Over £25million awarded to projects creating and



Wetlands are an important part of our natural environment, providing essential protection against climate change. Credit: Rod Cole/The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT).

Twenty projects are to receive funding from the Species Survival Fund, a partnership with Defra to boost the quality and quantity of wildlife-rich habitats.

Together the projects will create and restore over 3,300 hectares of critical habitat on land and rivers across England.

Communities, charities, farmers and local authorities will come together to help safeguard areas for biodiversity and create green jobs. The fund is expected to help achieve the government's ambitious targets to protect 30% of land for nature by 2030.

Eilish McGuinness, Chief Executive, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with Defra again to distribute funding for these projects, which will support nature recovery by helping to boost the quality and quantity of wildlife-rich habitats across England. This partnership will further our vision for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future."

Explore the successful projects

Species Survival in Hertfordshire’s Chalk Rivers

Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust – awarded £1,723,840

This project will restore chalk river habitats in the River Lea Catchment. Chalk rivers are a type of lowland river, with clear w[illegible] clawed

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The brown trout which lives in freshwater rivers is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority fish species. Credit: Ribble Rivers Trust.

Species & Habitat Recovery in the Medlock Valley

Groundwork Greater Manchester – awarded £1,129,516

The funding will support the restoration of a range of grassland, riverbank, wetland and woodland habitats that benefit species such as willow tit, waxcaps and rare great crested newts. The project will also work with volunteers to connect local communities to nature as part of their everyday lives.



The project will restore riverbanks to support a range of wildlife. Credit: Groundwork Greater Manchester.

North west and south west Rainforest Restoration

The Woodland Trust – awarded £2,696,680

This partnership project will manage and restore around 580 hectares of ancient woodland and temperate rainforest habitats across the north west and south west of England. Temperate rainforests are incredibly rare and support lichen, fungi and animals like the wood warbler, pied flycatcher and stoat.

There will be opportunities for local landowners and communities to get involved through training, surveying and demonstration events, plus small grants to private landowners for restoration work.



Lichen growing in Ausewell Wood. Credit: Ben Lee/The Woodland Trust.

Other projects receiving funding are:

- **Stacking the Shire Brook Valley:** £1.1million to Sheffield City Council.
- **Wet Willow Wildlife:** £524,177 to Lancashire Wildlife Trust.
- **Mid-Cornwall Moors recovery:** £647,655 to Cornwall Wildlife Trust.
- **Bogs and Bittern:** £602,568 to Somerset Wildlife Trust.
- **Re:New Nature in the New Forest:** £1m to New Forest National Park Authority.
- **Coastal and Wetlands:** £2.4m to RSPB.
- **Wetter for Waders:** £810,857 to The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust.
- **Partnerships for Nature in the North Wessex Downs AONB:** £1.5m to Wiltshire Council on behalf of North Wessex Downs AONB.
- **Making space for nature in Dorset:** £1.1m to Dorset Wildlife Trust.
- **Ribble Revival: Room for Rivers:** £1.6m to Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust.
- **Freshwater Renaissance:** £2.9m to the National Trust.
- **Newcastle's Nature Networks:** £701,417 to Urban Green Newcastle.
- **Coastal Grasslands Reconnected:** £975,150 to Durham County Council on behalf of Durham Heritage Coast.
- **Thriving in a Wilder Trent:** £875,602 to Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.
- **Restoration of lost habitats for a Wild Peak:** £1.6m to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.
- **Biodiversity Boost: A Journey to a Wilder Druridge:** £735,395 to Northumberland Wildlife Trust.
- **Nature Rich Miterdale:** £299,476 to University of Leeds.

Our commitment to nature recovery

The Species Survival Fund builds upon the success of similar initiatives like the Green Recovery Challenge Fund. It will also help projects to get in a good position to apply for long-term, large-scale habitat restoration through Heritage 2033 investment or government schemes such as Landscape Recovery.

Explore our support for landscape, park and nature projects across the UK.



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Wood anemones are often found in ancient woodlands.



dangered species in Wales

Common pipistrelle bat in flight. Bat Conservation Trust. Image credit: Hugh Clark

A lifeline for Scotland’s ‘species on the edge’