

Businesses investing in wildlife across Essex

PAGE 12

**Hiscox extend  
their partnership**  
with our founding  
reserve in our  
65th year

# WILD

**BUSINESS** | WINTER  
2024

PAGE 4

## Making it green

Our Green Leader on  
why investing in nature  
makes sense for people  
and planet

## FIR TREE WOOD

PAGE 3

THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF BUSINESSES  
ACROSS ESSEX, WE BOUGHT A WOODLAND!

Investor in  
**Wildlife**  
Working together to  
make **business wilder**



**Essex**  
Wildlife Trust



# WELCOME



Over 18 years of working with the Essex business world, one feeling always comes out and that is I'm proud of what we achieve year on year.

Proud that we have nearly 300 businesses supporting wildlife in Essex. Proud that we have businesses at the forefront of environmental issues, businesses working alongside nature. And proud that, through challenging times, you understand the importance of a wilder Essex.

Understanding why organisations, big and small, old and new, join us in our mission, is key to delivering something meaningful for both you and Essex Wildlife Trust. At its core, I think the reasons are a mixture of this:

You love where you do business. Simple as that; Essex has provided you a market and a home and you love the nature we have in this county. You want to see it protected for generations to come and understand our role in doing that.

You also know business needs nature. Whether that's appealing to the next wave of employees, showing your

credentials from a marketing perspective, or simply knowing that,

without biodiversity, much of what we do ceases to exist - you understand supporting nature directly helps you succeed. Nature also creates a valuable source of wellbeing for employees and the more you can support their wellbeing, the more engaged they are with your business.

So, through a combination of those reasons, plus personal passions, we've ended up working together on a shared goal – protecting wildlife and inspiring a lifelong love of nature.

Over the next 12 months we'd love to hear those reasons, those personal passions, the 'why' behind it. Because the better we know and understand you, the more we can do to support you back, just like you continue to support us.

Enjoy the following content and, from myself and the team, thank you. We're proud to have your support.

**Grant Maton**  
Corporate Communications Officer



## WHAT'S INSIDE

3 **FIR TREE WOOD**

4 **GREEN LEADER AWARD**

5 **PROJECTS AND CAMPAIGNS**

6 **NEW INVESTORS IN WILDLIFE**

8 **GOLF DAY**

9 **FINGRINGHOE SPONSORSHIP**

10 **CORPORATE NEWS**

11 **THE BIG GIVE**

12 **HISCOX**

13 **UTILIZE**

14 **TILBURY GREEN POWER**

15 **ESSEX & SUFFOLK WATER**

16 **CONSERVATION STRATEGY**

18 **BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN**

19 **MOSAIC**







# We bought a woodland

That statement really does need to stand on its own because it's incredible. 'We' doesn't just mean Essex Wildlife Trust. It means hundreds and hundreds of supporters across Essex, from individuals, groups and of course, businesses.

All coming together to save a precious, valuable and significant piece of Essex. Here's a bit of background:

A stone's throw away from the ever-growing urban environments surrounding Chelmsford and Maldon, Fir Tree Wood is a haven for nature. A critical piece in the jigsaw of habitats across Danbury Ridge, this woodland is at the heart of an expansive interconnected landscape for wildlife.

It forms a green lung in the community and is an oasis for wildlife. During the day, woodpeckers drum in the trees, butterflies flutter from flower to flower and the sweet scent of lily-of-the-valley fills the air. At night, dormice scuttle up tree trunks, bats swoop through the skies and larger mammals quietly emerge from their dens and setts. Many of these species are at risk throughout the UK, and we wanted to ensure they continue to flourish by making Fir Tree Wood our newest nature reserve.

So as a Trust, we set out to raise £200,000 to purchase and secure the site as woodland in perpetuity.

It was one of our first land appeals in a while, during a time when businesses and individuals were still hunkering down financially. So why was it such a success? Why did so many corporate members get involved?

If you set aside the simple fact Fir Tree Wood is stunning and full of nature, there's a powerful message that resonates with the business world.



So many of our businesses are rooted (pardon the pun) in Essex. Year one start-ups through to 100 year legacies, you understand the importance of protecting your patch.

Having somewhere and something physical you can see and talk about is important too. More and more, business is being conducted with sustainability and wildlife in mind – 75% of millennials will change buying habits because of the environment. So, to be able to talk about the support you've given to campaigns like Fir Tree Wood isn't just good for the soul, it's good for business.

And ultimately, as the Fir Tree Wood campaign has shown, it's good for nature. Thank you so much to everyone who donated, talked about or even just took the time to understand the campaign. Watch this space because if enabling nature to flourish in crucial parts of Essex sounds appealing, we're not stopping here...



Fir Tree Wood: Clare Banks, Lesser spotted woodpecker: AGAMI - stock.adobe.com, barbastelle bat: Roziline - stock.adobe.com



# Green Leader Award

Our CEO Rich Yates (left) and Alex Holliman

Each year, we recognise our business community for going above and beyond. For seeing the goals of Essex Wildlife Trust and saying 'I'm with you 100%'.

There's an incredible list of people and organisations standing with us in our goals and we're grateful to have you all. This year, one person's commitment stood out to us on a personal and professional level.

We're pleased to say that the recipient of the Green Leader Award 2024 is Alex Holliman, Managing Director at Climbing Trees. Alex supported our Fir Tree Wood campaign, making a massive commitment to saving the wood and continues to engage with us, sharing his wealth of knowledge in the process.

Below is a chat with Alex: a bit more on why he's a worthy winner, what nature means to him and how businesses can play their part.

## Hey Alex and congratulations – let's start simple, tell us a bit about your role and company?

"Sure thing, I'm Managing Director of Climbing Trees, a B-Corp performance ads and SEO agency, who've just won the King's Award for sustainable business. We primarily help people get found on LinkedIn, Facebook, Google – we don't build websites but what we do is help get companies in front of the right audiences. Companies like Greenpeace, Olympus Cameras and more. It's my role to lead the business, keeping purpose at the heart of what we do."

## And a big question, what does wildlife mean to you?

"Being born in Essex and living here, now settling down with my family, wildlife means a lot – the UK is one of the most nature depleted countries so wildlife to me means providing a space where our impact on nature is minimised and nature can thrive."

## Which leads us neatly to how business and wildlife/nature causes are linked. Why do you think businesses should care about our natural world?

"I think there's a lot to be said about the hackneyed phrase 'there's no business on a dead planet.' We have World Overshoot Day - where we have used over a planet's worth of resources by 1 August - so the fear is biodiversity, climate change and systemic issues will get to a point where we have gone too far. So why should businesses care? Well capitalism has got us to a point where businesses need to make decisions alongside nature, being regenerative and giving more than they take. So we do everything we can as a small business to do that – we're not there yet but we're working hard."

## What was it about the Fir Tree Wood campaign that excited you to get involved, both personally and from a business perspective?

"We've made significant moves to give back to nature, planting trees for example. Having lived not far away, contributing to a community project that then protects the land, is a great initiative in our local area."

## And to finish, what's next for you and Climbing Trees?

"As a growing small business, we're starting local impact work; all things from supporting homeless charities, council offices, digital inclusion, diversity, schools and tree planting – building what we can with an eventual aim of buying and rewilding land for locals to use for perpetuity. That might be a year or two away, but that's what we're working towards!"



## Climbing Trees.

Visit Climbing Trees at [climbingtrees.com](https://climbingtrees.com) or scan the QR code.



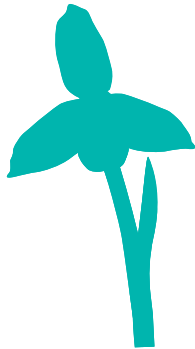


# Essex in action 2024

Since last winter, we've been busy working towards our aim of 1 in 4 people in Essex taking action for wildlife. Individuals, families, schools, care homes, businesses and more have been getting stuck into our campaigning work at the Trust, from documenting thousands of butterfly observations to transforming gardens into wildlife havens. Here's a snapshot of what we've achieved together in the last year.

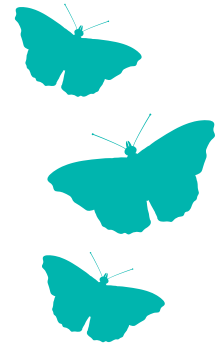
## Wildflower explosion

Another 'blooming' good year for The Essex BioBlitz saw a further 29,850 wildflowers submitted across the county. We are working with The University of Essex to collect vital climate change research, join us next April to help.



## Butterflies in decline

Although it was a tough year for butterflies, people in Essex were still busy noting down any flutter of wings as we received 8,955 butterfly observations that will help us understand more about butterfly populations in Essex.



## Pollinator paradise

Despite only launching this autumn, we've already had 146 pledges to create a pollinator-friendly garden. Could you add a bug or bee hotel to your office garden? Search 'Nature Neighbours' on our website for more.



## Toad abodes

48 gardens welcomed toads with log piles and mini-ponds. We collaborated with our friends at Froglife to raise awareness of these warty wanderers.



## Spring cleaning

Just in time for spring, almost 500 individuals (and businesses – shoutout **TechWyse** and **Mondhind Clean!**) took part in our litter picking challenge collecting an estimated 23,850 pieces of litter.

## Save the Wick

Over 16,000 signed a joint petition along with other key partners such as Buglife to save a vital grassland, Middlewick Ranges, on the edge of Colchester. There's still time to add your name.

## Waves of colour

130 people took part in our marine art competition, Coastal Creations, with artwork exhibited at Hanningfield Reservoir Nature Discovery Park.



## 30 Days Wild

Encouraging connections with nature, 30 Days Wild was back this summer. In total, 3,055 people spent 30 days soaking up the benefits of wildlife and time in nature.

### How can you help us?

1. Take part in our campaigns throughout the year.
2. Sponsor a campaign – help us cover the cost of a campaign so we can encourage more people to take action for nature.
3. Spread the word to your staff and other businesses. It's a team effort to make positive change for nature.

To find out more about our campaigns visit [www.essexwt.org.uk/campaign](http://www.essexwt.org.uk/campaign) or scan the QR code.





# Welcome to our new Investors in Wildlife



The Kitchen Draw



Image On



Saving Energy Ltd



Essex Business Partnerships



Runkins Farm Holdings



Philip Grahame International

## Upgraded Investors in Wildlife



BitwiseIT Ltd - Gold to Platinum



Blackburn & Co Ltd - Silver to Gold





Mosaic



Carbon Numbers



3D Oak Ltd



PCS Legal



Nordens

### We also welcome:

- Astralis Technology
- CSH Environmental
- EcoClean & Property Services Ltd
- Endersham Ltd
- Riverside Building Supplies Ltd

If you would like to join us as an **Investor in Wildlife**, please contact Grant Maton for more information: [grantm@essexwt.org.uk](mailto:grantm@essexwt.org.uk)

Globalnet IT Innovations - **Silver to Gold**Wire Free Protection Ltd - **Silver to Gold**



# Charity Golf Day

Celebrating our 25th Anniversary

2024

Our annual Corporate Charity Golf Day was a great success again this year – and was particularly special as it was our 25th year running this popular and well-supported event.

The weather was kind to us and perfect for golfing - not too hot and not too cold, and above all dry – and we are grateful to all the teams that supported us in raising more than £6,000!

Rich Yates, our recently-appointed CEO, spent the day getting to know our Investors in Wildlife and stayed into the evening to present prizes. He gave an impassioned speech about our vision for the future of wildlife conservation in Essex whilst thanking our corporate members for their support in helping to make it happen. To round off the evening, on cue, a pipistrelle bat completed a fly pass in the barn where we were all having our dinner, eventually going to hunt for its own dinner outside.

As always, we would like to thank Mike Cable, our Volunteer Scorer, who for over 15 years now helps us determine the winning teams in each category.

This year Allistair Hunter, owner of DS Group, kindly donated a bottle of champagne for the heads 'n' tails. We are also grateful to Kay Soudah, owner of Grape Passions, for sponsoring the bottles of wine for the prizegiving.

We love holding our Golf Day at The Warren Golf Club, near Maldon, and enjoying their excellent facilities. A special thank you to Darren Gardner and all the staff for making us welcome and facilitating the smooth running of the day.

**Congratulations to the golfers** who Beat the Pro on the fifth hole, receiving complementary vouchers for a two ball later.

**Golf Day 2025: make a date in your diary now, Tuesday 17 June 2025 at The Warren Golf Club.**



Swallow Aquatics, 18 hole Stableford winners



Luke Crawley, Longest drive



Matt King, Nearest the pin



MDM Timber, 4 corners



Accuro Enviromental, Texas Scramble holes 1-9



Olympus Keymed, Texas Scramble holes 10-18

## Auction prizes

**Ruark audio R1 MK4 deluxe bluetooth radio**  
Ruark

**Monopoly: The ESSEX Edition**  
c2c Rail

**Hamper**  
Wilkin & Sons Ltd

**TESLA for 48 hours**  
Tesla Chelmsford

**KellyBronze 5kg Turkey**  
Derek Kelly

**Lathe-carved wooden 'Spalted Hornbeam' bowl**  
Dennis Carter

**Waterproof binoculars oregon 4 LE WP**  
Opticron

**Afternoon tea for two**  
Greenwoods Hotel & Spa

**Make your own gin & tour and tasting experiences**  
Essex Spirit Company

**Complimentary business review**  
Nordens Accountancy

## 4-Ball donation

- The Warren Golf Club (x2)
- Rochford Hundred Golf Club
- Stoke by Nayland Golf Club
- Langdon Hills Golf & Country Club
- Lakes Course at Potters Resorts Five Lakes

## Thank you to our eight-hole sponsors

- Ellisons Solicitors
- European Refrigeration Ltd
- Swallow Aquatics
- Javalin Network Services
- Palmers Law
- Waldegraves Holiday Park
- The Survey Initiative
- Carbon Numbers





# Sponsor a Nature Discovery Centre

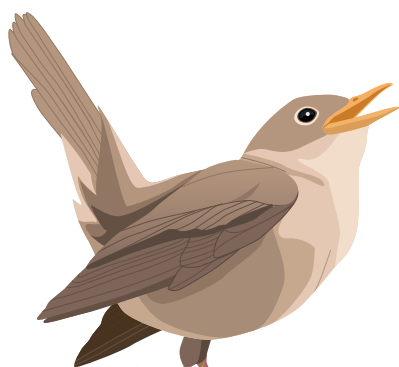
Our Nature Discovery Centres (NDCs) are our gateways to inspiring wildlife experiences. A place to plan adventures, to learn, to rest and recover, coffee and cake in hand.

Tens of thousands of people visit our NDCs, each one going home with a story to tell. We would love you to help us create this magical experience, which could be the start of someone's lifetime relationship with the environment or kickstart their action for nature.

Which is why we're opening the incredible opportunity to **Sponsor a Nature Discovery Centre**, starting with **Fingringhoe Wick**.

As our founding nature reserve, Fingringhoe Wick is a truly special place. Sponsoring our first site in **our 65th anniversary year** offers a unique opportunity to show how your business is aligned with our values. Home to one of the largest groups of nightingales in the country, this former industrial gravel pit is the embodiment of re-wilding, turning a near lunar landscape into a unique and significant home for nature.

With **more than 65,000 visitors a year**, sponsorship of the site means great reach for your brand and tangible outcomes for nature. The city of Colchester is nearby, so you'd be supporting a place close to the hearts of a community, whilst giving your employees and clients a place of wonder to enjoy.



You can get involved in several ways, and we would love to hear new partnership ideas.

## Pathway Guardians

**£15,000 per year**

As Pathway Guardians, you could keep footpaths and access routes clear year-round, engaging your staff with Wild Work Days in the process.

## Sponsors of guided walks and talks

**£5,000 per year**

Have your name on workshops and events, reaching a huge local audience whilst contributing to the nature work on site.

## Title Sponsor

**£53,000 per year**

As title sponsor, you'd be the key guardian of this wonderful place. A true partner to the Trust, this funding will help us to maintain the centre and hides, deliver large-scale habitat creation and management, foster and nurture biodiversity. Your logo will appear on the centre and we'll offer dedicated guided tours for employees/clients as well as meeting room space for Wild offsites. Members of our leadership team can attend your events and we'll help you gain press coverage. There are a huge range of benefits as we'd create a unique relationship.

These amounts aren't small, we appreciate that. It shows both the cost required to keep the site running and the value of a special and long-standing partnership with Essex Wildlife Trust.

Regardless of how you wish to support us, we're always grateful so if there's a specific item, feature or part of the site your business has a connection with, please do get in touch.



# CorporateNews

## 260<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER

Essex Wildlife Trust would like to say a huge thank you to law firm Ellisons and all of their staff for their on-going 260th anniversary fundraiser. We will not reveal the total at this stage, as there are still a couple of months to go, but we can say they have surpassed their £10,000 target!

"The fundraising challenge for Essex Wildlife Trust and The Brain Tumour Charity has involved working with the local community, fundraising events and a huge amount of festivities across Ellisons' five offices in Bury St Edmunds, Colchester, Chelmsford, Ipswich and Frinton-on-Sea. Departments have also competed to come up with the most creative ways to raise money!"

Thank you to everyone at Ellisons! If you would like to run a similar challenge in your business, we would love to hear from you – and we can provide a toolkit to inspire your fundraising ideas too!



## ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST AND NETWORKING ESSEX PARTNER UP FOR OUR GREEN ZONE

Networking Essex arrange a large Expo in South Essex - and this year we were thrilled to be asked to set up a Green Zone.

After running two successful Big Green Business Expos in 2022 and 2023, this opportunity helped us to reach a new audience.

We were pleased to be joined by 26 stands in the dedicated space for environmentally-focused and conscious businesses. Thank you to Aaron Desmond, owner of Networking Essex, for helping us promote the Green Zone and kindly donating £1,300 to the Trust.



## RUNNING WILD SUCCESS!

A host of companies - both Investors in Wildlife and non-members - joined us at

Nuclear Races Wild Forest in Brentwood for a 5k full of mud, fun, obstacles, water and, yep, more mud.

Getting stuck in alongside our own Essex Wildlife Trust team at the challenge event on 22 June, they raised a mud-tastic amount of money, totalling £10,771! Thank you Carbon Numbers, Palmers Solicitors, Ruggles & Jeffery, Techwyse, SEIB and The Treehouse Club!

Sign up today for next year's event at [essexwt.org.uk/events/running-wild](https://essexwt.org.uk/events/running-wild)



Running Wild 2025 is kindly sponsored by Ground Control.





# Empowering communities to take action for nature

## The Big Give

**In the midst of a climate crisis, local action can have a global impact. There are small steps every community can take to help our planet. We want to fund a programme that supports people to take action on their doorsteps, transforming local spaces and enabling people and wildlife to flourish.**

This appeal will fund a programme to support communities with the tools they need to bring nature back, because we know local action can add up to make a big difference to our planet. We'll equip communities with skills, training and advice to make their areas better for nature. As wildlife experts we'll lead the way, encouraging people to care about the natural world and take action to protect it. A stronger connection to nature benefits wildlife and is vital for our own health and happiness.



## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

## DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

**TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER – TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER**

By donating through the Big Give, every £1 is doubled at no extra cost to you!

There are very few better ways to amplify support so please do at least explore the option and spread the word – it plays a vital role in our mission.

To donate during The Big Give week and have twice the impact, visit [www.essexwt.org.uk/team-wilder-appeal](http://www.essexwt.org.uk/team-wilder-appeal) or scan the QR code.





# Hiscox extends partnership

Throughout this edition of the magazine, we've mentioned partnership. This idea that we're creating relationships that go beyond a donation, marrying both organisations' objectives. With the Hiscox Foundation, that's exactly what we're doing.

As a global insurance company, Hiscox has a far reach and take their environmental and social responsibilities seriously. This comes to life through their Foundation, with a core pillar of work being to protect and preserve the environment. In their words, "We are focused on projects that in some way address climate variability and look to increase global resilience to climate change, as well as projects to enhance biodiversity." Enter the Wildlife Trust!

Starting with a relationship with London Wildlife Trust, Hiscox wanted to start supporting work close to their Colchester office, whilst adding a way to engage those employees. This has led

to two brilliant years of support for Fingringhoe Wick, one of our key sites.

We're proud to say the latest commitment has been to purchase an all-terrain vehicle. To keep the reserve thriving, our rangers will have access to a valuable tool, making large scale work possible. It will speed up restoration work and free up time to boost biodiversity and plan future projects, meaning

more climate resilience and a wilder site. Our precious carbon capturing saltmarshes will also benefit, a nationally important area in carbon sequestration.

Working closely with Nicky Allen, Charity Coordinator at Hiscox, we're continuing to build a long-term partnership, with Colchester office members helping with valuable work on site; work that is integral to habitat maintenance and biodiversity. Here are a few words from Nicky on what the partnership means: "The Foundation is delighted to support a second year of partnership with Essex Wildlife Trust."



  
HISCOX



Visit Hiscox at  
[hiscox.co.uk](https://hiscox.co.uk)  
or scan the QR code.





# Utilize make an impact

Utilize's partnership with Essex Wildlife Trust as a Corporate Platinum Member has been an immensely rewarding experience for both organisations!

Over the past five years, they have actively engaged in various projects and volunteering days, which not only support conservation efforts but also promote mental wellbeing. Spending time outdoors, immersed in nature, offers a refreshing break from daily routines, allowing staff to reconnect with the environment and appreciate the beauty of local wildlife.

A highlight of the collaboration has been the volunteering days at the Langdon nature reserve, where they've had the opportunity to participate in hands-on conservation work. Typical tasks included clearing bridleways, creating dead hedges, repairing or installing fencing, and tree popping.

**"It is incredibly fulfilling to witness the tangible impact of our efforts from the beginning to the end of each day,"** said Amy Gorbell, Employee Engagement Officer at Utilize.



In addition to their volunteering efforts, they kindly donated to cover the cost of essential tools, including a new brush cutter. The brush cutter has already had a significant impact on the maintenance of the Langdon nature reserve.

Amy said: "Our ongoing partnership with the Essex Wildlife Trust has reinforced our commitment to environmental sustainability and fostered a strong sense of community and teamwork among our staff. We look forward to continuing this relationship and making a meaningful difference for both local wildlife and our collective wellbeing."

Visit Utilize at  
[utilize.co.uk](https://utilize.co.uk)  
or scan the QR code.



**Utilize**  
Technology. Together.



# Tilbury Green Power

What supporting Essex Wildlife Trust means in their own words



“Tilbury Green Power (TGP) is delighted to be supporting Essex Wildlife Trust, sharing the aims of protecting wildlife through landscape conservation, connecting people with wildlife and green spaces, and promoting education of conservation and the natural environment to young people. These aims are aligned with several of the themes within TGP's soon to be launched social value strategy including inspiring young people, promoting wellbeing in the workplace and community, and supporting environmental sustainability.

Located in the Port of Tilbury, TGP is one of the largest waste wood biomass power stations by generation capacity in the UK. It plays a valuable role in the UK meeting its targets for climate change and transition to a low carbon economy, in particular energy production from renewable sources.

Our fuel source is low quality, post-consumer waste wood sourced from demolition sites and household waste recycling facilities in the UK, with the majority from the South East of England. TGP recovers energy from around 280,000 tonnes of waste wood every year generating over 40 MW of electricity, enough to power over 100,000 homes. Without energy recovery via electricity generation at TGP, the only other potential destination for this material is landfill. Diverting biodegradable waste wood from going to landfill prevents methane, a potent greenhouse gas, from entering the atmosphere. Using this waste to generate electricity contributes to displacing the requirement for marginal power generation from carbon-based fuels such as natural gas. As a result of diverting waste from landfill and generating electricity, TGP helps to prevent over 300,000 tonnes of fossil-based carbon dioxide

emissions from entering the atmosphere every year.

TGP is committed to the wider Tilbury area and has developed a social value strategy which sets out our commitment to the community to demonstrate how we are a responsible business. This social strategy is soon to be launched on our website. In the last year, we have supported a number of local charities such as the Thurrock Foodbank and community assets such as the Tilbury and Chadwell

Family Hubs where TGP provided support to resurface and upgrade their outdoor play areas.

We believe that by supporting the local community we can all have better outcomes for current and future generations and look forward to continuing our partnership with Essex Wildlife Trust.”



tilbury  
greenpower



# Water (and wildlife) are worth saving

It's not an obvious connection, but the amount of water we use in our homes can have a direct impact on our surroundings, nature, and the environment.

**Here are some easy water-saving tips that you can introduce at home, to help you do your bit for the environment.**

- 1** Turning off the tap while you brush your teeth can save up to 13 litres of water in a day.
- 2** Taking a shower instead of a bath can save 10 litres of water.
- 3** Repairing dripping taps can save nine litres of water a day.
- 4** Loading the washing machine to full capacity can save eight litres of water.
- 5** Reducing the length of your shower to five minutes can save seven litres of water.
- 6** Using a bowl when hand washing dishes can save seven litres of water.
- 7** Only switching on a full dishwasher can save two litres of water.

Tim Wagstaff, Water Efficiency Manager at Essex & Suffolk Water, explains: "Water is such a precious resource and Essex is in a water-stressed area of England, meaning that we need to do everything we can to look after the water we have."

"Small changes can often make a big difference and we all have a part to play. If you follow these tips and visit the website to find out what else you can do, you are taking the first step to a more environmentally friendly approach to water use."

We're pleased to have an ongoing partnership with Essex & Suffolk Water through our sites at Hanningfield and Abberton, and are grateful for their support of numerous projects too.



**'Small changes can often make a big difference'**

**ESSEX & SUFFOLK**  
**WATER** *living water*



View more tips on the Essex & Suffolk website [eswater.co.uk/savewater](https://eswater.co.uk/savewater) or scan the QR code.





# Conservation Strategy 2030

As we celebrate our 65th Birthday as a Trust this year, it's an incredibly exciting time to release our new Conservation Strategy.

This strategy fits into our established, overarching 2030 aims – 30% of land and sea in Essex actively managed for nature's recovery by 2030; 1 in 4 people taking action for nature and climate by 2030.

It sets our stall, guiding the way that we work and gives the steps needed to achieve

our big goals. It's the essence of all our nature recovery work, capturing not just the work on our reserves, but what we're doing throughout Essex Wildlife Trust, across landscapes and communities.

The full document is a must read for anyone interested in how the Trust is tackling the biodiversity crisis so please do get in touch for a copy or check it out online. It's such an important part of the work we do - the work which you as individuals and companies support - so we want to highlight the headlines.

# How we need to restore nature

**30% is research-proven as a crucial threshold for maintaining species' connectivity** and ecosystem health, helping to combat the climate and biodiversity crisis. Creating green spaces alone is not enough – these habitats must be larger, more structurally diverse and better connected to truly support nature's recovery.

We need to tackle the five main threats to nature: habitat change and loss, over-exploitation, pollution, invasive non-native species, and climate change.

## Nature reserves and beyond

Our nature reserves are the foundation for nature's recovery, and we must manage them as models that inspire broader conservation efforts. Volunteers, with their local knowledge and dedication, will be crucial to this success.

Biodiversity audits and natural capital assessments will establish baselines for species diversity and abundance, alongside the health of critical ecosystem components like soil and water quality. This ensures the integrity of our reserves.

## Go far, go together

We have four guiding principles for Essex's nature recovery – Impactful, Adaptable, Evidence-based and Partnership-oriented. That fourth principle applies directly to the business world of Essex, to people like you reading this. Through joint projects, supporting our nature reserves, or doing what you can to make office space more wild, you're part of this journey with us. So definitely take a look at the full strategy and see how your support is being put into action.

## We will:

**Enhance wildlife corridors by creating buffer zones and connecting key reserves.**

**Strengthen our conservation evidence and share knowledge to ensure effective management interventions that boost biodiversity on and beyond our reserves.**

**Collaborate with conservation partners, land managers, farm clusters, and fishermen to enhance and connect marine, coastal, and terrestrial habitats.**

**Empower Essex communities with conservation advice to make their local areas wilder.**

**Promote and influence the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and support local authorities in protecting wildlife sites through policy and action.**

Read our Conservation Strategy 2030 by visiting [essexwt.org.uk/what-we-do/protecting-wildlife](https://essexwt.org.uk/what-we-do/protecting-wildlife) or by scanning the QR code.





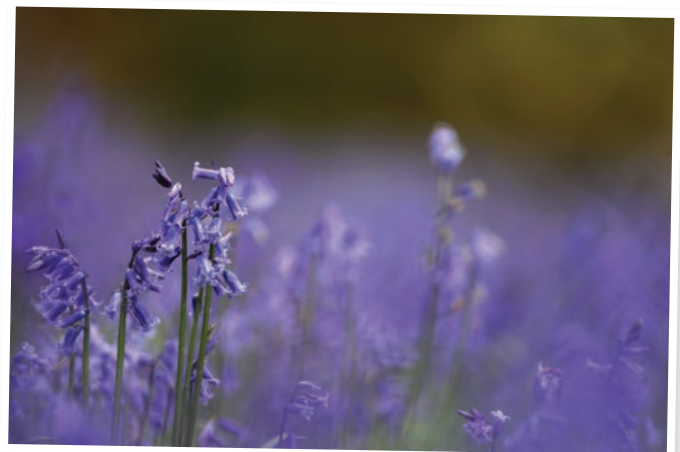
# Biodiversity Net Gain – what does it mean?

If you're in construction, development, or have just looked at expanding your physical site recently, you'll have gone to the planners and have heard Biodiversity Net Gain mentioned.

The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) regulations that came into force in England in 2024 were billed as the biggest change to planning rules in decades. From a nature recovery perspective, they were also an exciting change, offering a new, credible means of funding. With the recent announcement of the Government to restore mandatory housing targets, (which will rise to 370k new homes per year), this is a significant tool in nature's recovery.

BNG means that developers must now deliver a minimum of 10% BNG for new developments, or, in other words, a measurably positive impact ('net gain') on biodiversity, compared to what was there before development.

The requirement of BNG is a huge step forward and can be achieved through the restoration or



creation of habitats on the same site as the development or at other sites. Developers will purchase 'credits', plots of land designated to BNG – which is where Essex Wildlife Trust are involved.

We are designating a variety of habitats to BNG over the coming months and years, providing a highly valuable and secure income stream for the Trust. All agreements will go through a rigorous vetting process, ensuring they are developments done the right way, with nature firmly in mind.

This will create a fantastic uplift in the biodiversity of currently low-diversity land – things like old farming fields – and give us a valuable position in development and planning conversations.

It's an incredibly exciting option for us, one which we're positioned to be a leader in, from a provision and education perspective. So if you've come across BNG and want to understand it or our offering more, drop us a message and we'll talk it through.





# Mosaic inspiring change

B Corp certified Mosaic – The Conscience Marketing Agency is celebrating 25 years of providing training and marketing solutions to businesses who put people and planet first.

The Colchester-based agency has been a Gold Investor in Wildlife since 2023, and this year enjoyed a walking tour of the River Stour with the Trust's expert Darren Tansley, to learn about the health of the river and what more can be done to protect the water-based species that rely on it.

Mosaic have recently joined a global movement of companies aiming to reinvent business for the benefit of the people and planet by becoming B Corp certified after proving they meet high standards of social and environmental performance, transparency and accountability.

Their award comes just in time for their 25<sup>th</sup> year in business.

CEO Karen Ainley said: "Since we started Mosaic, we have always worked with businesses that are kind to the world around them, which aligns with the values of the B Corp movement, and we are delighted to become certified following a lot of hard work from our team."



Mosaic's commitment to B Corp standards is underlined by their new approach to marketing strategy – Conscience Marketing – which focuses on the 5Cs: Customers, Climate, Communities, Colleagues and Credentials.

Karen added: "Conscience Marketing is about integrating ethical considerations and social responsibilities into marketing and communications' strategies to drive business growth and increase profits, allowing organisations to invest more in green initiatives, good causes, their people and local communities.

"There is a lot of synergy between this and the reasons why we're so proud to support Essex Wildlife Trust.

"We share their belief in protecting the environment and are in awe of the Trust's work, including improving the county's river health and saving local seagrass – an important carbon sink and ecosystem for wildlife."

Visit Mosaic at [mosaicpublicity.co.uk](https://mosaicpublicity.co.uk) or scan the QR code.





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