

# UK Nature Conservation Organisations

Places to join, support, volunteer and help protect Britain's animals, plants and wild places

For anyone who cares about Nature, practical conservation is one of the most direct ways to turn concern into action. The organisations below include national charities, specialist societies and research-led bodies working to conserve British wildlife and habitats. Some offer formal membership; others invite support through donations, volunteering, citizen science or local action.

## Wildlife and Habitats

**The Wildlife Trusts** - *local wildlife, habitats and nature reserves.*

Forty-six independent Wildlife Trusts cover the whole of the UK, protecting local species and habitats, managing reserves and campaigning for nature. Membership is organised through your local Trust and often includes events, magazines and reserve access.

[www.wildlifetrusts.org](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org)

**RSPB** - *birds, habitats and wider nature conservation.*

One of Britain's largest conservation charities, protecting birds and the places they need while managing a major network of reserves. Membership, volunteering, campaigning and practical conservation are all available.

[www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

**People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES)** - *threatened species and habitats.*

Supports conservation, research and monitoring of endangered species, with a particularly strong record in British mammal conservation. Supporters can donate, take part in surveys and help fund species recovery work.

[www.ptes.org](http://www.ptes.org)

**Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT)** - *science-led countryside conservation.*

Researches how farming, game management and wildlife conservation can work together. Membership is available, with opportunities to learn about evidence-based conservation in working landscapes.

[www.gwct.org.uk](http://www.gwct.org.uk)

**Rewilding Britain** - *large-scale ecosystem restoration.*

Promotes the recovery of natural processes, richer habitats and more resilient landscapes. Support is mainly through donations, campaigns, information and engagement with rewilding projects.

[www.rewildingbritain.org.uk](http://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk)

## Mammals

**The Mammal Society** - *British mammals, recording and research.*

A membership charity promoting evidence-based mammal conservation. Members can join training, local groups, surveys and recording projects covering everything from hedgehogs and foxes to otters and small mammals.

[www.mammal.org.uk](http://www.mammal.org.uk)

**Bat Conservation Trust** - *bats and their habitats.*

The UK's leading bat conservation charity. It runs the National Bat Monitoring Programme, supports local bat groups and provides public advice. Membership, volunteering and citizen science are central to its work.

[www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)

**British Hedgehog Preservation Society** - *hedgehog conservation and welfare.*

Dedicated to protecting Britain's native hedgehogs through research, advocacy, public education and practical advice. Supporter membership is available, along with guidance for gardens and wildlife-friendly communities.

[www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk)

**Badger Trust** - *badgers and their habitats.*

Works with local badger groups to protect setts, oppose persecution, improve public understanding and promote evidence-based conservation. Support can include membership, donation and local-group involvement.

[www.badgertrust.org.uk](http://www.badgertrust.org.uk)

**Vincent Wildlife Trust** - *threatened mammals.*

Specialises in research-led conservation of mammals such as pine martens and bats in Britain, Ireland and mainland Europe. It

invites support through donations, volunteering and the reporting of sightings.

[www.vwt.org.uk](http://www.vwt.org.uk)

**Beaver Trust** - *beavers and wetland restoration.*

Supports the restoration of beavers and the wetland habitats they create, combining conservation, education and coexistence work. Donations, volunteering and public engagement help its work.

[www.beavertrust.org](http://www.beavertrust.org)

## Birds and Wetlands

**British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)** - *bird science, monitoring and citizen science.*

A major research organisation using volunteer observations, ringing, surveys and long-term monitoring to understand changes in Britain's birds. Membership and participation in surveys are both available.

[www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org)

**Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)** - *wetlands and wetland wildlife.*

Protects and restores wetlands, manages ten major wetland centres and works for species including curlews, godwits and waterfowl. Membership supports conservation and includes access to WWT sites.

[www.wwt.org.uk](http://www.wwt.org.uk)

## Butterflies, Bees and Other Invertebrates

**Butterfly Conservation** - *butterflies, moths and their habitats.*

Britain's leading specialist charity for butterflies and moths. It carries out habitat management, monitoring, species recovery and public recording schemes. Membership, volunteering and local branches are available.

[www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org)

**Bumblebee Conservation Trust** - *bumblebees and flower-rich habitats.*

A science-led charity working to reverse bumblebee declines by restoring habitat, advising land managers and running the national BeeWalk monitoring scheme. Membership and citizen science are strongly encouraged.

[www.bumblebeeconservation.org](http://www.bumblebeeconservation.org)

**Buglife** - *invertebrates of all kinds.*

Works to conserve the 'small things that run the planet', from bees and beetles to spiders and freshwater invertebrates. Members can support campaigns, habitat restoration, surveys and the B-Lines network.

[www.buglife.org.uk](http://www.buglife.org.uk)

**British Dragonfly Society** - *dragonflies, damselflies and wetlands.*

The UK's leading charity devoted to dragonflies and the freshwater habitats on which they depend. Membership supports conservation, recording, research and education, with opportunities to submit sightings and join local events.

[www.british-dragonflies.org.uk](http://www.british-dragonflies.org.uk)

## Reptiles and Amphibians

**Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC)** - *native reptiles and amphibians.*

Protects frogs, toads, newts, snakes and lizards through habitat management, species recovery, research and advice. Supporters can donate, volunteer and become involved in surveys and local projects.

[www.arc-trust.org](http://www.arc-trust.org)

**Froglife** - *amphibians, reptiles and community conservation.*

Works to conserve native amphibians and reptiles while helping people engage with ponds, wetlands and urban wildlife. It offers volunteering, practical projects, educational resources and public campaigns.

[www.froglife.org](http://www.froglife.org)

## Plants, Trees and Fungi

**Plantlife** - *wild plants, fungi and their habitats.*

One of the UK's principal charities for wild plants and fungi. It campaigns for species-rich grasslands, road verges, meadows and other habitats, and offers ways to join, donate and take part in recording and conservation.

[www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)

**Woodland Trust** - *native woods, ancient woodland and trees.*

Protects existing woodland, restores damaged sites, plants new native woodland and campaigns for ancient trees. Supporters can

become members, volunteer, campaign or dedicate trees and woodland.

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

**Species Recovery Trust** - *rare and threatened species*.

Works particularly with species at high risk of extinction in Britain, including threatened plants and invertebrates. It supports direct recovery work, monitoring and specialist conservation management.

[www.speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk](http://www.speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk)

## Marine and Freshwater Wildlife

**Marine Conservation Society** - *seas, coasts and marine wildlife*.

Campaigns for healthier seas, cleaner beaches, sustainable fishing and protection of marine habitats and species. Membership, beach-clean volunteering, citizen science and campaigning are all available.

[www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)

**Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC)** - *whales, dolphins and porpoises*.

Works internationally, including around UK waters, to protect cetaceans from hunting, captivity, entanglement, pollution and habitat damage. Support is available through donations, campaigns and adoption schemes.

[www.whales.org](http://www.whales.org)

**Shark Trust** - *sharks, skates and rays*.

A UK-based conservation charity working for better protection and sustainable management of sharks and their relatives.

Membership, citizen science, campaigning and species-recording projects are available.

[www.sharktrust.org](http://www.sharktrust.org)

**The Rivers Trust** - *rivers, catchments and freshwater habitats*.

A national network supporting local Rivers Trusts across Britain and Ireland. It works on water quality, habitat restoration, natural flood management and healthier river catchments. Local volunteering and donations offer practical ways to help.

[www.theriverstrust.org](http://www.theriverstrust.org)

**Freshwater Habitats Trust** - *ponds, streams and freshwater biodiversity*.

Specialises in protecting small freshwater habitats and the many rare species they support. It runs surveys, restoration projects and citizen-science programmes and welcomes public support.

[www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk](http://www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk)

**A useful starting point:** if you want to help wildlife close to home, begin with your county Wildlife Trust. If you have a particular favourite group of animals or plants, a specialist organisation can provide more focused conservation work, surveys and volunteering opportunities.

Websites and participation routes checked August 2026. Membership schemes, subscriptions and volunteering opportunities can change, so readers should confirm current details directly with each organisation.