

Cheshire Wildlife Trust is to receive a £540,000 grant for conservation project bringing together communities in the North of England and Wales.

The project will inspire people living in the Wirral and in Flintshire and Denbighshire to protect the wildlife of the Dee Estuary.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust has worked with partners and local communities on both shores of the estuary to design a range of activities that benefit both people and wildlife. These include interpreting the estuary through sound, creative writing and art. Coastal awareness training days will prepare communities to protect wading birds, including a badge scheme for wader-friendly locations.

> This funding means that local people can play their part in preserving the significant and varied wildlife that the Dee Estuary holds.
>
> *David Renwick, The National Lottery Heritage Fund Director, England, North*

A series of pop-up events will raise awareness of pollution issues and how people can take action to create a clean water environment.

Volunteering opportunities will be available to join in with coastal wildlife surveying and practical conservation tasks,

allowing locals to connect with the estuary and enhance their own health and wellbeing.

A Dee Estuary Teacher Training programme will also engage children in both England and Wales.



A flock of birds over Thurstaston Beach. Credit: Robin Rowe

David Renwick, The National Lottery Heritage Fund Director, England, North, said: "Through our conversations with National Lottery players, we know that nature is incredibly important to them, something that has only been heightened during the past 18 months.

"This funding means that local people can play their part in preserving the significant and varied wildlife that the Dee Estuary holds."

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Wales’ threatened species and habitats

Photo credit: Stephen Maxwell

RSPB NI set to reopen nature reserves thanks to emergency funding