

KEEP IT WILD SPECIES RECOVERY CENTRE

DONOR REPORT
SPECIES RECOVERY CENTRE
REPORT 8: JUNE 2026



We bring back nature



THE SPECIES RECOVERY CENTRE

It is very obvious that we are ill prepared to restore many of our lost, dwindling or otherwise threatened wildlife species at scale. While many conservation organisations are without doubt committed to doing so both the expertise required to achieve this end together with the creatures, we wish to return are generally unavailable. Many exciting projects in the UK are achieving landscape recovery, but will be inhibited without the rare and lost species required to bring those projects to their full potential. The Species Recovery Centre will collate these species into a central location, then build the captive breeding knowledge required to produce these creatures in quantity. This will allow us to deliver lost and rare species in volume to landscapes across the UK. This model has already been proven with water voles, 3000 of which are now produced annually for successful release in nature recovery projects across the UK.

SPECIES OF FOCUS

The following species range will all be priority candidates for breeding at the Species Recovery Centre. Due to successful recent breeding the Black Stork and Northern Lapwing have been recently added to the list of species we will breed for release. Additionally, the recent regulatory change to the status of Beavers in the UK enabling wild releases means that we have decided to remove our work on the translocation of Beavers from the program and instead concentrate on the breeding of Harvest Mice. The translocation work will continue but just not funded by the Species Recovery Program.

White and Black Storks

(Ciconia Ciconia and Ciconia Nigra)

Wildcats

(Felis silvestris)

Adders

(Viper bera)

Black Grouse

(Lyrurus tetrix)

Turtle Doves

(Streptopelia turtur)

Harvest Mouse

(Micromys minutus)

Red Backed Shrikes

(Lanius collurio)

Twites

(Linaria flavirostris)

Glow worms

(Lampyrus noctiluca)

Mole Crickets

(Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa)

Northern Lapwing

(Vanellus vanellus)



GENERAL PROJECT UPDATE



The species Recovery Project began officially in June 2024, although it builds on the work carried out by Derek Gow's team at Coombeshead Rewilding. The project has three principal locations, Rewilding Coombeshead in Devon, Cannwood in Somerset and OC Aviary in Staffordshire.

This report covers the January 2026 to June 2026.

We have recently added Northern Lapwings to the program in a joint project with Duchy of Cornwall for reintroduction to Dartmoor.

The spring and summer period is always such a pleasure to report on with the births and releases of so many new animals.

Over winter we completed building our new 12 pen Black Grouse breeding facility at Coombeshead. We have also started the move and expansion of the facilities of OC Aviary to a new larger site. We have had a great breeding season for all the animals we support so far with record numbers of White Stork, Black Stork, Twites and wild cats being born.

The turtle doves that were released last year have been returning from Africa and there are record sightings of turtle doves in the West Country as a result, this is an incredible achievement and offers hope for meaningful turtle dove recovery.

We have also received the exciting news that we will be providing the storks for the London Stork Project. The chicks will be leaving soon for their custom built aviary in Dagenham

KIW IN THE NEWS / FILMS AND MEMBERSHIP

We have started producing monthly film content for Youtube to encourage membership. The following films were produced in this period

Turtle Dove Release in 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vctDoYrKpRM>

Transplanting Yellow Meadow Ants

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_azw8phnOU

Harvest Mice Releases

Our release of Harvest Mice in Devon was covered on BBC Spring watch in May

Other national media coverage in this period has included

Three hundred water voles in the River Wey Hampshire covered extensively on ITV and BBC

Printed Press Coverage

Articles in Prima, Women's Weekly and Devon Life magazine

<https://www.greatbritishlife.co.uk/magazines/devon/>

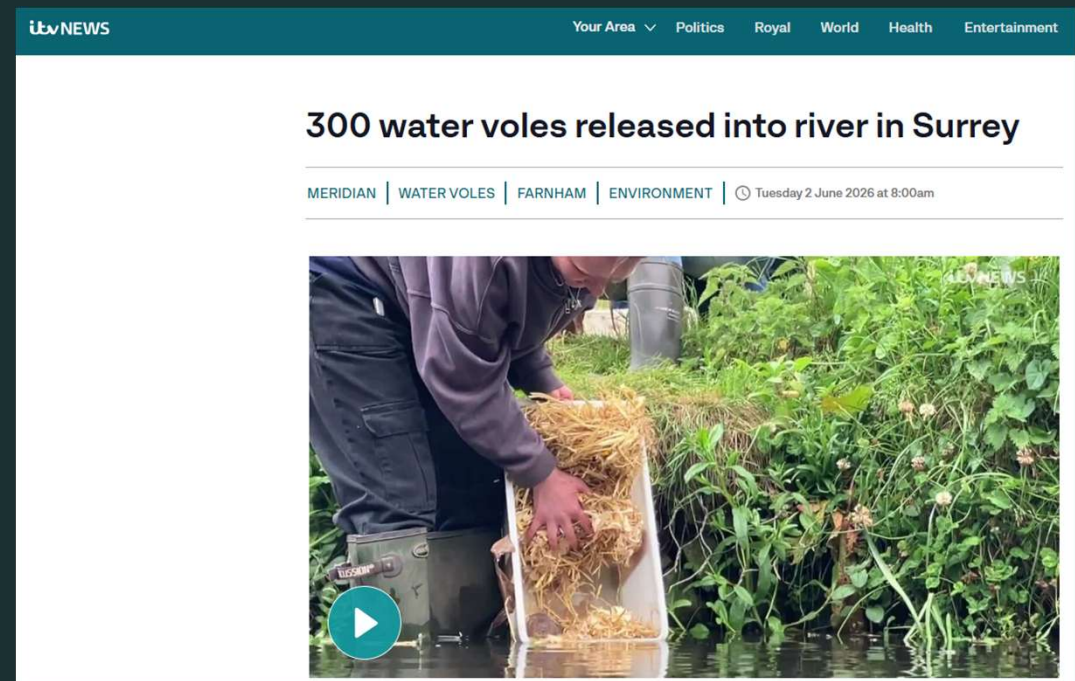
[/25983988.rewilding-coombeshead-immersive-holiday-west-devon/](#)

London Stork Project

[White storks nest at Dagenham country park in rewilding project - BBC News](#)



Izzy being filmed for Spring Watch releasing Harvest Mice



CORE OBJECTIVES OF THE SPECIES RECOVERY CENTRE

To build on this success we are looking to establish around the infrastructure that already exists at the Derek Gow Consultancy at Upcott Grange Farm in Devon a central hub for species restoration. The staff at the hub will build on experience in breeding, caring for and releasing lost and endangered UK species. We will work with other major landowners collaboratively to create satellite breeding and release facilities operated under guidance of the Species Recovery Centre team. These satellite centres reduce the risks of having all animals at one site. The Species Restoration Centre will focus on the development of the following;

1

The establishment of a pool of knowledge pertinent to the techniques required to keep, breed and propagate the broadest possible range of threatened native wildlife.

3

To identify any collaboration as may be required with specialist breeders of threatened British wildlife species and to support their credible efforts to do so.

2

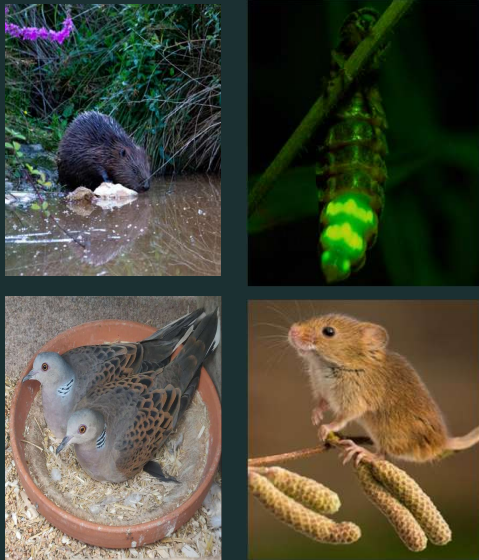
To identify a priority species list for captive breeding and from this secure the seed stock required to begin breeding projects.

4

To provide where habitats remain or can be created, seed populations of the above to enable their restoration in a free-living state.

PATHWAY TO RELEASE

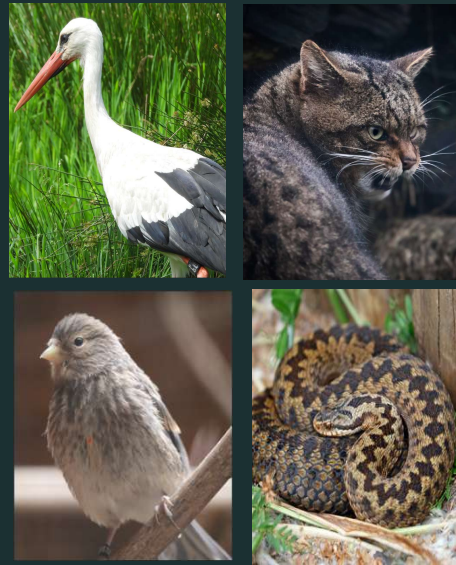
Releasing Annually Now



Beavers, Glow worms,
Harvest Mice, Turtle
Doves

We have sufficient breeding stock and husbandry skills to make meaningful annual releases of these species. We are still scaling up and releases will become ever larger,

Releasing 2027 onwards



White Stork, Wild Cats,
Twites and Adders,
Lapwing

With these species we have learned how to successfully captive breed them, but releases are restricted in number while stocks are built. There has been releases of storks already.

Releasing 2028 onwards



Black Stork and Mole
Crickets

We are still acquiring husbandry skills and building breeding stocks.

Releasing 2029 onwards



Black Grouse and Red
Backed Shrike

We are still acquiring stock, and only just starting with husbandry skills.

MEET OUR SPECIES RECOVERY CENTRE TEAM

To deliver our Species Recovery objectives we have expanded our animal husbandry team. The team are providing expert husbandry skills at our Coombeshead site, but also at our satellite sites at Cannwood in Somerset. We currently have a vacancy for an for a husbandry staff member to join the team at Coombeshead in Devon.

Nick Viney

Project Manager



Jenny Tratt

Head of Animal Husbandry



Katie Burrell

Husbandry Staff



Izzy

Husbandry Staff



Hayley Pavis

Ecology Staff



TURTLE DOVES



BACKGROUND

The turtle dove was once common across most of Britain. It has undergone a 99% decline since 1960. Agricultural intensification, with seed bearing weeds wiped out through herbicide use has eliminated their food source. Additionally thousands are shot during their annual migration to and from West Africa.

CURRENT STATUS

A turtle dove aviary already exists at Coombeshead and hosts a small number of birds. Two additional release aviaries have been constructed at Tiverton and Cannwood and are populated with birds. The first 200 birds were released in the spring of 2025 and have now emigrated to Africa. Birds have started to return to the release sites as of May 2026

NEXT SIX MONTHS OBJECTIVES

Birds have been returning during May and June 2026 to all three release sites in Devon and Somerset. Another batch of 150 birds will be released from after over wintering and will reinforce those that have returned.

THREE YEAR OBJECTIVES

We hope to establish flocks at Coombeshead and Canwood that will migrate and spend summers permanently at each location. We will do this by continuing to release at all three sites.

AMAZING TURTLE DOVE NEWS

Latest News

Having released more than 200 doves from two sites in Devon (Rewilding Coombeshead near Lifton and Cove Valley near Tiverton) and Cannwood in Somerset in 2025,. We watched them nest and breed at the release sites during the summer of 2025. They then started their migration to Afric in the Autumn.

Amazingly we have seen substantial numbers of birds return to all three sites in during May and June of 2026. This incredible news has demonstrated that we can reinforce the dwindling numbers of wild birds using captive bred birds. Turtle doves were extinct in Somerset and effectively extinct in Devon and Cornwall (1 pair) yet this summer we have recorded sighting at all three release sites as well as more widely across Cornwall, Devon and Somerset. This is an incredible success.

Teams of birders at Cannwood have audio recordings and photographic evidence of multiple returned birds to Somerset. At Rewilding Coombeshead we have confirmed sightings and recordings as well as amateur birders reporting them in the wider community of Devon and Cornwall.



A turtle dove
feeding at
Cannwood
captured in May
2026 returned from
Africa

WHAT NEXT FOR THE TURTLE DOVES



A turtle doves being reported in Cornwall where they were extinct in 2024 with no reported sightings



We will continue to release more captive bred birds in 2026. Indeed a further 200 have already been released at the three original sites in Devon and Somerset. These will breed this summer with those that have returned from Africa from the 2025 release and will then migrate to Africa again in the Autumn.

We will continue this process to try and establish a viable self sustaining flock of turtle doves in the West Country.

To gain more detailed information about their migration we have satellite tagged 6 birds this summer so that we can follow their migration progress.



A turtle doves ready for release in 2026 and being fitted with satellite trackers

TWITES



BACKGROUND

Twite are small finches that feed on seeds. They nest on moorland. They need cover in which to build their nest, as well as plenty of wildflowers to provide the seeds they eat and feed to their young. The UK's twite population has declined dramatically in recent decades, particularly in England where they're on the brink of extinction as a breeding bird. In winter

CURRENT STATUS

The hot weather in 2025 created a difficult breeding season, and effectively a lost year in the program. Lessons have been learned and aviaries and environments adapted.

As of June 2026 the breeding season has started well with 17 breeding pairs having already fledged 3 chicks, 5 chicks have recently hatched and 40 eggs are being incubated.

NEXT SIX MONTHS OBJECTIVES

We hope that a successful breeding season in 2026 will put us in an excellent position to do wild releases in 2027

THREE YEAR OBJECTIVES

We hope for wild releases in the autumn of 20227.

TWITES LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES

We have 17 pairs of Twites this spring, which have started well and continue to do so going into June. Currently (as of the end of May) we have 3 chicks fledged, 5 chicks recently hatched, and approximately 40 eggs being incubated by eight different hens. A portion of the birds are first year, meaning they were bred in 2025, so have had their fair share of chaos that comes with breeding for the first time. This includes them renovating nests mid-way through incubation, infertile eggs from males not knowing how to copulate, and changing their partners whilst in courtship.

Something new we are trying with the twites this season, based on my previous success with a closely related species called the Lesser Redpolls (*Acanthis cabaret*), is colony breeding. Naturally, twites breed in aggregations, where multiple pairs occupy a small area of moorland to build their nests and rear chicks. Unlike in a pair mating system often used in aviculture, this affords them mate choice, competition for mates (driving males into peak breeding condition) and communal rearing where unpaired birds will contribute to rearing chicks. So far this has proven successful this season, with all 5 pairs in the colony currently sat on eggs or rearing chicks.



RED BACKED SHRIKE



BACKGROUND

The red backed shrike was essentially lost as a breeding species in the UK by the 1990s. It is now a passing visitor to western coastal areas. Feeding on large insects, frogs and small rodents, from a prominent perch. It is known to impale carcasses on thorns to form a larder, hence its common nickname the 'Butcher' bird.

CURRENT STATUS

The birds will initially be bred and managed by Oliver Crowther at a satellite facility in Staffordshire. Seven birds (three pairs and a spare male) have been sourced to date. These are housed in custom aviaries at OC Aviary.

NEXT SIX MONTHS OBJECTIVES

Aviaries have been completed in Staffordshire and the pairs will be introduced in spring for breeding. We will continue to search for additional birds.

THREE YEAR OBJECTIVES

Chicks born in Staffordshire in 2026 will transfer to the aviaries at Coombeshead, and we will replicate the breeding strategies. Wild releases are hoped for in 2027.

SHRIKE UPDATE

Since their arrival in November, the shrikes have provided an amazing opportunity for us develop expertise with a highly specialised species rarely seen in captivity. Shrikes are scrubland specialists, predating on a huge variety of invertebrates. Our Shrikes are being fed a specialist and varied diet, which is continually tweaked depending on natural availability each month. Their favourite food has been cockroaches, which are found impaled on twigs around the aviary as they create a larder.

I was uncertain whether the Shrikes would breed this year, with them being first year birds with a complex breeding ecology. Having introduced the pairs to each other back in February, it took 14 weeks until they were finally deemed compatible with no signs of aggression towards each other. Now in the first week of June, one of our three pairs have built a nest and laid their first eggs! There is a long way to go yet, but this is a huge first step in our ambitions to reintroduce the species.



*First Red Backed
Shrike egg !!*

NORTHERN LAPWING



BACKGROUND

Also known as the peewit in imitation of its display calls, its common name describes its wavering flight. Its black-and-white appearance and round-winged shape in flight make it distinctive, even without its splendid crest. This familiar Farmland, bird has suffered significant declines recently and is now a Red List species.

CURRENT STATUS

Currently we have two pairs of birds. These are too young to breed this year. These birds will be complemented with a larger number of birds being sourced from other breeders this summer. These are housed in custom aviaries at OC Aviary.

NEXT SIX MONTHS OBJECTIVES

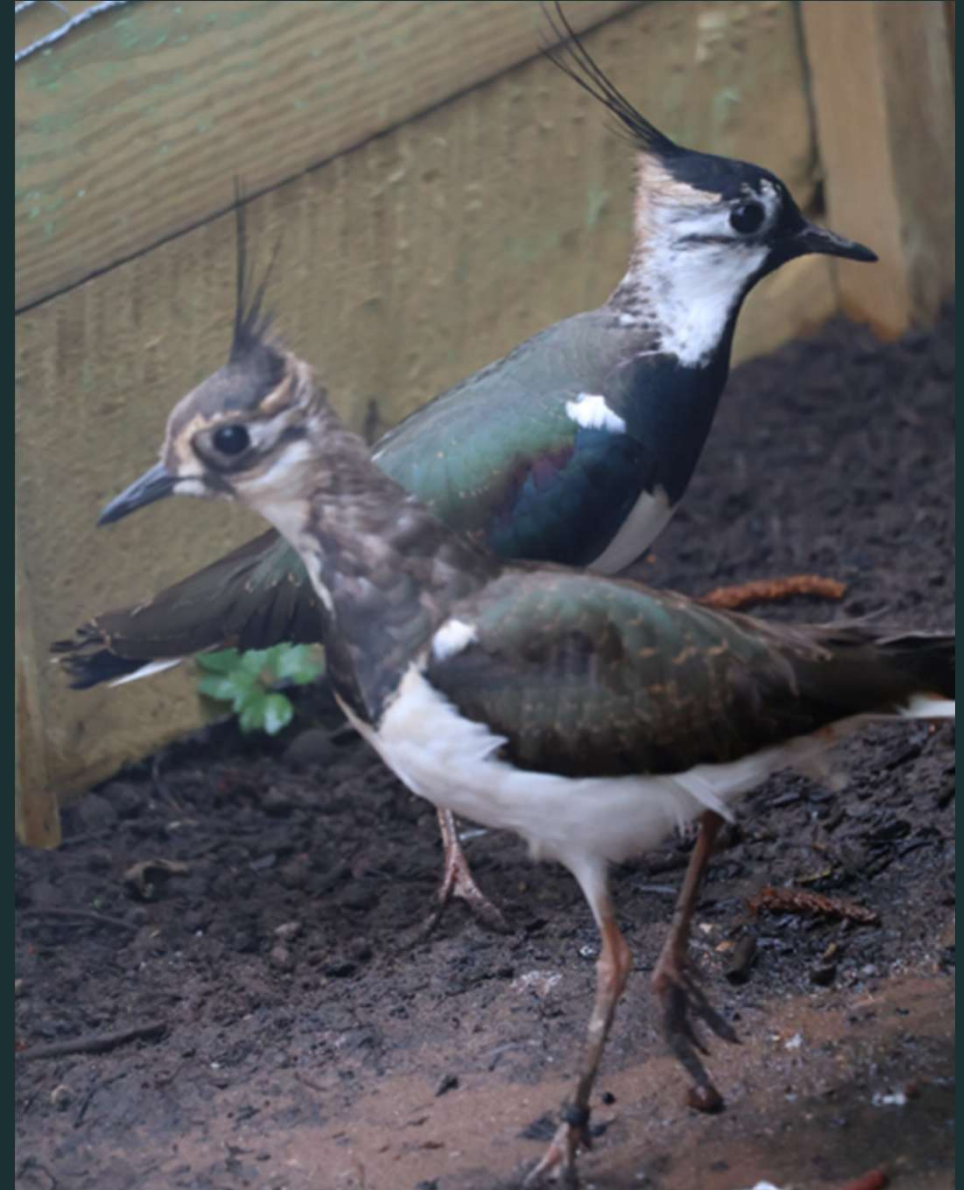
To build a stock of 10 breeding pairs at OC Aviary and produce sufficient chicks for a release onto Dartmoor in the summer of 2027

THREE YEAR OBJECTIVES

To reintroduce a viable breeding population of Lapwings back onto Dartmoor, through successive reinforcing releases.

LAPWING UPDATE

As part of a wider landscape scale project to bring back lost species to Dartmoor, we are breeding Lapwings (aka Peewits) for reintroduction. Lapwings very rarely breed in their first spring, with most instances of their first breeding's coming in their second year and influenced by humidity and rainfall. This spring we have five first-year Lapwings housed at OC Aviary in Derbyshire, 2 females and 3 males. Alongside these five, many more will be arriving from breeders over the summer, with the ambition of forming 10+ breeding pairs for the years ahead.



Lapwing Pair

OC AVIARY IS MOVING

OC Aviary is Moving!!

As Keep It Wild rapidly expands its small bird breeding programs to include ever increasing flocks of twites, turtle doves, Red Backed Shrike and now Lapwing too, it has become clear we need a larger facility to accommodate these projects. This spring, work has commenced on building a new breeding centre in Derbyshire for a whole host of different bird species, including those listed above. OC Aviary handle the breeding of all the small birds for Keep It Wild and the owner is Oliver Crowther. The move is in partnership with River Horse Wildlife Conservancy, the conservation organisation who employs Oliver as a contribution to Keep It Wild. This new site is called Common Farm, owned by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. It is just over an acre, boasting a large barn, hardstanding and a grass paddock; with further opportunities to expand when it is required. So far, progress has been made in preparing an area to house 28 Turtle Dove breeding aviaries, restorations being made to the barn to make it perfect for breeding birds, and the delivery of a portacabin which will act as a multi-functional space for housing Twites and Shrikes. Further work (and donations) is needed to prepare the site ready for the first birds arriving this summer and autumn, but once complete, it will be one-of-a-kind.



Oliver Crowther – OC Aviary

WHITE STORK



BACKGROUND

These handsome large black and white birds with orange legs and bills hunt alone in fields, pools and streams. They nest in giant collections of twigs atop buildings or large oak trees. Lacking a vocal organ they communicate by clacking their beaks loudly. Driven to extinction in the UK due to persecution and habitat destruction.

CURRENT STATUS

There is a captive breeding stock of these animals at Coombeshead, and captive birds bred here have been successfully released with imported birds from Warsaw Zoo. This has established wild colonies at Knepp and Wadhurst park in Sussex. Birds are now successfully breeding at both sites.

NEXT SIX MONTHS OBJECTIVES

To mitigate the risk from avian flu and other diseases we have established satellite breeding sites at 42 Acres in Frome Somerset and Lowther estate in Cumbria. Late in 2026 an additional flock will be created at Cannwood in Somerset. No further releases are planned in 2026

THREE YEAR OBJECTIVES

We are building our breeding flock to a level at which 20+ chicks will be produced annually to facilitate significant releases in 2027

WHITE STORK AT REWILDING COOMBESHEAD

LATEST NEWS



Beavers and white storks set to make a historic return to East London

Monday 8 December 2025



So far this spring 18 chicks have been born at Rewilding Coombeshead.

Five chicks are being hand reared, and 13 are being reared by their parents in our breeding aviary.

Our whole flock has been split into two aviaries, the breeding aviary houses more than 20 adult birds, while our juvenile aviary houses last years young birds and these are being prepared to move to London this autumn for the London Stork Project.

WHITE STORKS AT 42 ACRES LATEST NEWS



It's been an odd year with the Storks, on the positive side two youngsters have now paired up as well to give three pairings in total. All 3 pairings are now nesting on the platforms we built, and made good nests. The existing two pairs both laid 3 eggs each, and all seemed well with conscientious incubation, but we are over the due dates for viable eggs, so it does seem those eggs were not fertile. We remain hopeful for next year.

BLACK STORK



BACKGROUND

The Black Stork is a large bird, standing as tall at 102cm, with a 145-155cm wingspan. They have long necks, with long pointed red bills and red legs. They are naturally solitary avoiding human contact, they hunt wetlands singularly or in small groups. They are occasional visitors to the west of the UK migrating from Europe.

CURRENT STATUS

We hatched 2 chicks at Coombeshead this year (male and female), we received 3 new birds from Wildwood Trust. This gives us 3 breeding pairs which we have housed in 3 separate enclosures.

NEXT SIX MONTHS OBJECTIVES

To continue our breeding program building our flock. There are now six breeding pairs. We would like to establish at least ten pairs producing enough chicks to facilitate releases.

THREE YEAR OBJECTIVES

To continue to build a breeding stock of birds and facilitate the release of birds in suitable locations in the UK

BLACK STORK LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES



Latest News

We have 5 pairs of birds at Rewilding Coombeshead, only one pair are mature enough to breed at this stage.

The other 4 pairs will start to breed next year. So far 1 chick has been born at Rewilding Coombeshead this year.

BLACK STORK NEW BREEDING PENS

This years first chick as it hatches



WILD CATS



BACKGROUND

Wild cats were once widespread across Britain. The passing of the grain preservation act in 1566 was a major turning point, leading to a bounty on the head of wild cats. Today they cling on in a fragmented population of 30-300 individuals in the Scottish highlands. They hunt small mammals mostly rabbits.

CURRENT STATUS

There are now several captive breeding sites in the UK including at Coombeshead in Devon and our satellite site at Canwood in Sussex. Between the sites there are approximately 50 breeding animals. The first release of animals took place in the Cairngorms in 2023 after a decade of captive breeding. Fifteen kittens were born in 2024.

NEXT SIX MONTHS OBJECTIVES

To continue to build up our stock of breeding animals. Preparing for wild releases in Devon. To build further cages at Coombeshead and Canwood to host the expanding group. Add additional cages at 42 acres in Somerset.

THREE YEAR OBJECTIVES

To enable wild releases in Devon and possibly other sites. Releases will be of 30 individuals. The first planned release is being explored by Devon Wildlife Trust and public consultation is already underway. We hope to provide the cats for that release.

WILD CAT LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES



Latest News

18 kittens have been born at Rewilding Coombeshead this year. Vaccinations of the kittens will begin here soon.

WILD CATS FESTIVAL AT REWILDING COOMBESHEAD

Wildlife Trust exploring reintroducing Wildcats in Devon

by Devon Wildlife Trust



We will be hosting a two day event at Rewilding Coombeshead focussed on Wild Cats.

The event is being organised in conjunction with the Wild Cat team at Devon Wildlife trust.

Day 1 will be for stakeholders such as landowners and estates that may host wild cats in the future and will tour of suitable habitats in and around Rewilding Coombeshead in Devon.

Day 2 will be open to the public and will be a speaker driven event with presentations given by wild cat experts. This event will take place in the Strawdetorium at Rewilding Coombeshead.

WILD CAT AT 42 ACRES



Latest News

With the Wildcats at 42 Acres, we split our 4 sisters into 2 pens with a German male from Duisberg Zoo in each in December.

We believe we have 2 kittens in one pen, and we are hopeful for kittens in the other in June...male was calling for a mate later here.

BLACK GROUSE



BACKGROUND

The black grouse was once common across the UK. Found in numbers where woodland borders open moorland. The species is now largely confined to Scotland with isolated populations in Northern England and Wales. Deforestation and intensive sheep grazing, drainage and land-use change all influenced the decline.

CURRENT STATUS

We have sourced a breeding stock of birds and constructed a purpose made 12 cage facility on well drained sloping ground. The birds arrived in late 2025 and overwintered with us. We lost a few birds in the bad weather. They are difficult birds to rear requiring particular conditions and feeding regimes. We are mastering this process.

NEXT SIX MONTHS OBJECTIVES

Our objectives for the next six months is replenish the birds that we have lost, and to master their husbandry.

THREE YEAR OBJECTIVES

To have optimised a breeding regime and increased the flock to a size suitable to allow wild releases in Year 3.

BLACK GROUSE LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES



Latest News

We constructed a 12 cage breeding facility during 2025. Working with world expert in the breeding of black grouse Gordon Bowker, we have trained our staff in their up-keep and we have received 10 black grouse which are now settled into their new homes (as seen above). A further 10 are still held with Gordon. Over the winter of 2025/26 we lost some birds to the very wet weather and as learnt to husband them appropriately. They are difficult birds to rear requiring particular conditions and feeding regime of heather and other wild plants. Our breeding female is now sat on the first clutch of eggs and it remains to be seen if they will hatch successfully.



HARVEST MICE



BACKGROUND

Harvest mice (*Micromys minutus*) are Europe's smallest rodents, weighing as little as a 2p coin, with several unique adaptations for their life in tall grasses. Weighing just 4-6g, they weave intricate nests in tall grasses in which to rear young. They are agile climbers and their prehensile tail acts as a 5th limb. Changing agricultural practices have caused a 70% decline in the UK since the 1970s

CURRENT STATUS

We have been breeding and releasing harvest mice at Rewilding Coombeshead for many years, and typically release a hundred per year. Investment at Rewilding coombeshead from the Species Recovery project will enable us to scale this to approximately 800 per year.

NEXT SIX MONTHS OBJECTIVES

Having expanded our facilities by including new breeding pens, and reorganised our breeding system we now feel comfortable to supply upto 800 harvest mice per year

THREE YEAR OBJECTIVES

To increase our harvest mice annual release total to more than 1200 per year within 2 years. To continue releases across the UK. To facilitate school breeding programs.

HARVEST MICE NEWS AND UPDATES

Investment from Keep It Wild has enabled us to increase and expand our harvest mice breeding facilities at Rewilding Coombeshead. The staff now feel comfortable that they will produce upto 800 mice for the 2026 release season.

Our first release of the season took place at the end of May and was to bolster the mice at the site supported by the children Eva Wishart and Emily Smith. The girls were covered extensively in the press in 2025 when supported by Chris Packham they released 50 mice at their site in North Devon, our team release a further 50 in May this year and was covered by BBC Spring Watch when doing so.

[Harvest mice: 13-year-old friends on a mission to save the tiny creature - BBC Newsround](#)

['They're beautiful': 13-year-olds lead audacious project to save harvest mice in Devon | Wildlife | The Guardian](#)

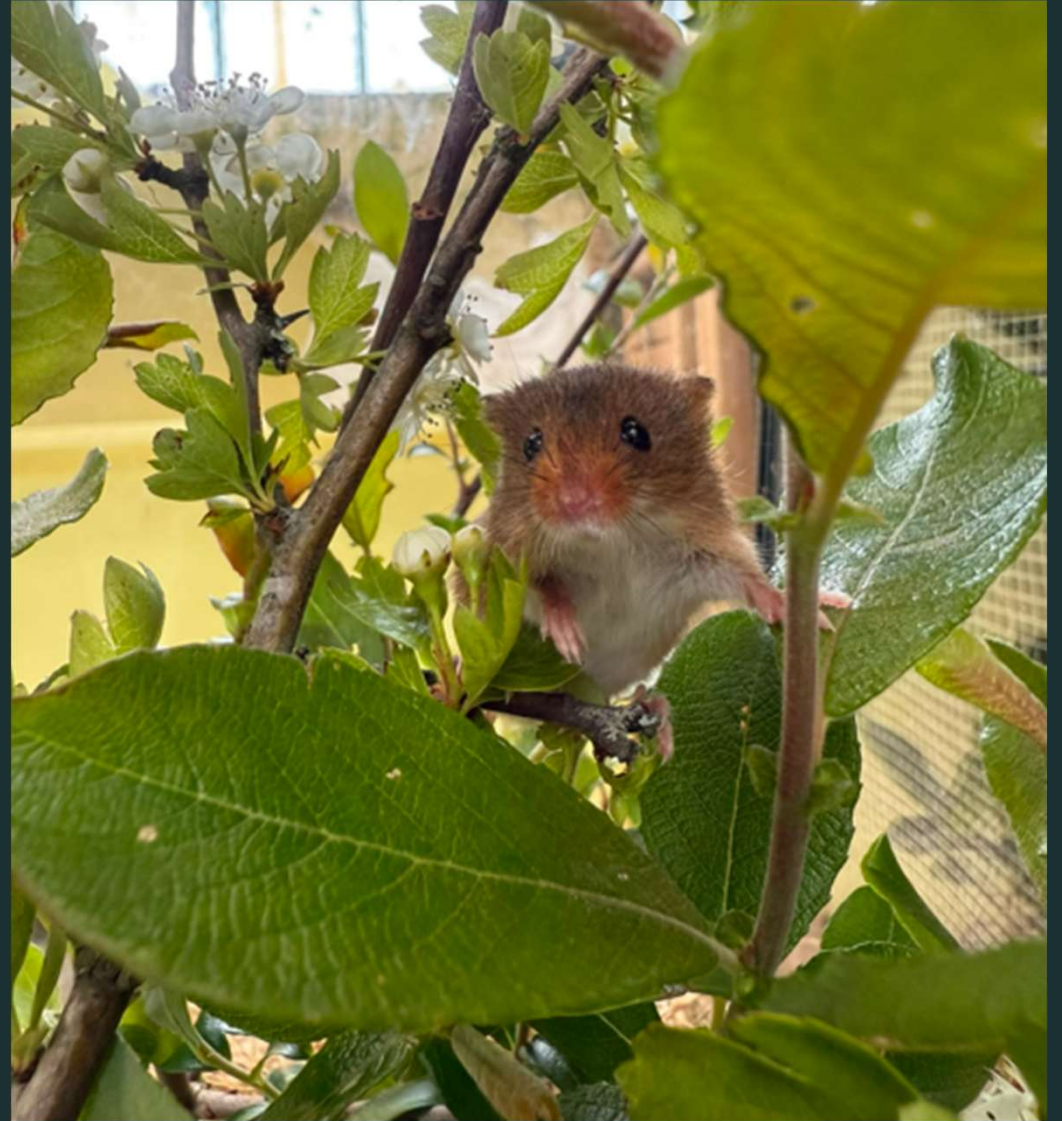
There will be a release of 300 mice at Broughton Hall this summer



Izzy and the team
being filmed for BBC
Springwatch
releasing mice in
Devon May 2026



HARVEST MICE



ADDERS



BACKGROUND

Britain's only venomous snake is in serious decline since agricultural intensification through hedgerow and woodland removal reduced its habitat. It is now confined mainly to open moorland, woodland and coastal sites. It hunts small mammals, lizards and ground nesting birds.

CURRENT STATUS

We are in the early stages of our adder breeding programme which is taking place at Coombeshead. Three pens have been prepared to hold the adders, and the first 3 pairs of breeding stock adders have been sourced.

NEXT SIX MONTHS OBJECTIVES

Young adders were produced in 2025 and released into the rewilding area. An additional 3 pairs of adders has been sourced to increase our breeding stock.

THREE YEAR OBJECTIVES

To start the release of adders in year 3 at suitable sites, once sufficient quantity of snakes has been bred.

ADDERS IN THE BREEDING TANK



Adders emerging from hibernation

MOLE CRICKETS



BACKGROUND

One of Britain's largest insects, the mole cricket naturally lives in wet meadows and damp moorland. Thought extinct due to agricultural intensification, drainage and pesticide use. A small population of 20 individuals was discovered in the New Forest in 2014.

CURRENT STATUS

We have sourced 76 mixed sizes of individuals. Breeding has been successfully achieved, and we now have 65 newly moulted larvae to add to our stock of insects

NEXT SIX MONTHS OBJECTIVES

We want to build on our breeding knowledge of these insects. We will collect more individuals in the spring to supplement our breeding stock.

THREE YEAR OBJECTIVES

We hope to facilitate releases of mole crickets into suitable habitat on beaver wetlands in 2026. We hope to achieve more than 500 of these insects by 2026.

GLOW WORMS



Photo by George Turner

BACKGROUND

Once found shining along country lanes, meadows and gardens, glow worm numbers have dwindled. Agricultural intensification, pesticide use and light pollution are to blame. Glow Worms are actually a beetle and only feed as larvae on slugs and snails.

CURRENT STATUS

We have had a breeding stock of Glow worms at Coombeshead for several years, we solved the complexities of breeding these creatures. We are now looking to scale up the breeding to produce larger numbers to facilitate releases. Releases happened at London Wildlife, Hutchinsons Bank, Ducey of Cornwall Restormal Castle and in Alton.

NEXT SIX MONTHS OBJECTIVES

We have completed our insect breeding room and we are looking scale up our stock of glow worms to approximately 1000 individuals. We managed to breed 700 individuals in 2025

THREE YEAR OBJECTIVES

We hope to facilitate further releases in 2026 and 2027. We also hope to start to supply the schools and environmental groups with Glow worms for inspirational local releases.



HELP US TO BRING BACK NATURE

KEEP IT WILD

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We bring back nature