

## Nature Conservation Projects Support 2022



**As committed to in our Environmental Policy, our aim is to do no harm to the natural world. Despite diligently seeking to reduce our environmental footprint wherever possible, our business, like most, still creates waste and pollution. Until we reach a point where this is not the case, we will continue to invest in nature conservation projects to address this imbalance.**

When choosing projects, criteria include the prioritisation of long-term impact, maximising participation opportunities for colleagues and other stakeholders and the improvement of at least two ecosystem services such as climate regulation or pollination. We seek to reflect the diversity of UK ecosystems and showcase high impact interventions that are actively addressing both climate change and biodiversity loss.

This year, we are proud to sponsor three new projects detailed overleaf in addition to the other live projects found on the map.



Credit: Uriel Soberanes



Credit: Philip Bird



# Nature Conservation Projects Support 2023

## Seagrass Restoration with Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

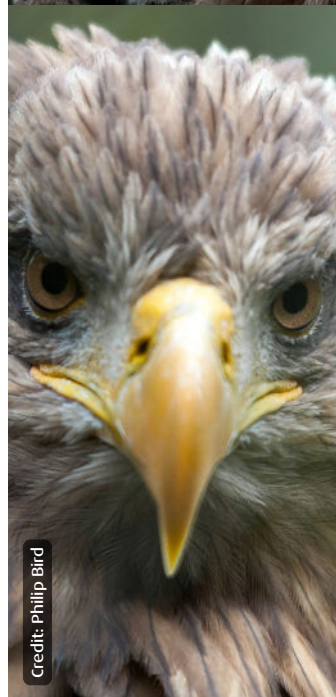
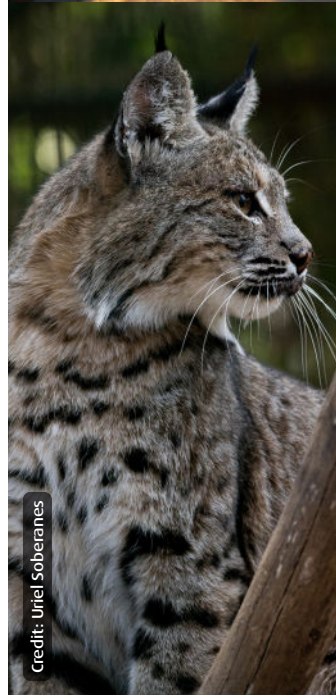
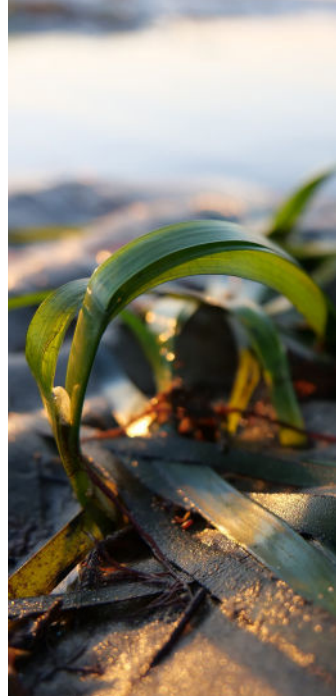
- Part of the wider Solent Seascape Project, Vp are supporting seed collection and planting across three sites as well as community engagement.
- Seagrass meadows can store twice as much carbon as soil on land and over the past century the UK has lost 92% of this ecosystem.
- Restoring seagrass beds has the capacity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon stores while delivering key benefits including improved fish nursery habitats, protection from storms and water quality.

## The Lifescape Lynx Reintroduction Project

- Vp are supporting a comprehensive, collaborative and multidisciplinary feasibility study of reintroduction of lynx to England, building on previous experience, lessons learned and the best available new evidence and information.
- As a native apex predator, lynx would reduce numbers of primarily Roe and Sika deer and push them into upland environments. This should lead to increased natural woodland regeneration.
- Through lynx predation, an increase in the number of deer, rabbit, hare and bird carcasses should fill a crucial, currently limited food source for juvenile birds of prey leading to greater numbers.

## Agricultural Training for Wildlife Trust Land Management Advisors

- 70% of the UK's land is farmed and with the right combination of regenerative agriculture and land being set aside for nature (such as for rewilding), we can halt and reverse many of the declines in wildlife that we have seen since the Second World War.
- Many farmers are willing to change their practices to help nature recover, not least in a context of failing business models, depleting soils and pollinators, and where agricultural payment schemes are shifting towards payment for "public goods" such as nature recovery.
- Vp are going to support a selection of smaller Trusts to fill gaps in expertise of their advisors relating to farm economics and agriculture.



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the  
**Lifescape**  
project

## Habitat: Woodland

The Lifescape Project is undertaking a collaborative and multidisciplinary feasibility study of reintroduction of lynx in England.



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**The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire Manchester & North Merseyside**

## Habitat: Coastal

Dunes are critical for many wildlife and as flood defences. Lancashire Wildlife Trust continue to have great success in expanding the Fylde Sand Dunes.



**The Wildlife Trusts**

## Habitat: Farmland

The Wildlife Trusts are leading on a programme to upskill their land advisors on agricultural issues to better help the food producers they work with.



2

## Habitat: Water Bodies

Gwent Wildlife Trust and partners are scoping suitable locations whilst building relationships with communities, ready for reintroductions of the white-tailed eagle, Europe's largest bird of prey, planned in 2023.

6

1

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3

4

5



3

**Dorset Wildlife Trust**

## Habitat: Farmland

Dorset Wildlife Trust are assisting the transition of intensively managed farmland to a net positive state for the community, biodiversity and climate in England's first community rewilding project.



4

**Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust**

## Habitat: Coastal

Hampshire Wildlife Trust are protecting and restoring seagrass habitats in the Solent to reverse the 90% decline over the past century.



6

## Habitat: Peatland

Effective techniques to restore flora on bare, elevated, wind-blown peatland are unknown but the Yorkshire Peat Partnership is finding out how.



5

## Habitat: Woodland

Last seen in the UK 2,000 years ago, Kent Wildlife Trust have reintroduced bison to the UK in West Blean Woods.