



Trustees Annual Report

From 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

Charity Name: Wild North Trust

Charity Registration Number 1197300

Charity Governance

Wild North Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, whose only voting members are its charity trustees. So far there are four trustees, Gale Blackburn, Jessica Britch, Joanne Coley and Sarah Roe, who have been involved from the outset. Any new appointments of trustees would be agreed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees, with due regard to the skills, knowledge or experience for the effective administration of the CIO.

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the CIO is to promote for the benefit of the public, the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in Northern England, including by promoting biological diversity, and to advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment, in particular by:

1. Promoting good practice, raising awareness and educating the public of the benefits of rewilding as a tool to promote biological diversity.
2. Facilitating projects for other community groups and landowners to increase rewilding on land managed by them.
3. Looking for possible leases of land for the Trust to carry out its own rewilding initiatives.

Achievements and Performance

From Jan to March 2024, the Trusts' volunteers established a rewilded area roughly the size of one third of an acre, in St Mark's RC Primary school grounds in Swinton, Greater Manchester.

We partitioned it from the mown areas by erecting a natural fence line, made of upright poles from willow, hazel and birch trees, and woven branches. We added log piles to the area, and habitat piles of brash, to attract invertebrates. We also planted some green willow twigs near the living fence, to allow them to take root and create a more natural barrier once the natural fence has decayed.

We dug a hole for a pond and added liner, approximately 6 x 2 metres, in one corner of the field, which is naturally wet in winter anyway. We built a fence using stock fencing to safely partition it from the rest of the field, and used the spoil from the diggings to create a habitat bank, covering with extra logs and brash, to have some safe space for amphibians. At a later date, wildlife plants were added to the pond, including hornwort, flote grass, marsh marigold and water soldier.

Advice was then given to the school on how to maintain the space for wildlife.

Once the area was free from mowing, a variety of grasses and flowers developed and animals began to use it. We have recorded about 40 species of moth, 8 of butterfly, grasshoppers, 12 species of bird, foxes, and deer. We have shared our results with the school, and pupils have been using the space as part of their education.

The top two pictures below show the volunteers at work on the project.

On the left the newly dug pond, on the right the willow fence partitioning the wildlife area from the playing field.

The bottom two pictures show the results three to six months later.



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Review / Statement of Accounts

A large donation came from Animal Friends Insurance.

Trading Activities include the income from the walks led by Guide Over Sands Trust

Outgoing included materials for rewilding project, outlay for Guide Over Sands walk, and donation to animal rescue charity.

Start of year: £1351

Donations £10,000

Income from other trading activities: £481

Outgoing: £1318

End of year: £10,514