

2022 FUNDING PROSPECTUS

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust's Vision for Wildlife

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust is the only charity in Herefordshire dedicated to protecting all aspects of wildlife across the County. We are a membership organisation with over 6,100 members. We have a dedicated and effective staff team of about 26 people, supported by more than 500 fantastic volunteers. We are a registered charity, governed by a Board of Trustees.

Our Vision is for a Herefordshire richer and more diverse in wildlife, bringing its people closer to nature. We want to see:

- Herefordshire revived as a county with thriving wildlife - with nature reserves and wild spaces at the heart of an expanding and effective Nature Recovery Network.
- Space for nature across our farmed landscape and extending into our towns and villages
- Healthy naturally functioning rivers and floodplains - providing clean water, mitigating flooding and alive with wildlife.
- Flowery meadows and commons buzzing with life, natural woodlands alive with birdsong, ancient trees properly venerated, and road verges, hedgerows and village greens managed for wildlife.
- Wild spaces accessible with 10 minutes of every home for everyone to enjoy and appreciate.
- A Green economy – with Herefordshire ahead of the curve on promoting and installing green technologies and promoting green tourism.
- Herefordshire seen as a vibrant 'green county' - attracting new young families for the quality of life and the countryside experience.



How are we trying to achieve this?

- We manage 60 Nature Reserves in Herefordshire – that is nearly 500 hectares of land reserved for wildlife
- We run projects in landscapes across the county - restoring habitats and protecting wildlife
- We work with children and young people in the communities and schools - educating engaging and inspiring them to care about wildlife
- We run events, workshops and professional training for the public, volunteers and trainees
- We work with partner organisations across the county - encouraging them to join us in protecting, enhancing and expanding key habitats and species

All this work requires resources and funding. This Prospectus outlines some of our current projects in need of funding support. There are many ways you can help – through direct donations, fundraising activities, in memoriam gift or by leaving a gift in your will. We are happy to acknowledge your support in a variety of ways (as outlined for each project).

Please join us in our efforts to make the difference for wildlife!








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Looking after our reserves

Project name:	Fencing at our new Reserve: The Goggin
Location:	The Goggin
Funding gap:	£10k
Timescales:	As soon as possible
Description:	<p>We have just been left a legacy of 2 lovely meadows at The Goggin. Sadly, these have been neglected whilst the estate went through probate and are in urgent need of restoration including hay cutting and aftermath grazing</p> <p>The fences around the boundary of the site are in poor repair and this is deterring potential graziers from putting their sheep on site, so we need to re-fence the perimeter of the fields.</p>
Supporting pictures etc	<p>Our latest new Reserve: The Goggin</p> 


Project name:	New hide at Oak Tree Farm
Location:	Oak Tree Farm
Cost:	£20k
Timescales:	Within the next 18 months
Description:	<p>Oak Tree Farm is one of our newest land holding, purchased so that we can carry out restoration works to create a wetland stepping-stone between Bodenham Lake and Wellington Gravel pits.</p> <p>We are intending to create a series of wetland features on the low lying areas of the reserve and hope to install a new bird hide overlooking these.</p>
Habitat plan for Oak Tree Farm	 <p>The habitat plan for Oak Tree Farm shows a landscape with various features. A road labeled 'A49' runs along the top left. A parking area marked with a 'P' is located near the road. Two bird hides are marked with red dots and labeled 'Hide'. The plan includes a network of water features: a blue stream labeled 'Bodenham Stream' flowing from the top right towards the bottom right, and several blue areas representing permanent pools and ephemeral scrapes. A legend in the bottom right corner identifies the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature Reserve (red outline) Woodland (dark green) Wetland (medium green) Grassland (light green) Ephemeral scrape (light blue) Permanent pool (dark blue) Water treatment wetland (green with wavy lines) Spring (green with a blue arrow) <p>A north arrow and a scale bar (0 to 50m) are also present.</p>


Project name:	Hedge laying at the Birches and elsewhere
Location:	Across the county
Cost:	Approx. £10 per metre
Timescales:	ongoing
Description:	<p>Herefordshire Wildlife Trust wants to look after our traditional hedgerows by keeping alive the historic technique of hedge laying on our reserves. This technique creates a thick stock proof boundary, whilst regenerating the hedgerow and creates hedges that are particularly good for a range of wildlife.</p> <p>We have an ongoing programme of hedge laying around our Nature Reserves. We do some of this with our volunteers but need to use contractors for longer sections of hedge. The average cost of this is £10 per metre.</p> <p>Potential funders can nominate a Reserve, or set of Reserves of their choice, for their donation or support, but we are currently working on complete hedge laying at The Birches Nature Reserve. This currently requires 100m of hedge and so will cost approx. £1,000.</p>
Supporting pictures etc	<p>Hedge laying at The Birches</p>  <p>The photograph shows two individuals engaged in the traditional practice of hedge laying. They are standing in a field, surrounded by a large pile of cut birch branches. One person is actively placing a branch into the hedge, while the other stands nearby. The background features a line of trees and a clear sky, suggesting an outdoor rural setting.</p>


Project name:	Floodplain meadow enhancement, saving our curlews
Location:	Lugg Meadows, Hampton Meadows, Lugg Mills
Cost:	4 acres of floodplain meadow enhancement = £10,000 Hydrographical study of the meadows = £30,000 Public/landowner engagement (2 years) = £32,000 Nest protection (2 years) = £5,000
Timescales:	Later summer annually
Description:	<p>Herefordshire Wildlife Trust manages a beautiful set of traditional water meadows in the floodplain of the River Lugg, including parts of Lugg Meadows SSSI.</p> <p>The meadows flood annually over the winter, however in 2017 the flood water lay on site until late April and created a lot of bare ground which was subsequently colonised by docks. We want to carry out remedial work over the next few years to try to reduce the density of docks and improve the diversity of the grassland. The strewing of green hay containing wildflower seeds within the 36 hectares of floodplain grassland will increase the distribution and abundance of wildflowers.</p> <p>Nationally curlew have declined by at least 50% in the past 25 years. These floodplain meadows are amongst the last sites in Herefordshire where curlew are trying to nest. Last year, only 1 chick successfully fledged from our Reserves, but this was one of only 6 successful fledged curlews in the lowland. We want to work with the local public and other landowners to reduce disturbance from dogs, loss of nests due to early hay cuts and predation from other bird species and foxes.</p> <p>In the past, the hydrology of Lugg Meadows has been altered by blocking of culverts and modification of drainage structures. The Trust wants to undertake a hydrological study of Lugg Meadows to determine how we can improve it botanically and for curlew.</p>
Supporting pictures etc	

Project name:	Conservation of Titley Pool
Location:	Titley pool
Cost:	400m of poolside coppicing = £10,000 400m of fencing and gates = £5000 1acre of woodland thinning = £5,000
Timescales:	
Description:	<p>Titley pool is one of Herefordshire's largest natural open water pools. Alder trees, growing around the edge of the pool are shading out aquatic vegetation, resulting in a loss of habitat for fish, dragonflies and amphibians. By coppicing trees growing at the edge of the Lake we want to allow light into the lake margin, maintaining it for wetland species. This will also help to increase what are currently small areas of reedbed around the lake. The coppicing will also open up views onto the pool, helping to enhance the important historical landscape of the Grade 2 listed Park and Garden of Eywood, in which Titley Pool is situated.</p> <p>We want to protect the pool-side, from browsing by livestock off neighbouring farmland. More importantly, fencing will protect the pool margins from poaching and water eutrophication caused by livestock. This has resulted in algal blooms in the pool and potential eutrophication of a water course flowing into the River Arrow. We aim to re-fence the northern edge of the pool, after the coppicing has been completed and timber extracted. Field gates in the fence will allow future access for coppicing and small wood extraction.</p> <p>The reserve is important foraging, roosting and breeding habitat for bats (European protected species) and 8 species have been recorded on the site in recent years. Specialists have identified that the interface between the pool and neighbouring woodland should be managed by thinning to create "corridors", that allow for the movement of bats between the pool and adjoining woodland. This will increase the opportunities for species like Daubenton's bats to roost and breed in the woodland.</p>
Supporting pictures etc	Coppicing at Titley Pool




Project name:	Deer fencing around coppice coupes
Location:	Various sites
Cost:	Material costs approx. £300 per 100m
Timescales:	Annually
Description:	<p>Many of Herefordshire Wildlife Trust's reserves are Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands which were traditionally managed as 'coppice with standards'. The coppice areas, usually stands of hazel and other under shrubs, were cut on a 15-25 year cycle to provide firewood, bark for tanning and a range of coppice products and then allowed to regrow from the coppice stools to keep the cycle going. The standards were grown on to maturity to provide timber for houses and ship building. This created a continuous supply of sunny glades which were great for early spring flowers, butterflies, dormice and other woodland wildlife.</p> <p>HWT is maintaining this cycle of coppicing, wherever possible using volunteers. However, deer number in our woodlands have increased to the extent that in many areas the regrowth from the coppice stools is grazed out by the deer. To prevent this, and keep the coppice going, we need to install deer fencing around newly cut coupes.</p> <p>We aim to cut annual coppice coupes at many of our Reserves including Lea and Paget's Wood, Leeping Stocks, Upper Swingley etc, and need funds every year to purchase and install the deer fencing</p>
Supporting pictures etc	<p>Deer fencing around coppice coupe at Lea and Paget's wood</p> 

Project name:	Nature Reserve signage
Location:	Across the county
Cost:	£1,500 per large sign
Timescales:	ongoing
Description:	<p>Herefordshire Wildlife Trust is refreshing the Nature Reserve signs right across the county, to provide more information about each reserve and its wildlife and help people to get the most out of their visit.</p> <p>We need to prepare the text and artwork, design and produce the signs and then install them on site, at a cost of approx. £1,000 each. We also need funds for smaller directional signs etc around the Reserves.</p> <p>Many of our Reserves still have the old Hereford Nature Trust signs, and we are currently part way through upgrading these.</p> <p>Potential funders can nominate a Reserve, or set of Reserves of their choice, but we are currently working on the signs for the Woolhope dome.</p>
Supporting pictures etc	<p>Example of our new signs at Stockings Meadow Nature Reserve</p> 

Project name:	Electric tools for our Reserves volunteers
Location:	Across the county
Cost:	New electric chainsaw with rechargeable battery and charger £550 New electric brush cutter with rechargeable battery and charger £650
Timescales:	ongoing
Description:	<p>Herefordshire Wildlife Trust manages 55 Nature Reserves, 2/3 of which are woodlands, whilst most of the rest are grasslands. Much of the work on the reserves is carried out by our volunteer work parties, who enjoy getting out on the reserves making a difference by managing the scrub, clearing woodland glades, coppicing and edging. Hence much of our equipment, such as chainsaws and brush cutters, is in constant use.</p> <p>HWT want to replace our old petrol driven equipment with state-of-the-art electric kit. This has the benefits of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping us to meet our sustainability targets, especially as we have solar panels on our workshops to recharge the batteries • Being safer for volunteers to use (due to lower vibration levels) • Being more pleasant for the volunteers (as it is less noisy) • Making our volunteers feel better valued! • Reducing our running costs <p>We are hoping to buy a full set of new kit in the near future but will be looking to make sure that we replace them regularly as they are in constant use.</p>
Supporting pictures etc	<p>Electric chainsaw with rechargeable battery</p>  <p>The image shows a Husqvarna electric chainsaw with a black and orange body and a silver chain. Next to it is a black Husqvarna battery pack and a black Husqvarna charger with a power cord.</p>

Project name:	Benches in Nature Reserves
Location:	Various
Cost:	Approx. £500 each
Timescales:	annually
Description:	<p>Herefordshire Wildlife Trust believes that everyone benefits from experiencing wildlife close at hand, and what better way than to sit quietly on a bench in one of our Nature Reserves?</p> <p>Many reserves have benches already, but some of these are getting old and worn out. Some Reserves need benches in new locations, and we also have some new reserves where we have not yet installed any benches.</p> <p>So, we are always in need of new benches. Potential donors can request plaques or inscriptions to commemorate or dedicate their donation.</p>
Supporting pictures etc	<p>New bench at Queenswood Country Park</p> 

Project name:	Dealing with Ash dieback
Location:	Around the county
Cost:	At least £5k annually
Timescales:	Annually
Description:	<p>Ash dieback is now affecting many trees across Herefordshire, including trees on Herefordshire Wildlife Trust's Nature Reserves. Experience from Denmark suggest that up to 10% of our trees may be resistant to the disease, but it is likely that 90% will ultimately succumb.</p> <p>HWT needs to address this issue proactively, as affected ash trees can shed limbs or collapse and where this is happens alongside roadsides or public footpaths this could have disastrous consequences.</p> <p>We are currently investigating the extent of the problem across the reserves and planning how best to respond. Where trees are clearly dangerous, they will need to be felled, the sooner the better, both for public safety and because they become more dangerous to fell as the disease progresses. Wherever possible we will pollard trees that can be saved, where it is safe to do so. We will also be looking to replace these trees by newly planted or protected maple, oak and other species.</p> <p>We need funding support to carry out this work, particularly when we opt for tree surgery rather than complete felling</p>
Supporting pictures etc	<p>Many ash trees in Herefordshire are likely to succumb to Ash</p>  <p>Dieback</p>

Bodenham Lake

Project name:	Composting loo at Bodenham Lake (and elsewhere)
Location:	Bodenham Lake orchard and possibly on our other flagship Nature Reserves
Cost:	£2,500
Timescales:	asap
Description:	<p>Bodenham Lake is a much visited local Nature Reserve, with two (soon to be three) bird viewing hides, but not other facilities for visitors. We would like to provide toilet facilities by means of a 'tree bog' composting toilet located in a secluded corner of the orchard</p> <p>There is also a need for composting toilet facilities at other Nature Reserves around the county.</p> <p>We are proposing to install tree bogs – a type of composting toilet on stilts. Most composting toilets involve a drop into a hole, which can become waterlogged and smelly. These work on the principle that the waste drops onto the ground (behind woven or straw based modesty screens) and the through flow of air keeps the toilet dry and allows aerobic breakdown and natural recycling of the waste. The example below has been in use on a community site for over 5 years and has not yet required emptying.</p> <p>The tree bog can be built by volunteers, but funding is required to buy materials and pay for the project co-ordinator on the day.</p>


Supporting pictures etc


Tree Bog at a community allotment and orchard



Outreach to help others appreciate and conserve wildlife


Project name:	A Wilder Herefordshire
Location:	Anywhere in the County
Cost:	£2,500 per month
Timescales:	ongoing
Description:	<p>Herefordshire Wildlife Trust has a vision for a Wilder Herefordshire - a county with thriving wildlife - with nature reserves and wild spaces at the heart of an expanding and effective Nature Recovery Network.</p> <p>Government has set a bold new target of 30% of land managed for nature by 2030. To achieve this, we need to support local people and communities to conserve wildlife in their local patch.</p> <p>We already support several local groups in their activities, including Verging on Wild, Friends of the Upper Wye and Friends of Bartonsham Meadows.</p> <p>Over the last year, as people came to recognise the ecological crisis and the importance of nature in all our lives, we have received ever increasing requests for help and advice on species, woodlands and meadows.</p>


	<p>We are now intending to appoint a 'Community Outreach officer' to provide tailored advice and support to local people and communities to help us achieve a Wilder Herefordshire.</p>
<p>Supporting pictures etc</p>	<p>HWT is providing advice on this pond belonging to a member</p>  A photograph of a small, shallow pond in a grassy field. The pond is surrounded by tall grasses and reeds. In the background, there are several trees, some with bare branches and some with green leaves, suggesting a spring or early summer setting. The sky is overcast.

Project name:	Saving the River Wye
Location:	The River Wye catchment
Cost:	Match funding (need not yet confirmed)
Timescales:	ongoing
Description:	<p>The River Wye is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and a Special Area of Conservation. These are UK and EU designations acknowledging the special qualities of the river for wildlife. Unfortunately, intensive poultry unit, free range egg enterprise and changing farm practises in the catchment has led to soil and manure runoff and elevated levels of phosphate on the river. This has devastating impacts on a range of river wildlife including smothering the beds of water crowfoot, silting up the spawning beds for salmon and trout, reducing oxygen levels for fish and invertebrates and changing the water chemistry.</p> <p>Herefordshire Wildlife Trust is working closely with Radnor Wildlife Trust to support efforts from all sectors to save the river Wye.</p> <p>We submitted an expression of interest to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for a project to support citizen science and engage local communities and stakeholders in taking action to save the Wye. This has been accepted and we are now working up a more detailed bid. Any match funding we can put forward will increase our chances of success.</p>
The River Wye	<p>As it used to be with water crowfoot Now a stagnant algal soup</p> 

Project name:	Fruit tree planting
Location:	Across the county
Cost:	Approx. £70 per tree
Timescales:	ongoing
Description:	<p>Herefordshire Wildlife Trust wants to revive our traditional orchards by planting new generations of fruit trees to succeed the old trees as they collapse.</p> <p>Orchard trees are fabulous for a whole range of wildlife and because they become 'old' at a relatively young age, they are particularly good for creatures that depend on old dead wood. These range from woodpeckers drumming and excavating nest holes, through Mistletoe tortrix moth living in the mistletoe to noble chafer beetles and other invertebrates living in the dead wood.</p> <p>Sadly, many of Herefordshire's traditional orchards are of advanced age, and many of the trees are collapsing and dying. HWT wants to replace these trees with new generations of trees.</p> <p>HWT manages 8 orchards across our Nature Reserves, including the extensive orchards at Bodenham Lake. We also work with approx. 130 owners of private orchards.</p> <p>Orchard trees cost about £70 each with stakes, rabbit guards and ties, or approximately £170 if they require protection from sheep or cattle.</p> <p>Why not fund our new trees as part of your carbon offsetting plan? Potential donors can nominate an orchard or orchards of their choice for their donation.</p>
Supporting pictures etc	Replacement trees in a traditional orchard



Project name:	Wildflower Meadow enhancements
Location:	Across the county
Cost:	Approx. £650 per hectare (£250 per acre)
Timescales:	ongoing
Description:	<p>Herefordshire Wildlife Trust has some excellent wildflower meadows and are keen to use seed and green hay harvested from these to enhance some sites of lower diversity.</p> <p>We have now repaired our seed harvester and we carried out trials of seeding and green hay strewing over the summer of 2019. We would like to continue this work in future years, using seed and hay from various sites including The Birches, parts of the Lugg Meadows and The Sturts.</p> <p>Potential recipient sites include: Lugg Meadows, Hampton Meadow, parts of the Birches, Bodenham Lake orchards, Stockings Meadow etc.</p>
Supporting pictures etc	<p>Harvesting wildflower seed from a Herefordshire meadow</p>  <p>The photograph shows a man in a light-colored shirt and trousers operating a red tractor in a meadow. The tractor is pulling a red seed harvester attachment. The meadow is filled with tall grasses and wildflowers. In the background, there are trees and a fence line.</p>

Project name:	Improving accessibility to Titley Pool (and other Reserves)
Location:	Titley Pool, then other Reserves across the county
Funding gap:	Not yet fully costed
Timescales:	As soon as possible
Description:	<p>At present, many of our Nature Reserves are not easy to access for those with mobility issues, those in wheelchair and people pushing buggies etc. We will be working in consultation with relevant groups and charities representing mobility impaired people to work out the most practical improvements of each of our sites.</p> <p>We are already working on this at Queenswood and Bodenham Lake but would like to extend this to other Reserves across the county, starting with Titley Pool.</p> <p>This will require improvements to our access tracks and gates etc. At Titley Pool, we would like to widen and resurface tracks through the woods and along the poolside, install boardwalks, reduce path gradients and improve the bird hide access.</p>
Supporting pictures etc	<p>Improving access at Titley pool</p> 

Helping others to appreciate nature.

Project name:	Watch Groups, Holiday Adventure Clubs and wider outreach to children
Location:	Across the county
Funding gap:	Watch Groups: £4k per group (£1k per group, 3k to fund monthly sessions) Other Outreach sessions £300 each
Timescales:	As soon as possible
Description:	<p>In the last 4 generations, younger children have become increasingly disconnected from the outdoors and wildlife.</p> <p>Herefordshire Wildlife Trust is keen to ensure that we grow a new generation of young people interested in conservation and able to pick up the batten when we need to hand it over. We do this by engaging children in interactive environmental education sessions including activities such as bug hunting, pond dipping, bird watching, animal tracking etc.</p> <p>We hope to establish Watch Groups in more locations around the county and to provide environmental sessions for youngsters aged 5-11. We are currently exploring options in Ledbury, Ross and Wye and at our new Tretawdy Reserve.</p> <p>£5k covers all the costs of trained, professional staff to prepare and deliver sessions and all the equipment needed</p> <p>We are keenly aware that we also need to reach out to children for whom nature is less accessible, introducing them to nature in their locations, taking them onto reserves and visiting schools. Sessions cost £300 each for staff time in preparation and delivery plus materials.</p>

Supporting pictures etc

Engaging children in the outdoors helps them connect with and care for nature



Project name:

Holiday Adventure Club

Location:

Queenswood

Cost:

5K

Timescales:

Easter and Summer holidays

Description:

It is increasingly understood that connecting with nature at a young age improves the health and wellbeing of our children and fosters a lifelong love of and caring for wildlife. It's a win, win – good for our children and good for wildlife.

We want to run a regular adventure club in the school holidays where children can learn new skills, make friendships and connect with nature. 5K would allow us to run these sessions for a year, employing highly skilled play rangers, maintain our materials and forest school site.

Forest school site



Project name:	Nature Tots Family sessions
Location:	Queenswood
Cost:	5K
Timescales:	As soon as possible
Description:	Nature Tots is a popular weekly session for Pre-School children and their families to explore nature and have absolute freedom to run wild with their imaginations. It is an opportunity to get messy and muddy and to use all the senses to get to know the natural world around them. Children and their families get a good dose of the great outdoors and get to take on challenges such as den building, dinosaur egg hunting or toasting apples on the campfire! Things that might not be available to them at home that then become ideas to have another go at in the future!

5K will ensure we can keep running these sessions at an affordable price for families, covering the cost of an experiences Wild Play Ranger to deliver the sessions.

Picture:



Project name:	Electric Van for outreach work
Location:	Herefordshire Wide
Cost:	20K
Timescales:	As soon as possible
Description:	We do a lot of outreach work across the county working with community groups, schools, libraries, and other contractors. Currently we struggle to get the kit to site due to a lack of vehicles and not having one big enough to transport gazebos.

We are looking to acquire an electric van that is big enough to transport the kit needed for a session and fits with our objectives to switch to electric and reduce our carbon footprint.

Electric van



Project name:	Training placements
Location:	Queenswood Country Park
Cost:	Up to £9,000 pa per placement
Timescales:	Annual or recurring
Description:	<p>Herefordshire Wildlife Trust is privileged every year to attract keen placement students as Volunteer Assistant Reserves or Conservation Officers. They donate their time, whilst we provide essential experience and training to help them into full employment. Their contribution to our work is invaluable and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting our Reserve management programme • leading Reserve work parties, • reserve survey and mapping, • preparing risk assessments and other essential health and safety duties • drafting Management Plans <p>We have been very fortunate to attract VAROs every year and almost all of them have gone on to gain a job in the conservation arena.</p> <p>Currently we have a small budget for this to cover their travel expenses and formal training courses, such as the use of chainsaws. £2,000 would cover travel and training for one placement. However, we would very much like to be able to support these placement students more effectively by offering each of them a bursary of up to £600 per month and are seeking one or more sponsors to support these roles. Your support could be for a seasonal or full year post and for one or more years.</p> <p>We would be happy to recognise potential donors by naming the relevant supported role after them and, for corporate sponsors, by promoting their sponsorship through information on our website, articles in our magazine and e-news and our usual social media outlets.</p>

**Supporting
pictures etc**

One of our Volunteer Assistant Reserves officers gathering reed seed

