



London
Wildlife
Trust

Highlights

2023-24





Welcome



David Mooney
Chief Executive



Rufus Radcliffe
Chair

We are delighted to present our Highlights from 2023-24, a testament to the remarkable strides we have made in nature's recovery across the capital. In a year marked by unprecedented environmental challenges and governmental threats to our natural world, we remain steadfastly committed to its enhancement and recovery.

Our city's green spaces serve as vital refuges for wildlife and essential oases for people.

This year, we have focused on expanding and enhancing these spaces and we celebrate the start of an exciting project to combine Sydenham Hill and Dulwich Woods. Working in partnership with the Dulwich Estate and Southwark Council we will ensure that the many thousands of Londoners who enjoy walking through this magical space can do so safe in the knowledge that their presence will not disturb the fragile ecosystem of this ancient woodland. Through collaborative projects, including the reintroduction of glowworms at carefully selected nature reserves across south and west London, we continue to champion nature's recovery.

One of the highlights of 2024 has been the start of our ambitious rewilding projects. In partnership with the Mayor of London, we are leading a programme that has started with the selection of landscape-scale sites in London's green belt. Across these spaces, we will allow natural processes to operate as best as possible to restore natural ecosystems and assist in nature's recovery. These efforts are the start of a long journey that can yield significant ecological benefits and improve our city's resilience against climate change.

We thank our dedicated team of staff, volunteers, and partners who continue to work tirelessly to ensure these projects not only succeed, but also serve as models for urban nature recovery across the world.





Learning and engagement remain at the heart of our purpose. We have continued to deliver high-quality educational programmes to over ten thousand school children and created thousands of volunteer opportunities aimed at empowering Londoners and businesses alike to take an active role in nature's recovery. The diverse involvement, from school children to major corporate partners, has been an inspiration to us all. This collective effort has not only amplified our impact but also cemented a lasting legacy of environmental stewardship.

As we reflect on the past year, we are immensely proud of what we have achieved together and draw huge inspiration from young people in London who have led the way in their communities, creating space for people and nature on their doorstep.



London Wildlife Trust's success is a testament to the wonderful support from our members, partners, funders and volunteers. Together, we will continue to champion the cause of urban wildlife and ensure that London remains a vibrant, thriving and green metropolis for years to come.

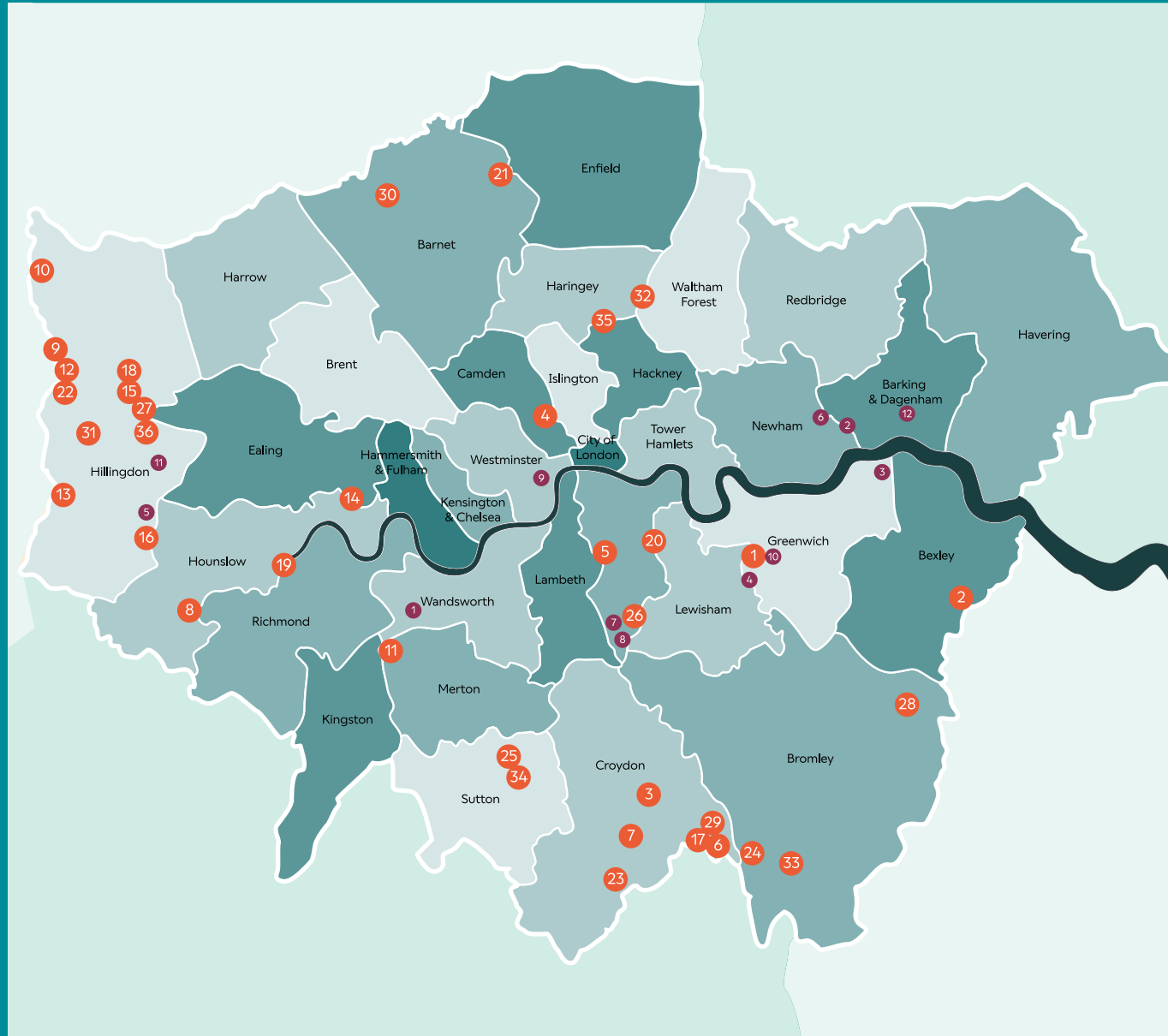
Thank you.

London Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves

- 1 Birdbrook 
- 2 Braeburn Park
- 3 Bramley Bank
- 4 Camley Street Natural Park 
- 5 Centre for Wildlife Gardening 
- 6 Chapel Bank
- 7 Couldson Coppice
- 8 Crane Park Island
- 9 Denham Lock Wood
- 10 Dews Farm Sandpits
- 11 Farm Bog
- 12 Frays Farm Meadows
- 13 Frays Island and Mabey's Meadow
- 14 Gunnersbury Triangle 
- 15 Gutteridge Wood and Meadows
- 16 Huckerby's Meadows
- 17 Hutchinson's Bank
- 18 Ickenham Marsh
- 19 Isleworth Ait 
- 20 New Cross Gate Cutting 
- 21 Oak Hill Wood
- 22 Park Road Pond
- 23 Riddlesdown
- 24 Saltbox Hill
- 25 Spencer Road Wetlands 
- 26 Sydenham Hill Wood and Cox's Walk
- 27 Ten Acre Wood and Meadows
- 28 The Warren
- 29 Threecorner Grove
- 30 Totteridge Fields
- 31 Uxbridge Grove
- 32 Walthamstow Wetlands 
- 33 West Kent Golf Course
- 34 Wilderness Island
- 35 Woodberry Wetlands 
- 36 Yeading Brook Meadows

Key

-  Staffed
-  Restricted access



London Wildlife Trust Project and Activity Sites

- 1 All England Lawn Tennis Club (Wimbledon)
- 2 Beckton Creekside Nature Reserve
- 3 Butts Canal
- 4 Cator Park
- 5 Cranford Park
- 6 Cuckold's Haven
- 7 Dulwich Village Orchard
- 8 Dulwich Wood
- 9 Grosvenor Square Gardens
- 10 Kidbrook Village
- 11 Minet Country Park
- 12 Parsloes Park



Our year

in numbers



126 metres of path installed or renovated in Sydenham Hill Wood



7 nature reserves received a Green Flag Award



4,174 hours donated by corporate volunteers



1,143 volunteers contributed 17,893 hours



17,875 children and young people engaged in educational activities



15 paid traineeships, raising our total to 69, with 70% securing jobs in the sector



12 people on our Youth Board



1,181,346 visits to our nature reserves



57 nature-themed weddings at 4 of our nature reserves




824,600 engagements on our digital marketing channels



2,400 online campaign pledges for nature



17 cattle helped us with conservation grazing at Ickenham Marsh and Huckerby's Meadows



“When I first joined, I was really excited to meet like minded people, and there’s a power in that – you feel you have a cohesive group and a place where you can share your interests and act on it.”

Youth Board member

“It provides a sanctuary for both nature and people. Supporting this space is close to my heart, and volunteering here brings me a lot of joy along with mental, physical, and social wellbeing.”

Camley Street Natural Park volunteer



Our vision, mission and aims

London Wildlife Trust is the only charity dedicated solely to restoring London's wildlife and its vital habitat across the capital. Formed in 1981, our vision is of a London alive with wildlife, nature in everyone's neighbourhood. Our strategy to 2030 has three goals:



Inspire

People in London are inspired to connect with and take action for nature in their local neighbourhoods.



Influence

Organisations in London are influenced and supported to adopt policies and practices that advance nature's recovery.



Transform

London's green spaces are transformed so that natural habitats can help address ecological and climate emergencies.



“We loved learning about the ecology and to see how the place has changed over the years.”

Attendee of Wonderful Wildlife Weekend session at Woodberry Wetlands



Nature Nurtures

Case study

London Wildlife Trust was founded on the principle that nature should be accessible to everyone. We are proud to be pioneering new approaches to equality, diversity, and inclusion in the sector through our award-winning youth programmes.

Over the past two years, our Nature Nurtures project delivered 61 events for young people across six nature reserves. Funded by the DCMS Volunteering Futures Fund and delivered by Arts Council England, these events combined creative arts, practical conservation, and wellbeing walks.

We partnered with Spread the Word, Black Girls Hike, and London Youth to explore innovative ways to merge art and nature while offering micro volunteering opportunities.

Achievements

431 young people from under-represented communities participated:

- 75% were female
- 7% were non-binary
- Over 21% were from Black, Asian, and minoritised ethnic groups
- Almost half were from under-resourced communities



Inspire



Nature Nurtures participants had extremely high levels of satisfaction with 99% of young people telling us they enjoyed the activities. They reported improvements to wellbeing through increased connections with each other and nature, the opportunity to learn new skills, be more physically active, take time to be present and give back.

As well as benefiting the young people, the project has also benefited nature: Four new wildlife habitats were created, 66m² of habitat was improved, 79m² of invasive species was cleared, and eleven species surveys were undertaken.

Legacy

This experience has created a lasting legacy in delivering engaging and inclusive events for under-represented youth. We will use these insights to shape the new 'Keeping it Wild Collective' youth movement, launching in Autumn 2024.

“I loved the session so much... so nice to bond with everyone from different backgrounds and to learn so much from nature.”



London Rewilding Taskforce and Action Group

Case study

London Wildlife Trust's relationship with the Greater London Authority (GLA) highlights its influence on decision-makers to adopt nature-positive policies. Partnering with the GLA, we evaluated projects through the Rewild London Fund to enhance Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), key areas in London's wildlife network. This year £850,000 was distributed to 22 SINC enhancement projects around London, including harvest mouse introductions at Perivale Wood, improvements to The Chase in Dagenham, and pond restoration at Uxbridge Grove.

Joining the Mayor's London Rewilding Taskforce in 2022, we contributed evidence of youth-focussed nature conservation and helped shape the 2023 report. Since 1981, we have undertaken a breadth of activities that would be defined today as rewilding at most scales, from inner-city locations to larger landscapes like Frays Farm Meadows, Denham Lock Wood, and the recent Brilliant Butterflies project.



Works to improve the Yeading Brook in Ruislip



Further wetland restoration at The Chase in Dagenham



Establish a pollinator corridor in Thamesmead

Influence

22 rewilding projects will enhance over 69 hectares of priority habitat in London.





Chalk restoration in Croydon and Bromley

Case study

London Wildlife Trust manages five chalk grassland nature reserves. For over two decades, we've ensured these sites are appropriately grazed, encroaching vegetation is cut back, and scrapes are created for wildflowers. This habitat has declined significantly, **with 80% of England's chalk grassland lost since 1945.** Historically maintained by agricultural grazing, it now relies on conservation interventions. Our staff, volunteers, and contractors work diligently to care for these habitats, brush cutting meadows and removing trimmings to maintain low soil fertility.

Partnering with the Downlands Partnership, we sensitively graze sheep where feasible. We also collect wildflower seeds locally and reseed them to increase meadow flora diversity.

Our habitat conservation work ensures that many of the specialist plant species that are found here, as well as the wonderful variety of butterflies and other invertebrates that rely on them, will continue to thrive.

Collaborating with the Natural History Museum, we continued environmental DNA surveys at West Kent Golf Course revealing hundreds of invertebrate species including rare beetles, flies, and wasps previously unknown from the reserve. We surveyed butterflies, orchids, and other species on all five of our chalk reserves to ensure our work is benefitting wildlife as much as possible, adjusting a reserve's management as necessary.

Key outcomes



928 volunteering hours were donated to help maintain the chalk grassland habitat



60 metres of hedge laid by volunteers



2.2 hectares of overgrown scrub and vegetation were cut back



Small blue butterfly was found thriving at Hutchinson's Bank

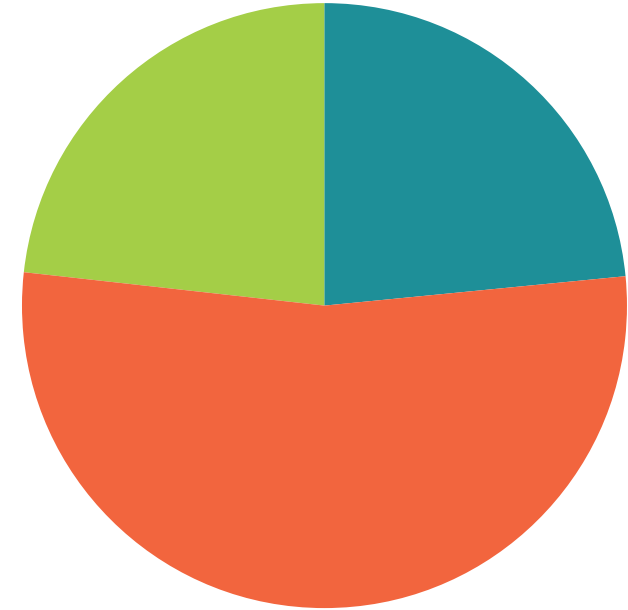
Transform





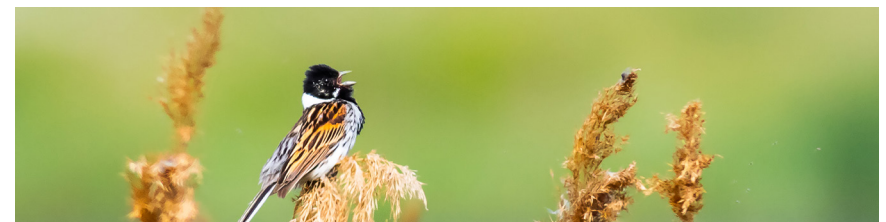
Total income

●	Membership	£948,017
●	Donations, appeals and fundraising	£547,357
●	Legacies	£75,051
●	Grants	£1,017,819
●	Contracts	£1,245,512
●	Trading income	£1,710,064
●	Investment income	£25,327
●	Other	£7,425
	Total	£5,576,572



Total expenditures

●	Raising funds	£1,334,390
●	Charitable activities	£3,033,310
●	Trading costs	£1,321,892
	Total	£5,689,592





“I tried to access the sector before and had no luck. The traineeship has given me confidence in the skills that I have. As a result of the traineeship so many opportunities have unfolded and I now have a job in the sector.”

London Wildlife Trust Trainee



With thanks

Thank you to all our supporters, including members and individual donors, as well as those who have kindly left legacies to the Trust. These generous donations have helped restore London's nature in 2023-2024.

Our funders

London Wildlife Trust receives grants and donations from a range of generous funders, for which we are very grateful. The list below is not exhaustive, but we would like to thank the following:

Arts Council England	Heathrow Airport Limited	Players of the People's Postcode Lottery
Assembly London	Heathrow Community Trust	Port of London Authority
Bad Star Studio	Hiscox Insurance	Richer Sounds Foundation
Banister Charitable Trust	Hogan Lovells	Rosemary Constance Reeve Angel Charitable Trust
Beddington Community Benefit Fund	Hotel Café Royal	Somers Town Big Local
British Airways	Index Ventures	Swire Charitable Trust
Bupa Foundation	Inflexion Foundation	Thames Water
Camden Giving HS2 Camden Fund	John Horseman Trust	The Big Give Trust
Cargill	John Lyon's Charity	The Dulwich Estate
City Bridge Foundation	Joseph Strong Frazer Trust	The Dulwich Society
Company, Place	Kusuma Trust	The Green Well
Crane Valley Partnership	London Borough of Camden	The Land Trust
David Family Foundation	London Borough of Hillingdon	UK Power Networks
David Uri Memorial Trust	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames	Veolia Environmental Trust (Landfill Communities Fund)
DLA Piper	London Borough of Southwark	Vine House Farm
Garfield Weston Foundation	London Borough of Waltham Forest	Westminster Foundation
Great Portland Estates	National Highways	
Greater London Authority	National Lottery Heritage Fund	
Groundwork	Notting Hill Genesis	
Grundon (Landfill Communities Fund)	Pavilion Works	



If you share our vision of a London alive with wildlife and nature in everyone's neighbourhood please help make this a reality. Find out how you can play your part by visiting

wildlondon.org.uk/support



“It was great that the children were given space and advice on how to find creatures in the wood. The expert practitioners were very able to explain and deepen childrens’ experiences.”

**Year 5 teacher after a Habitats session
at Centre for Wildlife Gardening**



Photo credits

Page 1 – Eleanor Church

Page 2 – Lois Donegal, Anya Naumovic

Page 4 – Katrina Duffey

Page 5 – Eleanor Church

Page 6 – Eleanor Church, Katrina Duffey, London Wildlife Trust, Violet Bennell

Page 7 – Eve Edwards

Page 8 – Ryan Lee, Lois Donegal

Page 9 – Lois Donegal

Page 10 – London Wildlife Trust, Penny Dixie, London Wildlife Trust, Paul Hobson

Page 11 – London Wildlife Trust

Page 12 – Matthew Rich

Page 13 – London Wildlife Trust

Page 14 – Rudraksha Chodankar

Page 15 – Eleanor Church

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Page 17 – Arnhel de Serra

Page 18 – Eleanor Church

Page 20 – Eleanor Church



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