



Gloucestershire
Wildlife Trust



A WILDER TOOLKIT

For Young People

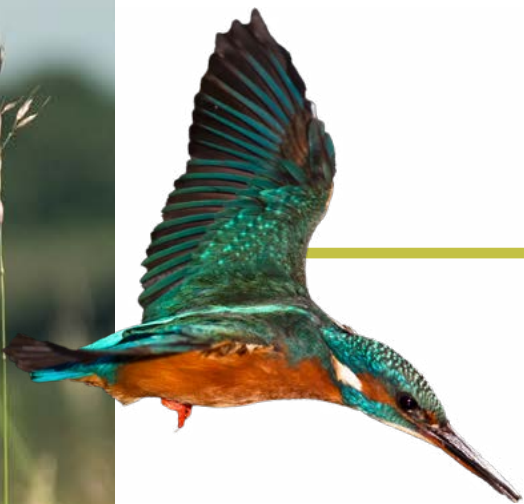
For young people who want to make Gloucestershire even wilder by taking action to engage with nature and support environmental recovery.



OUR
BRIGHT
FUTURE

Nature doesn't have a voice or a member of Parliament, but people do, and nature's recovery must begin now. Make your pledge to act for Gloucestershire's wildlife.

If **we all work together** we can make sure nature recovers.



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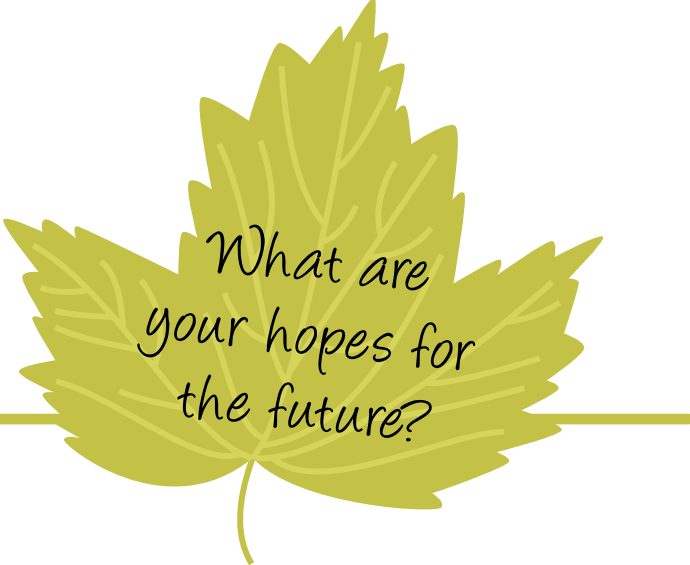
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Introduction

Making Gloucestershire EVEN WILDER

Welcome to the Wilder Toolkit for
Young People in Gloucestershire.

Throughout this toolkit we explore different ways
in which you can feel empowered to do things that
make a difference to you and the natural world around
us and make Gloucestershire a wilder place.



WHAT DOES THE TOOLKIT DO?
This toolkit offers ideas, tips and links
that will inspire you to do things that
benefit wildlife and their habitats, better
connect you and those around you to
nature, and offer a range of options for
volunteer or work-related opportunities.

USING THE TOOLKIT
The toolkit is divided into five main sections:
Wilder Me, Wilder Friends and Family, Wilder
Community, Wilder Gloucestershire and
Wilder Britain. There are also pages devoted
to volunteering, types of jobs and links to
opportunities and other organisations.
Each section builds on the next, with the chance
to think about your own personal relationship
with nature and the environment, before looking
at opportunities and ideas to take action with
other people, both locally and nationally.
You will find a huge selection of practical
actions you can do to help wildlife or reduce
our effects on the changing climate, and then
inspirational ideas to connect yourself and
others more to nature and the outdoors.

HOW DO MY ACTIONS MATTER?
What you do personally for wildlife and the
environment helps make a difference; when
everybody does something it makes huge
changes. Whether it's how much you recycle
or reducing your use of single-use plastic,
such as plastic bags, you can influence change
both across Gloucestershire and the country.
You are in the best position ever to make
environmentally friendly swaps; for example,
from single-use items to reusable and from
using the car to using a bike or the bus.

Lots of research reveals that if we feel a
connection to nature we are more likely to live
sustainably and look after the world we live in.
In order to increase connectivity to nature it is
necessary to engage in nature and work with
the environment. The most effective way to do
this is to get into contact with nature, enjoy its
beauty and find happiness in the natural world.
Being surrounded by wildlife and natural places
improves our mental and physical health. People
engaging in nature are more active, mentally
resilient and have better all-round health. Daily
contact with nature is linked to better health,
reduced levels of chronic stress, reductions
in obesity and improved concentration.
Look up the Wildlife Trusts' **Natural
Ways to Wellbeing** with Dr Amir Khan
on YouTube to hear a summary.

**WHAT IS GLOUCESTERSHIRE
WILDLIFE TRUST (GWT) DOING?**
We are helping nature's recovery, standing up
for nature, inspiring and connecting people
with it and mitigating and adapting to
climate breakdown.

We have lost so much, but there is still time
to support Gloucestershire's nature recovery.
This is such a critical moment for wildlife that
at GWT we felt we had to take action. Read our
'Manifesto for a Wilder Gloucestershire'. It is not
just for us, it's for everyone who cares about the
future of the county. It draws upon the knowledge
we have gained from nearly 60 years in wildlife
conservation and the wisdom of our 28,000
members and 500 volunteers. Many of the ideas
came from Gloucestershire's young people.

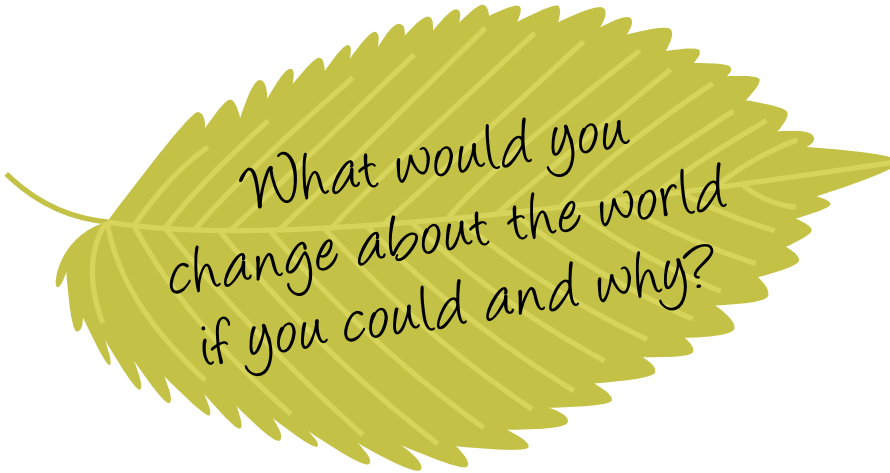


Getting visible minority ethnic young people out into the countryside
and connecting with nature is really important.

*So many living in inner city areas do not
have the opportunity to engage with nature*

which is so important for enjoyment and relaxation, mental and physical wellbeing
and so that they can learn to care about and fight for the planet."

DR MYA-ROSE CRAIG D.SC. H.C., birder, environmental activist, black2nature



WILDER Me

What are you able to personally do to promote nature and reduce your impact on the environment?

Actions to take

Consider what you would like to do personally for wildlife and how you might reduce your own impact on our changing climate. If we all do little things, combined we can help nature recover and reduce our waste and energy consumption.

OUTDOORS:

1 Tips and ideas. Explore our illustrated ideas and tips on creating a seed bomb, growing a butterfly garden, using spotter sheets, cleaning bird feeders and much more wildlifewatch.org.uk/activities

2 Hang it up. Garden and window bird feeders are a great addition to your home. Use sunflower seeds or peanuts.

3 Get making. Log or stick piles provide homes for fungi, beetles, woodlice and frogs. Leave fallen leaves where they fell or use them to cover bare soil and reduce the carbon being emitted.

4 Create a windowsill meadow. Fin Wilson, a student and naturalist in Cheltenham, says, "All you need is a plant pot around 30cm deep, some peat-free soil, a watering can or jug, and some wildflower seeds. Place the seeds into the soil up to a fingertip in depth, water regularly and watch your wildflower meadow grow!"

5 Buy or swap. Exchange local and native flowering plants and shrubs from friends, neighbours or local markets; these are less likely to contain insecticides and will be great for pollinators.

IN YOUR HOME:

6 Turn off plugs at the socket. Including TVs, phone chargers and microwaves. When using online search engines, use ones that help the environment such as Ecosia (plant trees) and Ekoru (servers powered by hydroelectricity).



7 Turn off the tap. Save water when brushing your teeth; buy a sustainable bamboo or corn starch toothbrush.

8 Reuse. Wear clothes more than once before washing them; this is better for your body and saves water and energy. Organise a free clothes swap with friends or buy second-hand from charity shops. Choose to buy clothes made from natural fibres like wool or cotton which break down when the product reaches the end of its life.

9 Packed lunches. Put them in reusable Tupperware boxes or reusable beeswax wraps; buy metal reusable straws.

10 Look for the logo. Look for the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) logo on tins and packets of seafood; for wood and paper products look for the Forest Stewardship Council logo (FSC). These mean they have come from sustainable sources.



11 It's your choice. Choose electronic goods that are likely to last many years. Some organisations, such as Fairphone, make the product easy to take apart to repair, and sell spare parts.



Personally, to feel connected to nature and wildlife, I need to spend time amongst it. I love reading books about nature, listening to podcasts and watching documentaries, but the real connection for me comes from seeing it, hearing it and touching it.

If there's been a period of time when I haven't spent much time outside, that first walk is really special. It's like I breathe fully again and remember that I'm part of a big, beautiful and connected world. I think it's important to walk slowly, looking all around – not just at the ground, and without headphones!"

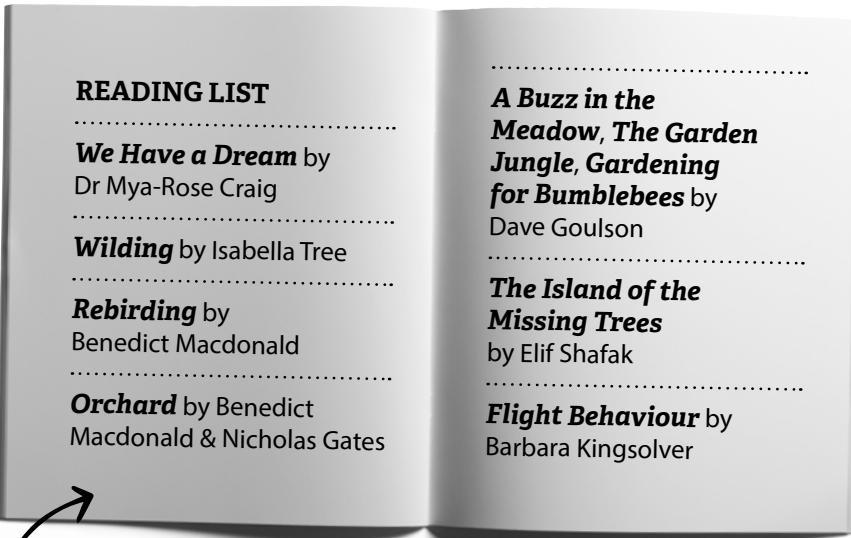
ELEANOR HACKETT
Zoologist and Junior Account Executive

Connecting with nature

- Nature in your life.** What is important in your life right now – a course or job, your friends or a hobby? Think about how nature fits into that, or how it could enhance your experience of the important elements of your life.
- Describe your world if nature didn't exist.** Then describe the spring where nature is reborn and fills your world. Where would it appear? How would it make you feel?
- Love water.** Go surfing at the seaside, try snorkelling or scuba diving at designated outdoor centres, or try outdoor swimming at an open air swimming pool or lido.

AT A GLANCE:

- Bird ringing.** Look up BTO ringing to become a trainee and learn the skill of handling and putting metal ID rings on wild birds.
- Read around.** Look up some of these great books:



READING LIST

We Have a Dream by Dr Mya-Rose Craig

Wilding by Isabella Tree

Rebirthing by Benedict Macdonald

Orchard by Benedict Macdonald & Nicholas Gates

A Buzz in the Meadow, The Garden Jungle, Gardening for Bumblebees by Dave Goulson

The Island of the Missing Trees by Elif Shafak

Flight Behaviour by Barbara Kingsolver

Why record?

MAKE YOUR SIGHTINGS COUNT

Uploading sightings of wildlife you see anywhere in Gloucestershire is a brilliant way of making sure your own recordings of wildlife are combined with many others and contribute towards better

mapping of where animals, plants and fungi are living across the county. These provide us with an ongoing baseline and comparison data to see how wildlife is faring, and you can help us work out where we need to focus our nature recovery efforts. They are already informing policies to help adapt to and mitigate climate change and showing how solutions can work for wildlife.

Records of anything you see can be uploaded via the **iRecord** app or online **brc.ac.uk/irecord**; records for Gloucestershire are then used by the Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records. ●

record your sightings to help GWT and nature's recovery



WilderGlos



Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust has an interactive digital platform called **WilderGlos**. The platform provides a fun yet practical way for you to do something positive for wildlife. This can be as simple as feeding the

birds or making a bee hotel. For each action taken, you collect points that vary depending on the level of involvement required. The more points you get, the more prizes you can collect and the higher up the leaderboard you go.

Visit wilderglos.greenrewards.co.uk to begin your wild journey.



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WILDER Friends & Family

What fun things can you do together that make happy memories and help make your area a wilder place?



Actions to take together

Doing things with friends and family is a great way of inspiring those around you, helping them to love wildlife and change behaviours that benefit nature and the environment. You may also discover new friendships or deepen existing ones by working together to promote nature.

OUTDOORS:

1 Pot some plants as presents for friends. When planting use peat-free compost – compost is easy to make yourself at home, or buy a peat-free alternative. Peat is the semi-decayed remains of mosses, reeds and sedges that grew thousands of years ago. It needs to stay in the ground on lowland raised bogs, such as the Somerset Levels, and remain wet to stop these plants from decaying and giving off carbon dioxide (which is what happens when they dry out). Peat bogs are also important habitats for wildlife such as sundews, cottongrass and raft spiders.

2 Say no to the mower. Rewild part of your garden by leaving an uncut border, corner or patch. This can be cut and composted in early autumn or left during the winter to provide cover for overwintering insects and seeds for birds.

3 Bioblitz! Find out what is living around your home or local green space by doing a bioblitz – a 24-hour search for everything living there. Or make your own nature bingo game for others to find trees, birds and wildflowers.

4 Just add water. Water is one of the best things you can add to a space – either a shallow dish on the ground for hedgehogs to drink from and birds to wash in, a bucket or old sink containing water and oxygenating weeds, or a larger pond.

INDOORS:

5 Turn it off. Encourage everyone in your household to turn off lights when not using them; also turn off outside lights when not needed – this saves energy and stop moths, hornets and bats being affected. Turn heating down by one to two degrees and wear an extra layer; this saves money and energy.

6 Ditch the unrecycled. Challenge everyone in your home to eliminate waste that isn't recycled. This means more recycling and thinking about the packaging of the items you buy.

7 Go veggie! Have a meat-free day of the week.



8 Buy Fairtrade. Clothes (such as cotton) and foods that are Fairtrade are better for the people making or growing the products and for a sustainable environment.

Connecting with nature together

- Natural street art.** Create something that would make people smile or laugh that is left on a footpath or in a park for people to find, such as a painted pebble, a twig person or an arrangement of leaves and petals. There are lots of online groups that allow you to share what you make and find.



I decided to make a difference for nature by building a wildlife pond in my garden.

Every small thing we can do for nature will help our environment.

I joined the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust as a young volunteer to help endangered species. We do all kinds of activities. It is great fun and I learn lots of new things at the same time. We built a hibernaculum for adders to hibernate in over winter and I did a four-day forestry workshop. I want to work in conservation when I am older, so I have started to learn about nature for myself."

IBRAHEEM KATHRADA
Young naturalist

- Photos over time.** Capture the same natural scene through a window or framed by a tree each week over the course of a few months or a year. Create a montage of the photos and notice how the view and the area changes with the seasons, weather and over time. Share this with your family and friends; you could even turn it into a calendar.

AT A GLANCE:

- Outdoor pursuits.** Try mountain biking and canoeing together, looking and listening for wildlife.
- Go on a wild walk.** Explore along local footpaths, hills and mountains, visiting a green space, nature reserve or urban space you haven't visited before.
- Cooking outdoors.** Look for designated cooking/bbq areas such as Robinswood Hill, Gloucester.



are allowed to grow. They can be cut once in the autumn and the thatch put onto a compost heap. Leaving a patch of lawn unmown provides more habitat for grasshoppers, froghoppers and caterpillars which in turn provide food for birds, hedgehogs and slow worms. Compared to 100 years ago, there are only 3% of wildflower meadows left across the UK. If we all make our gardens a little wilder we can help increase this percentage and create wildlife corridors or stepping stones of habitat for animals to move through.

Water brings life to a garden or patio and, however small, watery spaces such as ponds enrich a garden or shared space. They can be very varied and support more species overall than other types of waterbody. Wildlife is quick to colonise, from frogs to water skaters and diving beetles to dragonfly larvae. We have half the number of ponds in the UK compared to the late 1800s. However, the numbers of ponds are increasing and if every garden in the UK had a pond there would be 23 million ponds! (currently there are half a million). ●



Eat al fresco together with each other and wildlife

adding water to your garden or green space helps and encourages wildlife



Why are gardens, green spaces and ponds important for wildlife?

Private or shared gardens, parks and other green spaces are brilliant places for wildlife, even more so if grassy and wildflower areas



WilderGlos



Why not challenge your friends and family to take part in this digital platform (see p. 7) and see who can climb the leaderboard to become a wildlife champion?

wilderglos.greenrewards.co.uk



WILDER Community



How can you make a difference in your wider community, your college, street or group you belong to? What influence can you have?



log your nestbox findings with the BTO

Actions to take together

Local communities and community groups are able to make a difference for wildlife across a large area. Whether it's your local village, group of neighbours, social media group, church, school or colleagues, or hobby/interest group, a combined group effort is a brilliant way of raising morale, increasing motivation and inspiration and feeling part of something that is making a difference.

1 Make bat and bird boxes. Put them up in suitable locations away from direct sunlight and take part in nest recording for the BTO, logging dates and numbers of eggs and chicks [bto.org/our-science/projects/nrs](https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/nrs)

2 Provide community hedgehog corridors. Neighbours can be encouraged to make hedgehog-size holes in their fences/boundaries so hedgehogs can use gardens rather than roads to move around.

3 Surveys and projects. Take part in local or countywide citizen science surveys/projects such as the Big Garden Birdwatch (RSPB) and Garden BirdWatch (BTO), the Big Butterfly Count, HabiMap, Observatree (recording plant diseases), Garden Wildlife Health, the Great British Wildflower Count, Nature's Calendar (Woodland Trust) and the Wetland Bird Survey. Submit sightings of all wildlife you see through iRecord.

4 Down with CO₂. What could you do to make your town more eco-friendly and reduce carbon emissions? Choose one thing and make it happen. Think about who to get on board, what is needed and when it could be done.

could just one idea dramatically reduce carbon emissions where you live?



PHOTOGRAPH GWT

5 Outdoor community spaces. Contact people involved with your local nature area, city farm, or other managed wildlife area to create or manage a community pond, meadow, hedgerow or woodland.

6 Go team! Involve others in wildlife surveys, litter picking, spreading green hay, raking cut grass, planting, fundraising and social media and publicity.

7 Everyone's an artist! Use an art competition (photography, 3D art, or painting and drawing) as a way to engage your community in nature or climate concerns. It could have 'Take inspiration from nature' as a title. You could arrange an art day or picnic to encourage people to create their art together.

8 Access for all. Can your local green spaces be made accessible for a range of users, such as those using wheelchairs? Or dog-free zones for people who may be scared of or unfamiliar with dogs when outdoors.



9 Make yourself heard. Respond collectively and creatively to consultations and petitions that threaten or improve spaces for wildlife and people, or relate to carbon emissions.



I worked on a farm. Although I haven't seen much of the world, to me that farm is one of the most beautiful places there is. Core values of the farm revolve around growing food in a way that supports nature, human health & community. Whilst working here, the 'pin dropped' for me:

if we don't take care of our environment, it will not be able to share with us the resources we need to survive! We are in fact nature ourselves".

BECCA MCGOWAN
PhD student

10 Campaign. Champion wilder road verges and green spaces, changing mowing regimes and use of chemicals such as herbicides as well as attitudes towards plants subjectively regarded as weeds.

Connecting with nature together

- A wildlife year.** Develop a calendar over the course of a year with your community group. You could use a scrapbook or online app to create a journal of the different wildlife you see during the different months of the year alongside taking photos, recording your observations, making sketches and recording audio.
- Wild spaces.** Pick a green area near you and spend a little time discovering what is living there. Make a list and if you don't know the name of something, describe it. Repeat this on different days to see different things.
- Performance art.** Go and see, or get involved, in an outdoor or walking theatre production that is designed to be performed in nature and uses the surroundings as an integral part of the story. When walking theatres are performed, the actors and audience walk around the environment, pausing at different points.



AT A GLANCE:

- Create a visual identification chart.** Share what common wildlife you can spot in your community.
- Creative writing.** Produce a poem, story or haiku based on how a place changes over the year through the different seasons.
- Where are the cows?** Find where GWT's cows are doing conservation grazing and visit them in action [grazingmap.nofence.no](https://www.grazingmap.nofence.no)



BIRD ILLUSTRATIONS RAWPIXEL.COM

What is a Wild Street?

A Wild Street can be about more than just physical spaces for nature to flourish. It can also be a gathering of people exchanging wild ideas for nature, promoting positive change within your community. You can work together to encourage your local council to act for nature, start a petition for change or create campaigns to encourage pro-environmental behaviours. Why not swap email addresses or start a Facebook group to exchange ideas and share posts from existing community groups? You don't have to get everyone on board, but the more the merrier, plus you'll soon find fellow neighbours will want to be involved with the 'we love nature' crowd. So remember, start small and go from there – if you all do a little bit your street will soon be a brilliant wildlife corridor for all sorts of nature and wildlife! ●



get together to get more done!

WilderGlos



Why not challenge your local community to take part in this digital platform mentioned on p. 7 and earn bonus points?

wilderglos.greenrewards.co.uk



WILDER Gloucestershire



What opportunities are there for you to make a difference across the county? What is happening across the landscape?

Actions to take across Gloucestershire

Wherever you are in Gloucestershire, these activities could enable you to meet different people, experience different habitats and see how people and nature are working together across the county.

HERE ARE TEN THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- 1 Wild champions.** Become an active outdoors volunteer with GWT. Help manage our nature reserves or map what habitats we have in the county through our HabiMap programme gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk/habimappers
- 2 Become a youth ambassador for GWT.** Represent young people so the choices the Trust makes involve you and represent the voices of young people. Join the Gloucestershire Youth Parliament at their next elections.
- 3 Surveys.** Take part in wildlife and habitat monitoring across the county. Find out about them through GWT and charities focusing on particular groups of wildlife, or report casual sightings through iRecord.
- 4 Joining communities together.** Bring neighbourhoods, villages, blocks of flats or towns together and put Gloucestershire's nature back into recovery. Look at maps to see where there are already wildlife corridors, such as hedgerows or streams/ rivers, that can be better connected or more widely connected to other habitats.
- 5 Beach cleans.** Organise along safe and accessible parts of the River Severn.
- 6 Gloucestershire Toads on Roads.** Join a local team, survey unregistered ponds or set up a team to help toads cross the roads in Gloucestershire.

7 Visit your local recycling centre. Organise a collection for items that are not taken away by roadside recycling, such as clothes, electrical items and Tetra Paks.

8 Support orchards. Help protect the county's remaining orchards through GWT and the Gloucestershire Orchard Trust. Look for and buy British apples to avoid the thousands of miles apples are flown here from around the world.



9 Pride Gloucestershire. Wave the flag for wildlife; follow [@LGBTQFieldNet](https://www.instagram.com/LGBTQFieldNet), connecting LGBTQ+ wildlife fieldworkers to keep them safe and standing against discrimination.



10 Sustainable farming. Show your support by visiting local farmers' markets, paying a fair price, buying organic and seasonally, and eating less but better quality meat, such as beef from pasture-fed animals.

Connecting with nature across Gloucestershire

- Find a walk near you in Gloucestershire.** Visit wildlifetrusts.org/visit/choose-your-adventure/find-walk-near-you
- Visit a GWT nature reserve (see p. 19).** Spot wild boar or fallow deer in the Forest of Dean, or seek out a stunning viewpoint across the county, such as from **Robinswood Hill**, Gloucester.



Growing up in rural North Wales allowed me to immerse myself in nature and witness its beauty and wonder first hand. This sparked my passion for the natural world and not only became a hobby for me but also an escape from everything else. However, within just my lifetime of 23 years I have seen declines in wildlife and the degradation of ecosystems.

I am now a current third year student at the University of Gloucestershire studying ecology and environmental science working towards developing my passion for wildlife into a career in conservation."

FIN WILSON
Student and naturalist

- Spring birdsong.** Listen in the early morning or at dusk. How many different sounds can you hear? Try learning birdsong – Lucy Lapwing ([@lucy_lapwing](https://www.instagram.com/lucy_lapwing)) has some accessible and fun YouTube top tips. Look up Xeno-canto for a multitude of sound recordings for each species.

AT A GLANCE:

- Sculptures.** Discover wildlife sculptures and art across the county, such as the sculpture trail in the Forest of Dean, Nature in Art near Gloucester and the Cotswold Sculpture Park.
- Go fossil hunting.** UK Fossils Network online gives details of locations to visit in Gloucestershire and what to look for.
- Spot urban-dwelling peregrines.** Find them on Gloucester Cathedral, Christ Church in Cheltenham, St John the Baptist Church, Cirencester and on Tewkesbury Abbey.



A 'wilder' Gloucestershire

Making Gloucestershire a better place for wildlife is critical for reversing the decline of species and their habitats, and ensuring we adapt to our changing climate. Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust wants to increase the amount of land managed for nature from the current 20% to 30% by 2030 and we are already making brilliant progress.

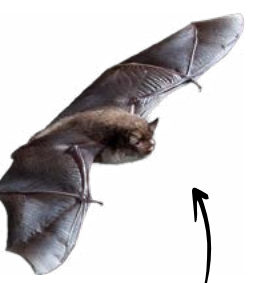
For nature to recover across the county, we need to build a strong, interconnected network of wild spaces; a network that links up wildlife-rich sites across the county, restores the ability for our ecosystems to work as they should at a landscape scale, and provides us with healthy soils and clean air and water. This network – our 'Nature Recovery Network' – is the blueprint for nature's recovery in Gloucestershire. It will be achieved by working with our members, peers, partners, communities, farmers and other landowners to develop positive 'restoration pathways' and identify key actions that can be used to improve habitat connectivity and create space for nature. Land of any size can contribute to the Nature Recovery Network – nature reserves, community spaces, gardens, farms, parks, churchyards and schools; it works at any scale. ●



discover outdoor artworks across Gloucestershire



volunteer with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (see p. 16)



survey a particular species and submit your findings



WilderGlos



Our interactive digital platform, mentioned on p. 7, is a great way of helping wildlife across the whole county.

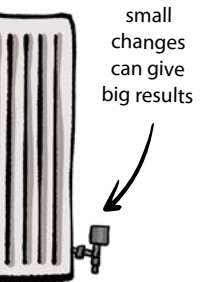
wilderglos.greenrewards.co.uk



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WILDER Britain

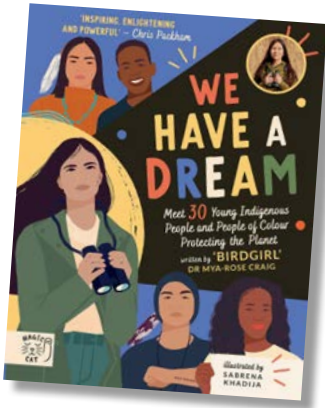
What's happening across Britain? How can you make a difference with other young people in other parts of the country?



Actions to take across Britain

- 1 Be part of the solution.** Attend and support national campaigns/youth movements such as the Young Trustees Movement and Kids Against Plastic or be part of national/international conventions related to wildlife and climate change.
- 2 Share what you are doing to help wildlife.** Connect more with nature on your favourite social media platforms. Find other like-minded young people across the country and beyond.
- 3 Project Splatter.** If you travel around Britain you can log any sightings you have of dead animals on the road and help map roadkill in the UK projectsplatter.co.uk
- 4 Campaigning.** Take part in online petitions or develop your own campaign. Lobby your local Member of Parliament for change and let them know how you feel – you can meet them in person or write to them.
- 5 Sharing across online platforms.** Make your own videos about the climate or wildlife for TikTok, Twitter and YouTube.
- 6 Every little bit helps.** What small changes can you make so the place you live has less impact on the environment? Draught excluders, lagging pipes and bleeding radiators are all low-cost options.
- 7 Zooniverse.** Become a polliwatcher, a frog finder or listen in on whale or manatee talk by taking part in the world's largest and most popular platform for people-powered research. You don't need any specialised background, training or expertise to participate in any Zooniverse projects zooniverse.org

8 Listen to the voices of marginalised communities across Britain and the world. By hearing the voices of indigenous communities and communities of colour and supporting their concerns, we can be united in helping make the world a fairer and better place for people, for wildlife and for climate justice. Start by reading *We Have a Dream* by Birdgirl, Dr Mya-Rose Craig, and meet 30 young indigenous people and people of colour protecting the planet. Follow [@BlackInEnviron](#) on Twitter and look up [#blackinnature](#) [#BlackNaturalists](#) and womenforconservation.org



Connecting with nature across Britain

- Take the train.** Visit particular locations to see wildlife and landscapes up close, such as the London parks (for example, St James's Park and Hyde Park), the Exe Estuary in Devon (where the train runs alongside the water) or watch the change in landscape as you take a train or coach to Scotland.
- Is there a spectacle you have always wanted to see?** It might be a field full of green-winged orchids or pasque flowers in Gloucestershire, huge swirling flocks, or murmurations, of starlings at the Costwolds Water Park, dazzling flocks of wading birds and ducks on the Severn Estuary or smelling a wood full of wild garlic or ramsons in the springtime. Beyond the county, a visit to a bustling seabird colony will stimulate all your senses, including smell!



I've been fortunate enough to meet some great young birders and wildlife photographers local to me and at various nature reserves around the country, helped by sharing our sightings and encounters online.

Connecting like this, in person or on social media, is immensely important.

People our age can outline the various conservation methods we have been a part of in our fields of interest, bring in new ideas and help others gain an interest too."

ISAIAH VOLACEK-ROWE
Young birder and aspiring wildlife photographer



MURMURATION TONY ARMSTRONG-SLY

capture memories from destinations that stir the imagination and enter them into nationwide creative competitions

AT A GLANCE:

- Equipment Donation Scheme (EDS).** Run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), this may help you access nature, especially if you can't afford optics/nature guides and take part in activities bto.org/develop-your-skills/birding-basics/bto-equipment-donation-scheme
- Share your personal wildlife stories.** Take part in national or regional photo or writing competitions.
- Food.** Eat local foods and sustainable produce when you visit new places. ●



The Nature Recovery Network (NRN)

WHAT IS IT AND HOW CAN YOU HELP?
The Nature Recovery Network, mentioned in the Wilder Gloucestershire section, extends beyond the county; it is a nationwide commitment that other county wildlife trusts, wildlife charities and private landowners are also embracing. We have lost so much wildlife across the UK; however, there is still time to put the country's nature back into recovery. The NRN is also part of the government's 25-year Environment Plan. The aim is for the NRN to be a national network of wildlife-rich places across towns, cities and the countryside. Joining up habitats would allow plants, animals, seeds, nutrients and water to move from place to place, enabling the natural world to adapt to change.

Your action for nature, whether it's on your own, with your friends and family, or part of a community of people, will help realise the ambitious and necessary NRN.
This toolkit has highlighted a multitude of actions that you can take to help wildlife and get your community involved too! So, why not grab a few friends, neighbours, colleagues or family members and help encourage wildlife into your gardens and green spaces, both rural and urban!

Visit the link below to get practising, then once you've got the hang of it, go community-wide!
gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/actions



MAGPIE AMY LEWIS

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Volunteering & careers

Why volunteer?

There are many ways to get involved with the work that we do and to develop the skills and experience needed for a career delivering nature's recovery. There are many benefits to volunteering, including improved mental and physical health, better career prospects and meeting new people.

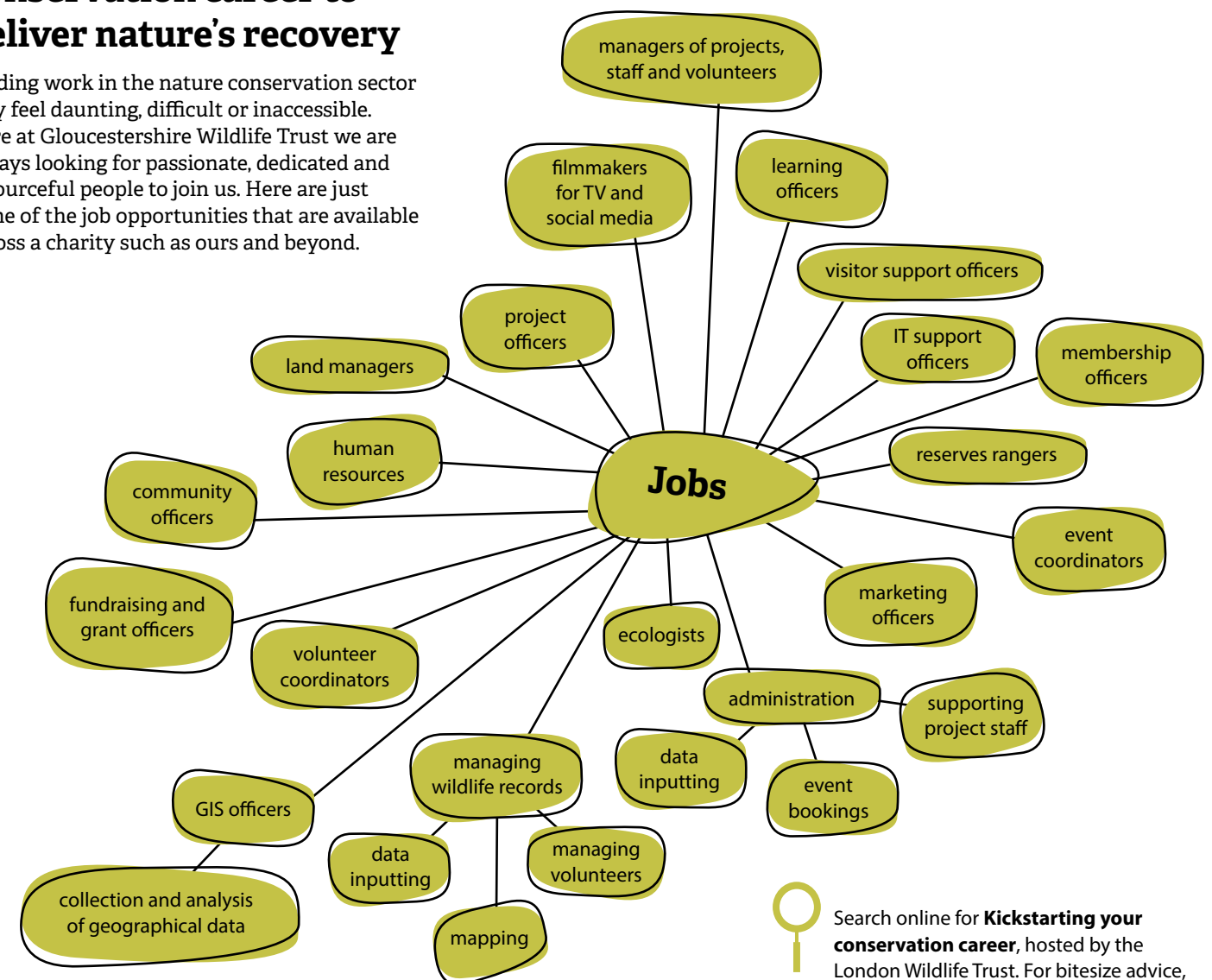
Visit gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk to find out more about volunteering opportunities.

No matter what your skills or experience there are ways in which you can help wildlife



Kickstarting your conservation career to deliver nature's recovery

Finding work in the nature conservation sector may feel daunting, difficult or inaccessible. Here at Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust we are always looking for passionate, dedicated and resourceful people to join us. Here are just some of the job opportunities that are available across a charity such as ours and beyond.



Search online for **Kickstarting your conservation career**, hosted by the London Wildlife Trust. For bitesize advice, tips and tricks from other young people to help you kickstart your career in the nature conservation and environmental sector.



I had a brilliant time volunteering with a reserves team for my university placement year, learning lots about Gloucestershire's amazing wetland wildlife. While doing this I was able to help run 'Young Birder Identification Workshops', meeting local young naturalists and helping them connect with wildlife."

KATE FOX, student, bird ringer and nature addict



Volunteering helped me to understand how Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust worked and gave me the knowledge, skills and experience to secure my current role.

Volunteering was also great fun!"

SARAH LORTON, Nature Nurtures Project Officer

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Links across Gloucestershire

Links to help expand your experience, networks and opportunities

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT)

We have a vision where each year there is more wildlife, more wild places and more people with a connection to the natural world.

gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk

Watch videos of our work and opportunities across the county on our YouTube page.

youtube.com/user/GlosWildlifeTrust

Volunteering for GWT across the county

Volunteering as a reserve assistant helps you keep fit, improves your mental state, and can provide you with lots of skills for a career in conservation. You do not need any previous skills or experience to join in and all tools and equipment are provided.

We have groups throughout the county that welcome new volunteers.

gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk/get-involved/volunteer/nature-groups

Dean Green Team

Across the Forest of Dean this volunteer conservation team are making sure there are wilder places for nature. Activities include surveys, ditch digging, fencing, wildflower planting and clearing ponds for newts.

deangreenteam.co.uk

Black and Green Ambassadors

Connecting, empowering and celebrating diverse leadership and community action on environmental issues in Bristol and beyond; challenging perceptions, creating new opportunities and working towards ensuring the environmental movement is inclusive and representative of all communities.

blackandgreenambassadors.co.uk

Black2Nature

Helping inner city children connect with nature.

f OfficialB2N
t @officialB2N

New Networks for Nature

New Networks for Nature brings together a broad alliance of individuals who in their personal and professional lives draw creative inspiration from the wildlife and landscapes of this country. The network seeks to champion our national heritage and also to explore the different media through which it can be understood, represented and celebrated.

newnetworksfornature.org.uk

Tewkesbury Nature Reserve

On the outskirts of the town, this wildflower meadow and wetland is the ideal place for walking, picnics and watching wildlife.

tewkesburynaturereserve.org.uk

British Trust for Ornithology

A great way of getting involved with bird surveys and ringing birds across Gloucestershire.

bto.org/community/regional-network/rn-directory/gloucestershire

t @BTO_GLOS

Gloucestershire Raptor Monitoring Group

Contributes to the scientific knowledge of raptor populations within the county of Gloucestershire, to contribute to conservation, educate and inform others and to increase awareness of raptor persecution. A brilliant way to learn how to survey for raptors and get hands-on with them.

glosraptors.co.uk

Gloucester Naturalists' Society

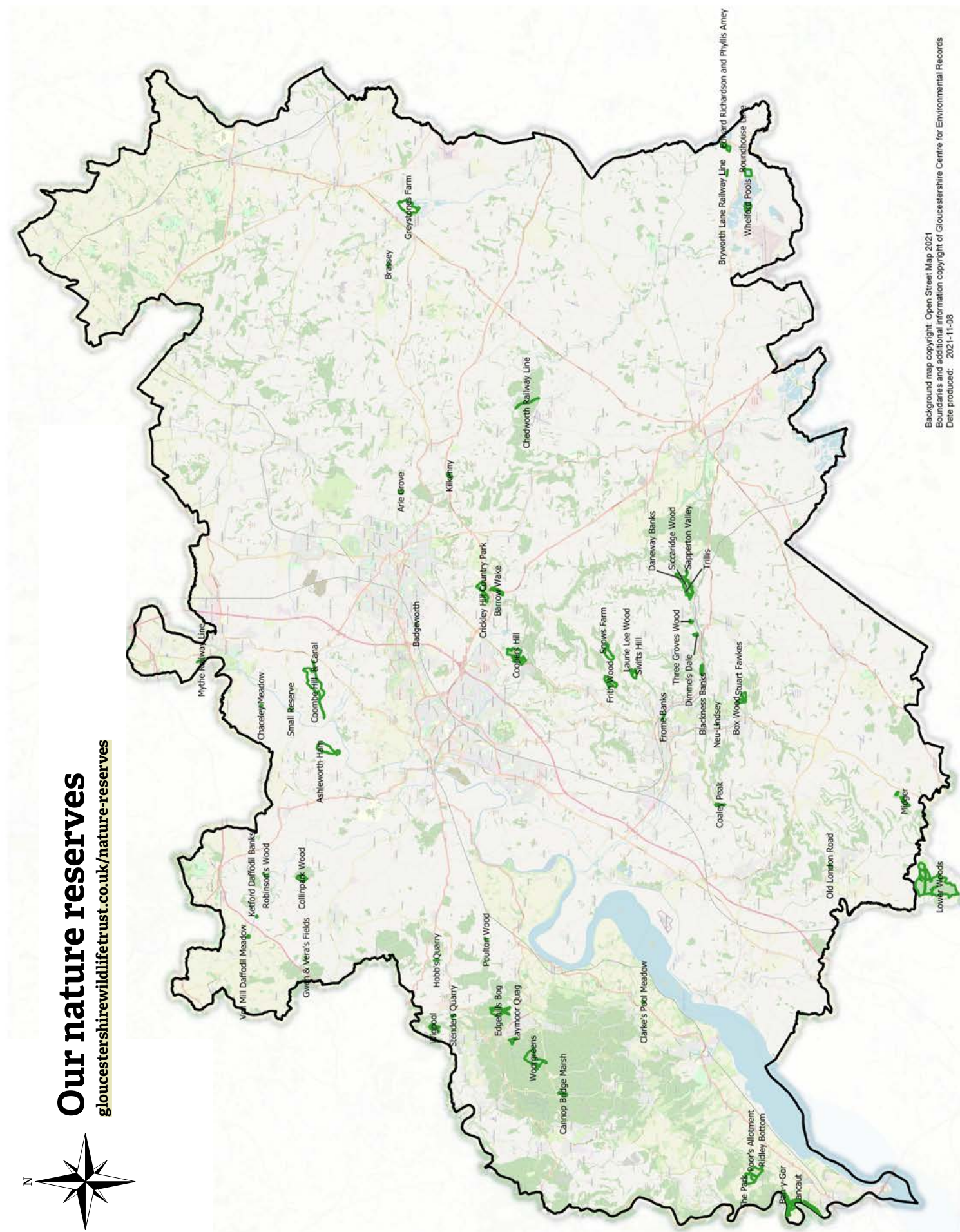
The natural history recording organisation for Gloucestershire, recording all of the flora and fauna in the county. The society publishes a quarterly newsletter, a journal and an annual bird report as well as organising lectures and field meetings.

glosnats.org

Stroud Valleys Project

Volunteer opportunities include growing fruit and vegetables, wildlife surveys, planting trees and learning traditional field skills.

stroudvalleysproject.org



Our nature reserves

gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk/nature-reserves

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Gloucestershire
Wildlife Trust



Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

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Registered Charity Number 232580

