats for wildlife. By protecting what we have, and restoring what we have lost, we are laying the foundations for a wilder, more abundant Suffolk.

Frustratingly, the threats to nature keep growing, but it's in these challenging times that we must stay ambitious and stand firm. That's why our advocacy and campaigning work is more important than ever to secure a wilder future. Thanks to our Members in every community of Suffolk, the Trust has a strong mandate to speak up for nature and we are determined to use that voice to the full.

By inspiring local communities, schools and businesses we can mobilise our county to champion positive change at the scale and pace nature needs. That's why the work of our learning and community teams is so vital. With a message of hope and positivity in the face of environmental challenge, we are determined to inspire more people to get involved and harness the collective impact of their individual and community actions for wildlife.

Everything we do is made possible by the commitment of our Members, supporters, volunteers and staff. As you read this report, we hope you feel proud of what your support is helping Suffolk Wildlife Trust to achieve, and our determination that, together, we can bring nature back.



*Robyn Llewellyn*

Robyn Llewellyn  
Chair



*Christine Luxton*

Christine Luxton  
Chief Executive

STOAT: EDWARD HASTING-EVANS / FRONT COVER: COMMON BLUE DAMSELFLY: ROSS HODDINOTT





# Our strategy for nature

With others, we are championing 30-by-30 and ramping-up our impact to put nature on the path to recovery

At the UN Biodiversity Summit in 2022, nearly 200 nations, including the UK, committed to protecting 30% of the world’s land and sea for nature by 2030.

**This is 30-by-30.**

As Suffolk’s nature charity, we are playing our part by championing the 30-by-30 target locally and ramping-up our impact to put nature on the path to recovery, at the scale and pace the biodiversity crisis demands. Alongside farmers, landowners, communities, schools and political leaders – and in partnership with our fellow Wildlife Trusts and environmental charities

across the UK – our collective efforts can restore and reconnect nature, piece by piece, across Suffolk and beyond.

The 30-by-30 framework forms the heart of our strategy. It guides every decision we make as an organisation; from reserve management and landscape projects, to how we engage communities, influence policy and raise the vital funds to make it all happen.

Everything we do has an impact for nature in Suffolk and contributes to global efforts to restore our natural world. 30-by-30 is an ambitious goal, but it’s what nature needs.

## OUR AMBITION

Bringing nature back in Suffolk

## OUR GOALS

- Goal 1**  
Nature is recovering at scale, in wildlife-rich landscapes and seas
- Goal 2**  
People in every community are taking meaningful action for nature and climate
- Goal 3**  
The charity is stronger, more resilient and a more effective champion for nature

## OUR IMPACT

- More space dedicated to nature
- Restored habitat connectivity
- Restored abundance
- Wider access to nature
- Increased nature connection
- More people taking action for nature





**The remarkable nature  
our county is home  
to deserves to be  
protected and abundant**

Molly  
Suffolk Wildlife Trust Youth Board Member







# Goal 1

Nature is recovering at scale, in wildlife-rich landscapes and seas

**Bringing nature back and creating resilience to climate change needs landscape-scale ambition. The ecological underpinning of a nature recovery network was established by Prof Sir John Lawton in 2010. Our strategy puts the Lawton principles for landscape recovery into practice: more land managed for nature with bigger sites, buffer zones and better managed, joined-up habitats.**

Ramping-up our impact means protecting the wildlife we still have and bringing back what we have lost. Our focus is on four key areas of activity where we can achieve the best impact for nature.

## FOCUS AREAS

**Landscape recovery:** Working with others to restore nature and unlock nature's potential across the landscape of Suffolk

**Nature reserves:** Cherishing our nature reserves as exceptional places for wildlife which anchor and can seed nature's recovery

**Species recovery:** Championing the distinctive species of Suffolk's towns and countryside

**Advocacy:** Speaking out for nature in Suffolk, on land and at sea

## WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 2024/25

### MILESTONE FOR PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE NETWORK



Now spanning 2,500 acres across Suffolk, our Private Nature Reserve network is a sounding board for landowners managing their sites for wildlife, with members sharing their experiences and advice to achieve the best outcomes for nature. We know that our nature reserves alone cannot bring back what we have lost, which is why supporting nature's recovery beyond them is essential. It has been exciting to see that some have now become County Wildlife Sites for their high value to nature, and as crucial connecting landscapes for wildlife.

### NEW PROJECT TO RESTORE THE RIVER DEBEN



Rivers are the lifeblood of the landscape, yet sadly many are in a desperate state due to pollution, straightening, and loss of floodplains. As a member of the East Suffolk Catchment Partnership, we are supporting a new project to rejuvenate the River Deben, led by Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust. From Source to Sea is an ambitious project to restore the land and water for wildlife and it reflects the collaborative approach we embrace to bring back nature's abundance across the Suffolk landscape. Wilder rivers with cleaner water are critical for the health of wildlife and humans.

### 5,000 LAPWING COUNTED AT CARLTON MARSHES



Over the spring of 2024, our reserve team at Carlton Marshes conducted breeding bird surveys and counted over 5,000 lapwing roosting on Peto's Marsh in the north of the reserve. The transformation of the marsh from an arable field was designed with lapwing and other ground nesting wading birds in mind, to provide prime habitat for them. The results show that our management of the reserve is making a real impact for one of our flagship species and other wildlife.



LEVINGTON LAGOON: RONNIE ROBERTS; MARSH HARRIER: ALAMY







## Goal 2

People in every community are taking meaningful action for nature & climate

**To put nature on a path to recovery at the scale and pace that is necessary, we need everyone to do more to help. We are enabling people in every community to recognise the urgency for change and grow a county-wide movement for nature; a movement that inspires, empowers and enables everyone to take meaningful action to bring about nature's recovery in Suffolk's towns and countryside.**

If 1 in 4 people in Suffolk were to take action for nature at home, school, work, or in their community, we could see a societal shift that tips the scales in nature's favour.

### FOCUS AREAS

**Nature connection:** Fostering nature connection as a catalyst for nature action

**Networks & training:** Building county networks to empower and enable locally-led action for nature

**Empowering young people:** Training and mobilising teenagers and young adults to be nature's changemakers

**Raising our voice:** Championing the value of nature for society's happiness, health and wellbeing



MARCH FOR NATURE: JACK CRIPPS; MOLLY: JOHN FERGUSON

## WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 2024/25

### FOREST SCHOOL LEADERS



We deliver a range of accredited training courses for adults, helping to grow a strong network of outdoor education leaders across the region. In October 2024, our two Forest School trainers were awarded Recognised Trainer status by the Forest School Association and they are now progressing through to become Endorsed Trainers; a distinction currently held by only 14 individuals in the UK. Since 2020, they have trained over 100 Forest School leaders, who have gone on to deliver sessions for thousands of children across East Anglia.

### SURVEYING WITH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



Inspiring and supporting the next generation of wildlife conservationists is critical to ensuring a long-term, wild future for Suffolk. Wilder Ecology, our ecological consultancy, has been conducting a number of surveys and lectures to Wildlife Ecology & Conservation Science Students from University of Suffolk – including small mammal surveys at Foxburrow nature reserve in May 2024. From 20 surveying traps set by the students, 9 bank voles and 7 wood mice were recorded and all healthy, an indication of early success in Foxburrow's rewilding.

### STAG BEETLE STUMPERIES



In collaboration with the Stour Valley Farmer Cluster, our Conservation Advisers have been creating specialist stag beetle habitat – known as stumperies – in the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley. Stag beetles are nationally scarce and one of our flagship species. A total of 25 stumperies have been created across a mix of private land, community spaces and sites along public rights of way; creating broadleaved deadwood for the stag beetle to complete their long life cycle. Meanwhile, at Trimley Marshes, students from Suffolk New College got involved with building stag beetle habitat on the reserve.



FOREST SCHOOL: JESSE JACOBS; UNIVERSITY OF SUFFOLK: JESSE JACOBS; STAG BEETLE STUMPERY: JOE UNDERWOOD





# Goal 3

The charity is stronger, more resilient and a more effective champion for nature

It may seem obvious to say, but in order to do more for nature by 2030, we need more resources and must use them more innovatively. From embracing new income streams and developing business-like decision-making, to investing in our volunteers, partners, ambassadors, Trustees, and staff, we are laying the foundations for a stronger Trust that underpins everything we do.

With a renewed culture that harnesses the expertise of our people and supporters, and a fundraising strategy that adapts to an increasingly unpredictable world, Suffolk Wildlife Trust is in the strongest possible position to meet the 30-by-30 challenge head-on.

## FOCUS AREAS

**Investing in our people & our culture:** Building a high performing team for a common cause

**Running the charity with flair, efficiency & environmental integrity:** Fostering innovative, effective, and eco-conscious operations

**Income growth to meet current activity & strategic ambition:** Building diverse, resilient income streams for financial sustainability

**Collaboration & partnerships:** Forging mutually beneficial partnerships that amplify our impact for nature

Staff from Wilder Ecology, our ecological consultancy, carrying out a bird survey on the River Orwell



## WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 2024/25

### WATER VOLE SURVEY TRAINING



Members of our Wilder Ecology team undertook water vole handling training in early 2025. As a protected species, water vole can only be handled by Natural England certified experts. This investment in the team means they can now carry out even more work translocating water voles that need moving to avoid being affected by development. In addition, our Wilder Rivers Adviser has delivered Water Vole Field Skills sessions enable local communities to take part in the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) National Water Vole Survey.

### BAN ON PESTICIDE UPHELD TO PROTECT BEES



In January 2025, we were relieved that the UK Government upheld the ban on a banned "neonic" pesticide highly toxic to bees, pollinators and river wildlife. For five years the Government had repeatedly approved the "emergency" use of the bee-killing pesticide on sugar beet, which is farmed across Suffolk. Following extensive lobbying and campaigning from The Wildlife Trusts – including a petition with over 300,000 signatures – the Government finally upheld the ban, marking an end to the pesticide's devastating impact on British wildlife.

### NEW BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Through our new Corporate Partnerships programme established in early 2025, more and more businesses are stepping up to restore and bring nature back to Suffolk. Leading the way is Suffolk Building Society, the first to become a Nature Guardian twinned with Martlesham Wilds. Their support was instrumental during fundraising for the land purchase of the reserve and continues to help secure this special place for wildlife and future generations.







Gifts in Wills help to secure a wilder future for Suffolk



Ros Ford's gift helped to buy Martlesham Wilds



George Batchelor was a Volunteer Warden for over 25 years



STEVE AYLMER / ALAMY / ADOBE STOCK

# The power of legacy gifts

The legacy of those who have remembered Suffolk Wildlife Trust in their Will lives on in the wild places we protect and the people we inspire

Many of our nature reserves and projects exist today thanks to this generosity of spirit. Gifts in Wills help to secure a wilder future for Suffolk's most precious habitats and landscapes now and for future generations.

Gifts of all sizes have played a vital role in securing more space and more action for nature. They have given us the ability to act swiftly and decisively when precious opportunities arise to protect and restore habitats across Suffolk.

This generosity was shown with the legacy gift from George Batchelor. He was the Volunteer Warden for Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Castle Marshes nature reserve for over 35 years. George was one of those people who left a lasting impression on those around him. He was involved not only in the reintroduction of osprey to England

at Rutland Water in the late 1990s but also, more recently, the return of fen raft spider at Castle Marshes and Carlton Marshes.

George's gift in his Will contributed to the purchase of Worlingham Marshes. We are delighted that his gift will continue to support his patch on the Waveney, leaving a lasting legacy just up the valley from his beloved Castle Marshes.

A proud Scot, Rosamond 'Ros' Ford spent much of her adult life in Suffolk and Essex, and through her husband Geoff, she got to know and love the Suffolk coast. A keen botanist, she had many years of involvement in volunteering at their local woodland reserve. Lumber Wood, a beautiful pocket of bluebell woodland at Martlesham Wilds, is a perfect tribute and we are delighted to dedicate it to Ros's memory.

This year, we remember with great gratitude those who left a gift for the Trust in their Will

Joy Dixey Botwright  
Patricia Brown  
Pauline Clement  
Richard Clements  
Theodore Cutting  
Yvonne Davies  
Stephen Ewson  
Mike Ewart  
Geoff Ford  
Ian Gibson  
Sandra Gordon  
David Hoyer  
Marguerite Ivor-Jones  
Terence King

Geoffrey Knight  
Hazel Leggett  
Doris Matthews  
Jill Mortiboys  
Winifred Partridge  
Joan Peck  
Sarah Platt  
Margaret Rishbeth  
Sheila Rivers  
Patricia Rudderham  
Denys Simpson  
Margaret Vivian  
Janet Watchman  
Ernest 'John' Welsh  
Wilfred 'Wilf' Youngs

## Corporate support

Thanks to grant givers & businesses who are helping to bring nature back

### GRANT FUNDERS

Alan Boswell Insurance  
Anglian Water Services  
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils  
Biffa Award  
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation  
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)  
East Suffolk Council  
Environment Agency  
Essex & Suffolk Water  
Geoffrey Watling Charitable Trust  
Grimwade Charitable Trust  
HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust  
Lord Belstead Charitable Trust  
National Lottery Heritage Fund  
Pamela Matthews Charitable Trust  
Ridley Godfrey Charitable Foundation  
Saxham Trust  
Suffolk Coast & Heaths National Landscape (inc FiPL & SCH Sustainable Development Fund)  
Suffolk Libraries  
Suffolk Public Sector Leaders' Group  
West Suffolk Council

### NATURE GUARDIANS

Axter  
Harwich Haven Authority  
J McCann & Co  
MSC  
okoHaus  
Suffolk Building Society

### 1% FOR THE PLANET PARTNER

Bonitas Wholefoods

### PLATINUM MEMBERS

Chassis Cab  
Roger Balmer Design  
Treatt PLC  
UK Power Networks

### BUSINESS MEMBERS

Thank you for our 43 Business Members who support our work for Suffolk's wildlife and environment with an annual donation.

Visit our website to browse the full list of local businesses who we collaborate with:  
[suffolkwildlifetrust.org/corporate/supporters](https://suffolkwildlifetrust.org/corporate/supporters)



J McCann & Co taking part in a corporate volunteering day

SOPHIE FLUX





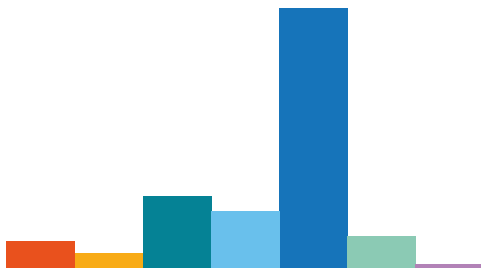
# Financial summary

## Overview of Suffolk Wildlife Trust's income and expenditure for the financial year to March 2025

Total income  
£7,710k



Total expenditure  
(incl nature reserve acquisition)  
£6,259k



INCOMING RESOURCES		£000s
Members' subscriptions & donations	1,789	
Fundraising & grants	2,659	
SWT Trading company income	1,015	
Learning & other income	563	
Legacies	1,572	
Investment income	112	
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>7,710</b>	

Unrealised loss on investments	226
<b>Net incoming resources</b>	<b>1,285</b>
Fund balances brought forward	31,554
<b>Fund balances carried forward***</b>	<b>32,839</b>

RESOURCES EXPENDED		£000s
Membership	371	
Fundraising & grants	212	
SWT Trading company costs	966	
Learning activities	761	
Nature reserves & conservation	3,453	
Support, management & admin	436	
<b>Total resources expended*</b>	<b>6,199</b>	

ANALYSIS OF GROUP NET ASSETS	
<b>Fixed assets</b>	
Nature reserves acquired this year	60
Nature reserves (1 April 2025)	21,225
Tangible assets incl visitor centres	3,618
<b>Net current assets**</b>	<b>7,936</b>
	<b>32,839</b>

\* Expenditure excludes funds spent on land and centres, which is shown in fixed assets  
\*\* Includes unrestricted and restricted funds  
\*\*\* Includes £7,005k of unrestricted funds (2024: £7,198k)

The timing of grant and legacy income is often before expenditure, and so not always in the same financial year. For larger projects, expenditure can span multiple years.



### TRUSTEES' STATEMENT

The figures above are extracted from the audited annual accounts of Suffolk Wildlife Trust. For a full understanding of the financial affairs please view the audited accounts which are available on our website or can be requested from Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Brooke House, Ashbocking, Ipswich IP6 9JY or are available from the Charity Commission or the Registrar of Companies.

At the beginning of each year the Trustees calculate a target level of free reserves equating to 6 months of the budgeted establishment and core staff costs for the coming year. For the current year the target free reserves equate to £1,732k. Reserves above the previous year's target were maintained throughout the year. Funds above this level can be designated to specific projects, particularly the acquisition of land as nature reserves and advisory and engagement activity to support the delivery of our 2030 strategy to Bring Nature Back.

Calum Thomson, Hon Treasurer





**We will champion distinctive species to inspire and enable everyone to play their part in Bringing Nature Back**



**Nature's recovery will be reflected in increased species abundance and habitat connectivity**







**Our vision is for a wilder Suffolk,  
where nature is thriving and abundant,  
because everyone is doing more to help**

Thank you for your part in this



**Suffolk  
Wildlife Trust**

Registered charity no 262777

**Suffolk Wildlife Trust**

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We are proud to be part of a UK-wide network of Wildlife Trusts, working together to bring nature back.