

OUR WILD YEAR 2025/26

Impact report



Ymddiriedolaeth Natur
Gogledd Cymru
North Wales
Wildlife Trust

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North Wales
Wildlife Trust



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Registered Charity No. 230772

Our year in numbers



10,000+
members



Engagements with **93** schools, colleges, universities and youth groups, reaching **3,576** children and young people



1,216 volunteers
giving **42,362**
hours of time



66 full-time
equivalent employees

75 landowners given
advice about their
own landholdings,
amounting to almost
867 hectares of land



200 outreach events
and on-site visits
organised by staff and
volunteers, reaching
7,292 people



18,871
subscribers to
our e-newsletter



959 hectares of
land across **36**
sites owned and
managed for people
and wildlife

Welcome

Nature's recovery takes time, partnership and persistence.

Over the past year, we've continued to expand our work across North Wales, restoring habitats, supporting nature-friendly farming, recovering our seas and inspiring more people to take action for wildlife. While the challenges facing nature remain significant, this year's achievements show what can be accomplished when communities, volunteers, farmers, partners and supporters come together with a shared purpose.

From the return of terns at Cemlyn to record numbers of volunteer hours and growing youth leadership, this report celebrates the progress we're making together and the difference your support helps create every day.

As Chair, I would like to recognise the outstanding contribution of Frances Cattanach, who stepped down as Chief Executive in April 2026 after years of dedicated service to the Trust and nature's recovery in North Wales. On behalf of the Board, thank you, Frances, for your commitment, leadership and lasting impact.

At the same time, I am delighted to welcome Lindsay Thomas as our new Chief Executive. Lindsay joins the Trust at an exciting time, bringing fresh energy and ambition as we continue our journey towards a wilder, more resilient future. Thank you for being part of that journey.



Howard Davies
Chair

Bringing Nature Back

Our **vision** is of a thriving natural world, with wildlife and natural habitats playing a valued role in addressing the climate and ecological emergencies, and people inspired and empowered to take action for nature.

Our **purpose** is to bring wildlife back, to empower people to take action for nature, and to create a society where nature matters.

Our **strategy** and its **three goals** set out what we believe needs to happen by 2030 in pursuit of our longer-term vision for nature's recovery.



GOAL 1

Nature in North Wales is in recovery, with abundant, diverse wildlife and natural processes creating wilder land and seascapes where people and nature thrive.



GOAL 2

People in North Wales are taking action for nature and the climate, resulting in better decision-making for the environment.



GOAL 3

Nature is playing a central, valued role in helping to address local and global problems.

GOAL 1

Nature in recovery

Researchers, conservationists and policy makers alike recognise that, to create a coherent and resilient ecological network, we need more, bigger, better and joined-up space for nature. In Wales, we have gone a step further and explicitly recognise the intimate link between the environment, people, culture and wellbeing in our statutory framework. This positions our environmental targets as fundamental for people as well as nature.

Our aim is for at least 30% of land and marine areas to be protected, connected, and positively managed for nature.

NATURE IN NUMBERS



22 landowners supported through Galwad, our land management advisory service



125 swift nest boxes installed across communities, schools and businesses in Wrexham



420+ volunteer hours contributed to Shoresearch monitoring



2,400 pairs of Sandwich terns recorded at Cemlyn Nature Reserve

BEAVER: RUSSELL SAVORY



SANDWICH TERN: HENRY COOK





Supporting farmers and land managers

Galwad, our land management advisory service, supported 22 landowners across North Wales and is now accredited to deliver Farming Connect advice and Lantra training, including support for the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS).

We secured Welsh Government funding for Galwad to deliver the Alyn Resilient Farms project, helping farmers prepare for the SFS through hedgerow restoration, tree planting, pond creation, buffer strips and natural flood management. Delivery of study tours and other training opportunities, including a soil health project, are promoting practical, evidence-based approaches that strengthen farm resilience, improve biodiversity, and support sustainable farm incomes.

Bringing beavers back

The Welsh Beaver Project made major strides toward restoring beavers to the wild in Wales through its work helping to secure government recognition of beavers as a native, legally protected species.

With a licence application submitted for the Dyfi catchment, the team has continued to build local support— increasing volunteer capacity, engaging 79 farmers, directly engaging over 500 people through events and education, and expanding partnerships across Wales. This work, as well as cross-border collaboration, has helped to position the project as a leading force in beaver reintroduction.

HELTED GALLOWAY CATTLE:
PASTURE FOR LIFE



Our nature reserves

Our nature reserves and Bryn Ifan remain central to our efforts to restore nature across North Wales.

- We continue to make strong progress towards ensuring every reserve is under effective restoration management by 2030, supported by partnerships with farmers, investment in infrastructure and the dedication of volunteers.
- Volunteers received specialist training and supported a wide range of practical conservation work, including woodland coppicing, thinning and increasing levels of tree safety work in response to ash dieback and storm damage.
- At Old Pulford Brook Meadows, partnership work is helping address long-standing challenges through improvements to flood resilience and restoration of water management systems.
- At Caeau Tan y Bwlch, greater butterfly-orchid numbers increased, while improved pasture management was supported through Plantlife's Glaswelltiroedd Gwydn project.
- At Cors Goch, marsh gentian reached a record count, reflecting successful grazing management and favourable conditions, alongside targeted work for specialist stonewort habitats.
- At Cemlyn, roseate terns returned to breed for the first time in 31 years, with two nesting pairs recorded.
- Across our reserves, monitoring highlights strong

populations of priority species. Volunteers continue to track pied flycatcher nesting success, while surveys confirm healthy numbers of reptiles and amphibians at Minera Quarry and Gors Maen Llwyd, where sustained effort has also benefited black grouse.

- We improved access and visitor experience through path enhancements, new interpretation, and the reconnection of Cors y Wlad at Bryn Ifan to the local path network.
- Following public consultation, we reinstated the historic name Llyn Celanedd for the nature reserve previously known as Spinnies Aberogwen.

Supporting nature recovery in the marine environment

As a key partner in the **Welsh Ocean Literacy Coalition**, we continued to work with over 60 partners across Wales to support a sustainable relationship with our coasts and seas.

Our flagship marine citizen science project, **Shoresearch** delivered a high-impact year, generating vital intertidal data on key species including Pacific oyster, slipper limpet, wireweed and wrack species alongside notable finds such as volcano barnacle. Our findings strengthened evidence around species trends, climate change and invasive species while confirming local habitat resilience. Powered by over 420 volunteer hours, the project continues to build a skilled and growing community, creating a powerful citizen-led evidence base to track change and protect the coasts of North Wales. We now have the momentum to exceed 15,000 records in 2026.

Working in partnership

The **North Wales Nature Consortium** coordinates partners to develop large-scale, joined-up action to restore nature across landscapes that will support sustainable land use and communities. A dedicated team was recruited to deliver an 18-month programme to map activity, identify opportunities and develop a coordinated approach to nature recovery across the region. Early progress has been strong, with rapid engagement across partner organisations and the establishment of a shared delivery framework. Work is also underway to strengthen regional funding and nature finance capacity.

Our **Corsydd Calon Môn** partnership project continued to build strong foundations for landscape-scale restoration, piloting activities that connect communities, heritage and land management, and support farm businesses. Early adopter work with farmers tested practical changes to benefit both the fens and livelihoods, underpinned by shared data and evidence. Community events and creative engagement raised awareness and participation, while new partnerships, research and Arts Council funding shaped a compelling, co-designed programme ready to secure delivery funding and long-term impact.



PASTURE FOR LIFE



SHARK FOD CASE © NWWT

NWWT LINCUMMINS

GOAL 2

Meaningful action

People are the key to nature's recovery. Society needs nature yet we are increasingly disconnected from our natural environment. As David Attenborough has said 'No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced.'

We work to understand the barriers that exist between individuals, communities and the natural world, seeking to empower people of all identities, cultures, backgrounds and abilities to value, enjoy, speak up and take action for wildlife.

We connect people with natural spaces through improved community engagement and creating safe, inclusive wild places close to where people live, work and play.

NATURE IN NUMBERS



8,834 volunteer hours contributed to Brenig Osprey Project



12 young people trained as Seagrass Ocean Rescue Champions

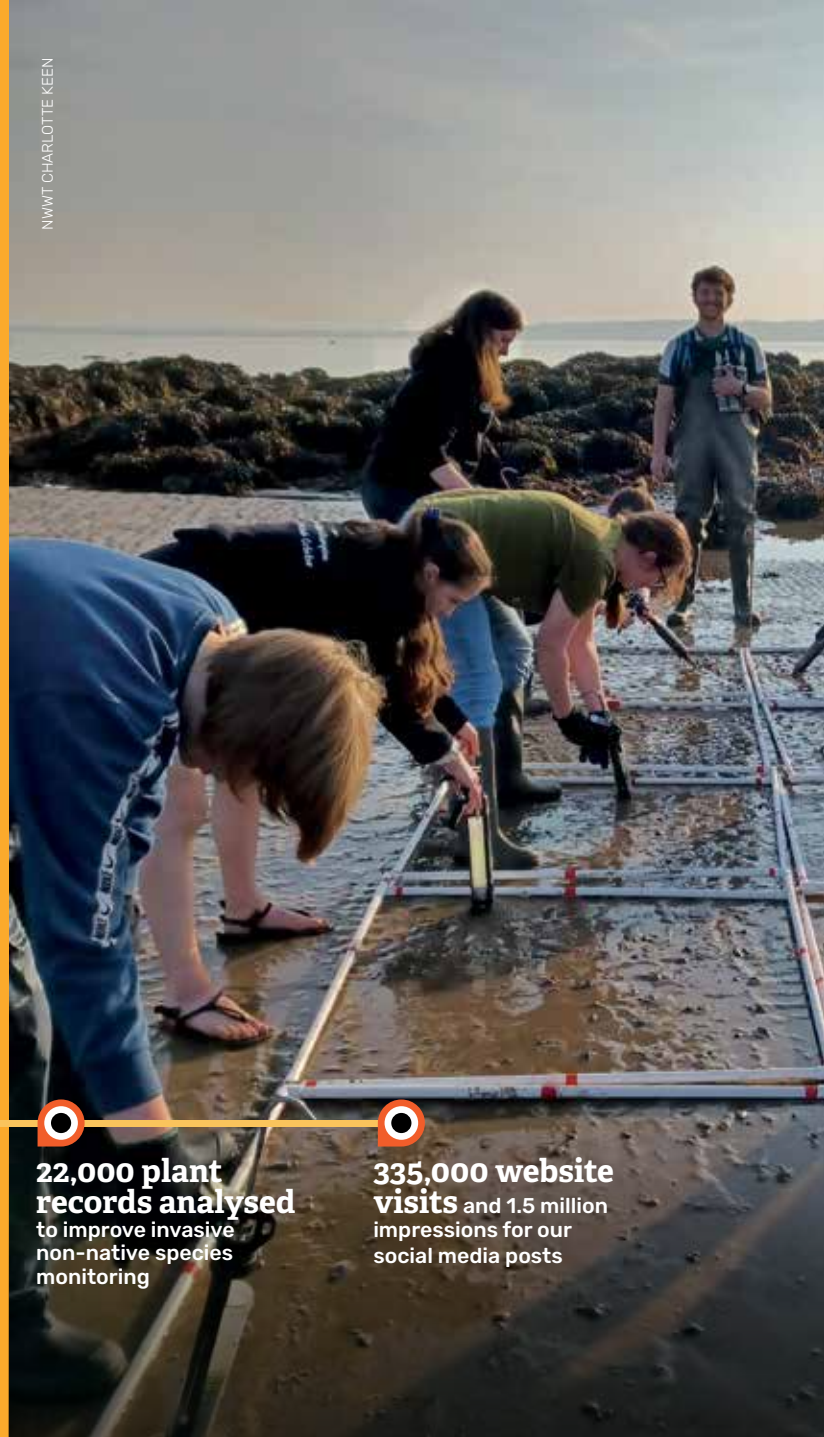


22,000 plant records analysed to improve invasive non-native species monitoring



335,000 website visits and 1.5 million impressions for our social media posts

NWWT CHARLOTTE KEEN





Working together for wildlife

Without our **volunteers** we would, undoubtedly, not be able to deliver our work across the region. This year, the number of volunteer hours increased by over 5,000 from the previous year! Our volunteer programme takes many forms: from bracken bashing and repairing fencing to surveying shorelines and helping in our shops, to name just a few. Regular volunteers have access to both accredited and informal training courses, developing new skills and gaining valuable experience.

The **Brenig Osprey Project** continued to flourish. Volunteers contributed 8,834 hours and the team was named North Wales Wildlife Trust 'Volunteer Group of the Year'. We expanded wildlife monitoring from species surveys to wider habitat initiatives. These developments allowed us to deliver more events and inspire more people than ever before.

Our **Garden Escapers** project demonstrated a prevention-first approach to tackling invasive plants by engaging communities, professionals, and stakeholders in reducing garden escape risks. The 'Beyond the Boundary' exhibition attracted 8,500+ visitors, and our Gardeners' Toolkit supported behaviour change and wider strategy on invasive species.

Our work with young people

For the fourth year, our Seagrass Ocean Rescue Champions programme engaged 12 young people aged 11–16 in marine conservation through hands-on training, fieldwork and leadership development. From seed collection to planting, participants gained skills in snorkelling, and seagrass ecology, monitoring and restoration. Two mentors, Anna and Oscar, received national recognition through the Marsh Award for Young Marine Conservation Volunteers, while Anna also presented at the UK Seagrass Symposium. The programme developed motivated young advocates for seagrass recovery.

In August 2025 we were awarded Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts funding to pilot a new 'nature connection' programme with young people aged 11–16, exploring how experience in nature can benefit health and wellbeing. Working with people in a range of settings in some of the most economically deprived areas of north-east Wales, we now have a dedicated youth development officer and programme for this area

We celebrated a decade of pioneering youth development by placing young voices at the heart of our summer membership magazine. Our Môn Youth Forum members and Ocean Rescue Champions shared powerful stories, and became guest editors - demonstrating our commitment to the changemakers and conservationists of the future.

GOAL 3

Nature-based solutions

Healthy natural systems are essential to a thriving future for both wildlife and people. Yet climate change, biodiversity loss and declining ecosystem health are reducing nature's ability to support resilient communities and a healthy environment.

In partnership with others, we work to restore natural ecosystems at scale and demonstrate the possibilities of nature-based solutions to sequester carbon, help prevent flooding, reduce soil erosion, improve soil fertility and allow nature's recovery at sea, whilst supporting improvements to people's physical health and mental wellbeing.

NATURE IN NUMBERS



150,000+ people
visited one of our nature
reserves – benefitting
wildlife, human health
and wellbeing alike



562 tCO₂e
emitted
by North Wales Wildlife
Trust across Scope 1-3



£928,000+
secured for natural
flood management and
habitat restoration



140+ online
volunteers enabled
to support our work
remotely

CORS Y SARNAU NATURE RESERVE: NWWT

SALT MARSH: NWWT NIA HAF JONES

WILDER BANGOR PROJECT: GARETH JONES



Restoration to sequestration

Peatland restoration work has taken place at Cors y Sarnau, focusing on an area of peatland previously occupied by a conifer plantation. Work continued throughout the year, including active management and hydrological surveys to improve our understanding of environmental conditions. These insights are helping to inform future management decisions, including further re-wetting of the peat.

Blue carbon

Strong progress was made in unlocking and scaling funding for blue carbon, with seagrass and saltmarsh at the forefront. The extended Seagrass Ocean Rescue programme (to 2027) continues to deliver impactful restoration at Holyhead and Pen Llŷn.

At the same time, new funding has kickstarted a dedicated North Wales saltmarsh programme, combining innovative baseline mapping with community engagement.

Climate monitoring and mitigation

Faced with the implications of climate change across our nature reserves, including increased risk of wildfires and flooding, we initiated a broad review and took appropriate actions such as managing water levels at Cemlyn to protect the tern colony. We've also been monitoring a range of species, such as marsh gentian, spotted rockrose and pied

flycatcher to reveal important information on local trends.

Getting our own house in order

Tackling climate change is embedded across our work to recover nature. In 2025/26, North Wales Wildlife Trust was responsible for 562.31 tCO₂e of greenhouse gas emissions. While emissions from our properties reduced during the year, emissions associated with travel, materials and supplies increased, reflecting higher levels of activity. Improving our understanding of environmental impact remains a priority.

By strengthening monitoring and reporting, we can better identify opportunities to reduce emissions across our operations and supply chains, supporting informed decision-making and progress towards our net zero ambition.

Nature at the heart of community

With evidence to prove that nature can provide considerable benefits for the mental and physical wellbeing of those most in need, we are committed to removing barriers to participation and ensuring equitable access to opportunities across all aspects of our work. Improving physical accessibility, engaging with under-represented communities, strengthening cultural relevance and visibility and building our skills in inclusivity have all played a part.

Financial review

The Trust had a better than anticipated financial year and we remain grateful to our members and supporters for their generosity. Income for the year on a standalone basis was £3.6m, up £303k on the prior year, chiefly due to higher donations and service income.

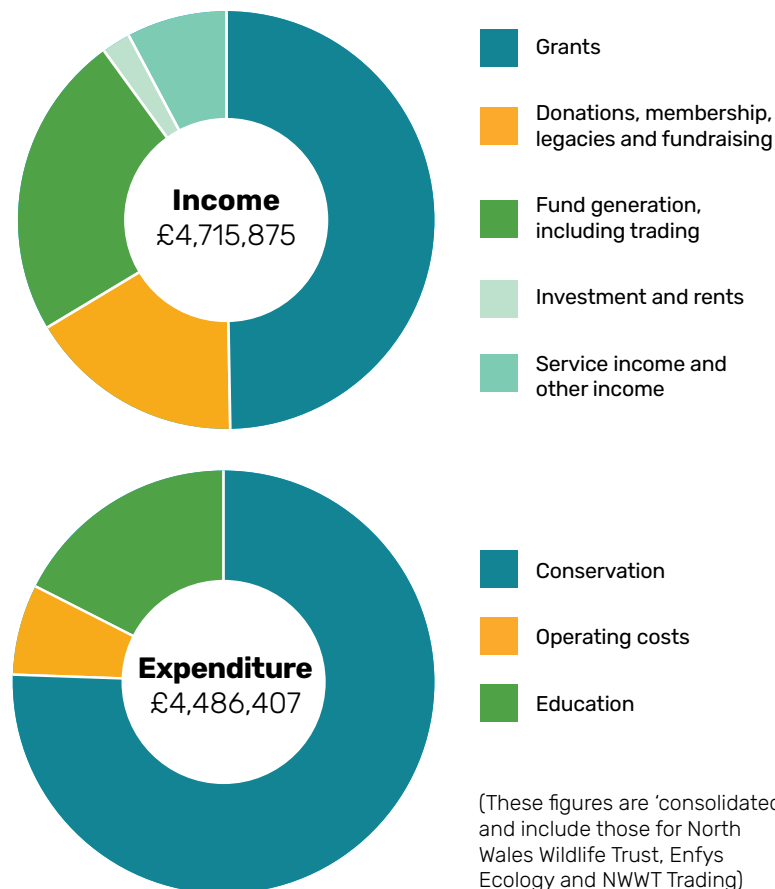
The Trust generated a net deficit of £57k, slightly better than the previous year, and pre-approved by Trustees.

The Balance Sheet included cash of £1.4m at year end, down £287k, but this remains sufficient to fulfil the Trust's cash covenant requirements for the foreseeable future. Turnover for the year was £4.8m including subsidiaries Enfys Ecology and NWWT Trading, up £0.7m on the prior year. Enfys Ecology had a significant turnaround in financial performance. Turnover more than doubled to £1.04m from £613k, and the business generated a £257k profit, £200k higher than the previous year. The business is well positioned to continue this growth next year. NWWT Trading recorded a small increase in turnover to £129k and a profit of £11k.

The Trust continues to navigate a challenging economic climate, while remaining resilient and responding positively. Trustees wish to record their sincere thanks to staff, volunteers, members and supporters whose continued commitment and generosity underpin all that has been achieved.



Alex Lord
Treasurer



Looking ahead: 2026-27

The three interlinked goals of our Strategy 2030, *Bringing Nature Back*, guide us in taking our crucial local role in tackling the climate and nature crises. We're putting nature into recovery by helping people take meaningful action to support it, including by adopting nature-based solutions to society's challenges.



GOAL 1

In 2026-27, our work to put nature in recovery will include:

- Use **Shoresearch** data to inform conservation action and develop new research partnerships with Bangor University.
- Secure delivery funding and progress implementation of the **Corsydd Calon Môn** programme.
- Further establish **Bryn Ifan** as a leading example of regenerative farming.

MARSH FRITILLARY: TONY POPE



GOAL 2

In 2026-27, our efforts to help people in North Wales take meaningful action for nature will include:

- Grow opportunities for young people by securing long-term support for our **Stand for Nature** work.
- Expand citizen science engagement by building on the success of our **Nature Counts** project.
- Secure the future of our **Seagrass Ocean Rescue Champions** and mentorship programme.

NATURE COUNTS: DILYS THOMPSON



GOAL 3

In 2026-27, our work to embed nature-based solutions into society's problem-solving will include:

- Secure support for initiatives that put nature recovery at the heart of health, climate and food system solutions.
- Accelerate progress towards reducing our carbon footprint through the development and implementation of our own carbon reduction strategy.
- Secure investment to expand peatland restoration at Cors y Sarnau Nature Reserve.

SUNDEW: GUY EDWARDES 2020/VISION



Our Natural Partners

We're proud to work for wildlife with businesses throughout North Wales.

Our Natural Partners help us work for a wilder North Wales – whether through sponsoring our projects; creating valuable wildlife habitats on their own land; or sharing their subject-specific expertise. Together, we're demonstrating that biodiversity can mean business!



Remember us in your Will

Help protect local wildlife and wild places for future generations by leaving a gift in your Will.

Once you have provided for your loved ones, remembering North Wales Wildlife Trust in your Will helps keep your memories of our wildlife alive for future generations.

22% of our voluntary income comes from gifts in Wills, which enables us to continue to protect the wildlife and wild places of North Wales.

Every gift in every Will, however large or small, makes a difference.

Would you like a free Will? We have entered into a number of partnerships that enable our supporters to write their Wills for free – without any obligations whatsoever. Please visit northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk/legacy or contact us for more information.



GREATER BUTTERFLY-ORCHID: GUY EDWARDES 2020 VISION





ELEANOR GRACE SMITH



NWWT



NWWT LIN CUMMINS

Thank you to our supporters

We are incredibly grateful to our members, staff, volunteers, donors, legacy-leavers, partners, funders* and investors for their commitment to supporting nature's recovery. Your continued generosity, support and dedication is crucial in helping to create a wilder North Wales for the benefit of people and wildlife alike.



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* Airbus Rise and Resilience Fund; Brenig Windfarm Fund; Esmee Fairbairn Foundation; HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust; National Lottery Community Fund; National Lottery Heritage Fund; Natural Resources Wales; Prudence Trust; Welsh Government including Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme via WCVA.