

1. The People's Postcode Lottery flag has been flown at the South Pole! Conrad Dickinson, patron of Northumberland Wildlife Trust, flew the PPL flag on an expedition to the South Pole with HRH Prince Harry. 2. The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts became a Direct Beneficiary of People's Postcode Lottery in 2016. 3. Through the generous support of players of People's Postcode Lottery, The Wildlife Trusts received £2,452,787 to fund various projects across England, Scotland and Wales in 2016/17. 4. In 2016/17, players of People's Postcode Lottery are supporting 24 Wildlife Trusts across England, Scotland and Wales. 5. Unrestricted funds allow the Pioneer Wildlife Trusts in Scotland, Wales, Northumberland and Yorkshire to respond to local needs in their area. 6. The generous support of players of People's Postcode Lottery is helping to protect Ospreys in Scotland at Loch of the Lowes nature reserve. 7. Ospreys are beautiful birds with zygodactyl feet which help them to keep hold of their prey, enabling them to catch fish as big as themselves! 8. In America, ospreys often build nests on the chimneys of houses; in Britain they prefer trees or artificial nesting platforms. 9. After becoming extinct in Britain, ospreys were not reintroduced but recolonised naturally from Scandinavian populations. 10. Adult ospreys successfully catch a fish around once every four attempts. 11. Over 300,000 people viewed the osprey webcams kept at Loch of the Lowes. 12. Young ospreys migrate south alone, often without ever having caught a fish for themselves before starting their journey. 13. At least one in four people will develop a mental illness at some point in their lifetime, while one in ten children aged between 5 and 16 years are currently struggling with a mental health problem that will likely continue to affect their lives into adulthood. 14. Continued access to nature and the environment helps to combat stress and anxiety. 15. Brecknock Wildlife Trust used funding to work with Mind's Brecon Outdoor Group, organising some informal outdoor walks with the conservation team to support people's mental health and wellbeing. 16. Through the Strategic Opportunity Fund, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust are promoting the health and wellbeing benefits of nature in Leeds and Bradford. 17. Research highlights that urban neighbourhoods containing better access to green spaces, on average, have lower levels of mental distress and higher wellbeing. 18. The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales have used part of their funding to support events that train and inspire the public to understand and value their local wild spaces, such as a wild flower walk on the south Gower coast, where participants saw scarce species such as Hoary Rock-rose. 19. In 2015, 2,000 inner city children explored their wild side through People's Postcode Lottery funded projects, including Forest School and Nature Tot sessions. 20. Nick Baker is The Wildlife Trusts' People's Postcode Lottery Forest Schools ambassador. 21. Through Forest Schools and outdoor learning sessions, children are taught important skills such as team work and perseverance. 22. The first round of Forest School Trusts funded were Avon Wildlife Trust, the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country, the Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside, Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, London Wildlife Trust and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. 23. In 2016, funding was also awarded to Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. 24. In 2017, Devon Wildlife Trust and Cheshire Wildlife Trust were the latest Trusts to gain funding for Forest School sessions in their area. 25. Thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery, North Wales Wildlife Trust is able to provide events such as Snwdling (underwater art sessions whilst snorkelling), dark skies rock pooling, porpoises and paddleboards and pop-up marine events. 26. Over 20 species of shark can be seen in UK waters. 27. Leatherback turtles sometimes follow their favourite food, jellyfish, into Welsh waters in summer. 28. The Wildlife Trusts are the UK's largest provider of children's nature clubs, overseeing more than 240 groups. 29. There are over 10,000 children engaged in 215 Wildlife Watch groups across the UK. 30. Thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery, a new Wildlife Watch group has been established in Fernwood, Newark. 31. Support from players of People's Postcode Lottery has enabled Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust to provide dedicated resources for their new Wildlife Watch group. 32. The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales provides long term volunteer opportunities to students and graduates, who join the team over the summer and take on research projects and monitoring programmes in marine ecology. Their work increases our understanding of marine wildlife, and many of their young volunteers go on to great careers in marine conservation. 33. 76 species of nudibranch (sea slug) have been recorded in the Skomer marine conservation zone, representing 70% of the UK nudibranch species. 34. In 2016, over 1,300 families attended nature events and clubs aimed at getting children outdoors and muddy! This wouldn't have been possible without the help of players of People's Postcode Lottery. 35. 91% of parents of children aged 18 and under think that having access to nature and wildlife is important for children. 36. 78% of parents are concerned that children don't spend enough time interacting with nature and wildlife. 37. Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust are conducting exciting Forest School sessions with home-schooled children. 38. Forest School sessions are valued by children and parents alike - one parent commented "I think this group is amazing. Every week we are having so much fun. Thank you for having us." 39. The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales have used part of their funding to deliver cetacean surveys in Cardigan Bay. 40. Cardigan Bay is one of only two areas in the UK hosting a semi-resident population of bottlenose dolphins. The Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Centre staff and volunteers monitor their numbers and behaviour, and identify individual animals through distinct patterns and markings and photographic ID. 41. Less than half (46%) of children aged 8-15 have looked for wild flowers with their parent/guardian or grandparent with even fewer (42%) listening for birdsong together. 42. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's youth engagement officer will be delivering summer holiday provision for 11 to 17-year-olds entitled 'Call of the Wild' - enabling local teenagers to experience freedom and responsibility while engaging with nature. 43. 57% of parents said their children spend a little less or a lot less time outdoors than they did - many children are missing out on contact with the natural world. 44. The Strategic Opportunity Fund will support Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust's youth group work with Nottingham City Council to create a Keeping it Wild manifesto whilst creating a political buzz. 45. 82% of children when surveyed had reported holding a ladybird, highlighting the importance of using urban environments like parks and gardens as places where children can discover and experience wildlife. 46. Children are happier and more creative when they're connected to the natural world. 47. With Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, children tried their hand at creating poetry about the nature around them. 48. Brecknock Wildlife Trust ran interesting training courses on amphibian species in the area and how they can be recorded and monitored. 49. Support from players of People's Postcode Lottery have enabled Gwent Wildlife Trust to deliver the Wye Woods Conservation Project, including managing 8 woodland SSSIs and 5 historic viewpoints, and carrying out surveys of deer and veteran trees. 50. The lower Wye Valley is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is an important area for recreation and conservation: the river itself is an important migration route and wildlife corridor, as well as a key breeding area for many species of national and international importance. 51. Throughout 2017, the Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside will train 12 teachers from 4 schools in Forest School Programme Leadership up to Level 3 standard. 52. Training teachers across the UK will leave a lasting legacy from the support of players and mean that schools will have the skills and confidence to conduct their own Forest School sessions in future years. 53. The support from players of PPL has encouraged new partnerships to form: The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside is working closely with Manchester City Council to create a map of the area detailing where Forest School activity is taking place. 54. Only 50% of children said their school had an outdoor nature area, which is why the support from players of People's Postcode Lottery is so important in getting children and teenagers engaging in the natural world around them. 55. Thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery, outdoor learning sessions with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust will have provided more than 4,500 wildlife experiences across 260 sessions for tots, primary school pupils and teenagers during 2017 - inspiring the next generation! 56. 71% of children have never seen a lizard in the wild in the UK, more than half (53%) have never seen a flock of starlings and more than a third (37%) have never seen a hedgehog. 57. The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside aims to inspire the children they work with to have a passion for the outdoors, nature and conservation, through participating in a 6 week Forest School programme. 58. The funding received has allowed Radnorshire Wildlife Trust to employ a full-time Project Officer for the Welsh Beaver Project and secure additional capacity for project delivery and management. 59. The Welsh Beaver Project has been working with a range of different organisations to investigate the suitability of potential release sites across Wales, and an application has now been submitted for a license to release beavers. 60. Beavers rarely venture further than 20 metres away from water, and 98% of their activity occurs within 20 metres of the water's edge. 61. Beavers have fascinating adaptations to their environment; for example, they have transparent eyelids to help them see better underwater. 62. Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust are creating their outdoor learning guide, Wild About Learning, which will help teachers feel more confident giving classes outdoors and also boost the Trusts reputation as a leader in outdoor education. 63. Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust has worked with a diverse group of children for their Forest School sessions, including children from British Asians / Muslims; South Asian and Afro-Caribbean communities, European migrants backgrounds. 64. Following outdoor learning sessions with London Wildlife Trust, 97% of teachers/lead adults reported feeling more likely to use outdoor spaces for learning. 65. The support of players of PPL enables Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to maintain Askham Bog nature reserve near York, which is their oldest nature reserve. 66. Askham Bog is an area of ancient fenland in Yorkshire, home to fantastic wildlife such as water voles and rare species of moths like the fen square-spot. 67. UK water voles are unique in being dependent on living by water: in Europe, water voles venture into woods, fields and gardens. 68. Over time, support from players of People's Postcode Lottery is enabling children from inner city schools in London to learn about species and habitats, their importance to London and their relevance to their own lives. 69. Support from players of People's Postcode Lottery is enabling London Wildlife Trust to deliver at least 100 outdoor education sessions for 2,700 primary school children from inner city schools throughout 2017. 70. In urban neighbourhoods, communities with access to more natural environments tend to function better; using data from over 10,000 people, White et al. (2013) found that on average both lower mental distress and higher wellbeing were linked with living in urban areas that possessed more green areas. 71. The rise of 'screen time' has risen in recent years, in Britain 11-15-year-olds spend 75 hours a day in front of a screen and the increase in the amount of time children spend indoors go hand-in-hand with a fear of strangers and a rise in traffic. Forest School workshops aim to combat this lack of outdoor activity by helping children and young people feel confident playing outdoors. 72. Thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery, building works have been completed at Northumberland Wildlife Trust which will add productivity and expand capacity, as well as creating a comfortable environment for our brilliant volunteers. 73. Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust are working with INSPIRE in a bid to engage with young people who are not employed, in education or training. 74. The support of players has enabled Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust to employ a People and Wildlife Officer who is based in the north of the county. They will work to connect with local communities in the area who are in need of funding. 75. Thanks to players of PPL, North Wales Wildlife Trust is able to employ a Marine Officer to promote marine conservation. 76. The sea lemon, a common sea slug in Welsh waters, feeds on breadcrumb sponge and can look and feel like a lemon skin. 77. The basking shark is the second largest fish in the world and can be seen off the coast around Britain. 78. The basking shark has a huge mouth that can open up to a metre wide, enabling it to swim through the water with its mouth open and catch fish, small crustaceans, eggs and larvae. 79. Shark and ray egg-cases are known as mermaid's purses. 80. The Wildlife Trusts manage around 2,300 nature reserves and every year we advise thousands of landowners and organisations on how to manage their land for wildlife. 81. Our reserves equate to around 99,000 hectares of land. 82. In 2016, funding from players of People's Postcode Lottery helped to protect over 250 habitats and species in Scotland. 83. In 2016 the decision was made to keep reintroduced beavers in Scotland in the wild. This was an iconic moment which was helped by funding from People's Postcode Lottery. 84. Thanks to the success of the beaver reintroduction trial, the Scottish Wildlife Trust now runs People's Postcode Lottery Beaver Watch events where visitors can see these amazing rodents for themselves. 85. Beavers create new wetland habitats, which support otters, water voles and dragonflies, and help to regulate flooding and reinvigorate native woodland. 86. Otters are well adapted to a life in water as they have webbed feet, dense fur to keep them warm and can close their ears and nose when underwater. 87. Young otters are blind until four or five weeks old but can swim by the time they are ten weeks old. 88. Otters were driven near to extinction during the latter half of the 20th century due to pesticide poisoning, persecution and habitat destruction. 89. Otter populations are now recovering thanks to numerous conservation projects across the country to provide suitable habitat for them, and to the cleaning up of rivers, and banning of hunting and harmful pesticides. 90. Radnorshire Wildlife Trust ran over 40 events in 2016, involving 1,000 children educating them on the wildlife around them. 91. There are 11 Living Landscape projects underway in Wales which are supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery; these projects work to put Wildlife back on the map across Wales. 92. The support of players enables an array of staff members to carry out important conservation work on beautiful nature reserves in Wales. 93. The support of players has helped to make 29 reserves in Wales accessible to wheelchairers. 94. Thanks to players of PPL, Brecknock Wildlife Trust is training volunteers to survey for dormice. 95. Hazelnuts are a favourite food of hazel dormice. When they feed on hazelnuts, they leave characteristic teeth marks on the shells, so hazelnut shells chewed in this way can indicate the presence of dormice in an area. 96. Hazel dormice spend up to three quarters of their life asleep! 97. In Gwent, support from players of PPL helps look after breeding flocks of traditional Hebridean and Hill Radnor sheep, part of their conservation grazing management for grassland reserves. 98. Support from players has helped Yorkshire Wildlife Trust manage and maintain 96 nature reserves, covering 2,995 hectares of land. 99. There have been 475 public events held at Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, supported by players of PPL. 100. A competition was run in 2016 for the winner to have a 'Money Can't Buy' experience, courtesy of players of People's Postcode Lottery. The prize was a Wild Birthday Party led by TV Presenter and Forest School Ambassador Nick Baker. 101. In 2017, The Wildlife Trusts ran a 5 day competition for players to win goodie bags during our time as Charity of the Week. 102. Only 50% of children said their school had an outdoor nature area and less than half (46%) of the children said they had been to a place in the wild with their school to learn about wildlife in the past year. 103. Players of PPL are supporting the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales to engage and inspire people in Wales' capital city Cardiff, teaching them how to create habitat for wildlife in their own back gardens, allotments and schools. 104. Thanks to players of PPL, over 500 people have been able to learn about Otters in Cardiff. 105. Over 50 volunteers learnt how to survey for Otter spraints on the River Taff in Wales, thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery. 106. Each Wildlife Trust supported by players posts regularly on social media about their connection with People's Postcode Lottery, making sure to thank the players for their support! 107. Players of PPL support the Underwater Wales initiative in North Wales, which helps to conserve marine and coastal habitats and wildlife. 108. Harbour porpoises, one of the most commonly spotted mammals off the North Wales coast, are typically around 1.5m long - making them one of the smallest marine mammals in the world. 109. The bottlenose dolphin's scientific name is *Tursiops truncatus*, which refers to this species' short rostrum (snout). 110. Players of PPL are helping Yorkshire Wildlife Trust conserve the UK's largest population of gingerbread sedge, which can be found on site at reserves in Yorkshire. 111. It has been estimated that if every household in England were provided with good access to quality green space, it could save £2.1 billion in healthcare costs. 112. Players of PPL support a volunteer programme at Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Many of the volunteers at YWT are retired and volunteering helps them to find friendship, enjoyment and gain support and learning. 113. Support from players helps Yorkshire Wildlife Trust look after Skerne Wetlands nature reserve in East Yorkshire. Lots of wildlife finds a home there, including the tiny water shrew, Britain's only venomous mammal. 114. Red squirrels have lived in the UK for around 10,000 years - and players of People's Postcode Lottery are helping The Wildlife Trusts ensure they continue to live here. 115. A large part of a red squirrel's diet is pine seeds - and you can tell from the patterns on a nibbled pinecone whether a left-handed or right-handed squirrel has eaten it! 116. Red squirrels spend most of their time in the treetops. They have double-jointed ankles so they can descend a tree headfirst, and they are good swimmers! 117. Red squirrels can jump more than 2m and survive a fall of more than 12m without injury. 118. Being outdoors in nature encourages exercise and for children to run free and explore. 119. Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust have designed an extra special Wild PE programme for 2017, getting children exercising in a fun way! 120. Support from players has helped improve signage on Yorkshire Wildlife Trust reserves, including information boards to help visitors identify birds. 121. Although not the fastest bird in level flight, during its spectacular stoops the peregrine can attain speeds in excess of 150mph. Thanks to players of PPL, these fantastic birds are supported in Scotland. 122. The oldest recorded wild UK peregrine was almost 18 years old. 123. The peregrine's scientific name, *Falco peregrinus*, translates as 'pilgrim falcon'. 124. Thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery, Gardening Groups in Northumberland can keep St Nicholas Park reserve clear of litter, free of graffiti and look after the wildlife garden and ponds for visitors to enjoy. 125. Thanks to players, Brecknock Wildlife Trust is able to maintain their vehicles, making transport easier for the volunteers on site. 126. Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust run Nurture by Nature sessions aimed at vulnerable members of society, giving them a chance to learn practical maintenance skills. 127. The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales is helping to reverse the decline in lapwings. 128. Players have supported over 350 volunteer hours on a Welsh project to create habitat for lapwings, which resulted in the first successful fledging of a chick at that site in years. 129. The name 'lapwing' may refer to the bird's irregular wingbeat in flight, or to its interesting strategy to protect its nest from predators: the parent birds drag one wing in the pretence of injury to lure predators after them in the hope of an easy meal, leaving their chicks safe in the nest. 130. The lapwing's scientific name, *Vanellus vanellus*, also refers to its wings: 'vanellus' is Latin for 'little fan', and is a reference to the sound lapwings' wings make in flight. 131. The lapwing also has several other common names, such as peewit, after the sound of its call. 132. Lapwings make their nests on the ground and they have precocial young, meaning the chicks are covered in down when they hatch and are able to walk about and feed themselves within hours. 133. Developed from the Scandinavian model of learning through play outdoors, Forest Schools provide a programme of visits over a number of weeks. 134. Through Forest Schools, children are able to build relationships with the environment, their leaders and classmates and have ongoing opportunities to get to know wildlife. 135. The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country ran a competition to install outdoor learning facilities in school grounds. 136. Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust have created 5 outdoor learning facilities in various school grounds around Leicester. 137. London Wildlife Trust have been running their 'Wild about Learning' sessions at Woodberry Wetlands since it opened in 2016. 138. The Scottish Wildlife Trust holds very popular People's Postcode Lottery Goose Breakfast events, where visitors gather to see thousands of pink-footed geese on Montrose Basin at dawn. 139. Around 372,000 pink-footed geese spend winter in the UK - that's 90% of the world's population! 140. Visitors to Montrose Basin in Scotland are able to see huge numbers of pink-footed geese (sometimes over 85,000!) returning to the Basin at dusk, in the Scottish Wildlife Trust's Pink Sunset events. 141. So far in 2017, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust have been able to run 28 sessions and events with over 440 children and over 230 adults at nature reserves, thanks to players of PPL. 142. Players of People's Postcode Lottery have enabled Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to work with 202 individual school children in Coventry, Bedworth and Nuneaton, most of which are from extremely urban and culturally diverse areas. 143. Through their Wild Teacher network, the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust are leading outdoor learning in the region. 144. There have been glowing reviews of the Forest School teacher training sessions, such as 'this training will change the life of the children I work with and the enjoyment of my working life. I think the training was perfect'. 145. Teachers attending training with the Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside have said that it filled them with 'inspirational ideas, theories, practice and fun!' 146. Players help the Scottish Wildlife Trust maintain 120 nature reserves across Scotland, preserving the habitat of fantastic wildlife such as puffins. 147. Puffins have spines in the roof of their mouth to help them hold on to lots of fish at once - the biggest beakful carried by a British puffin was 61 sandeels and a rockling, but the record is held by a Norwegian bird with over 80 fish! 148. Puffins can fly at up to 88km per hour and flap their wings 400 times a minute. 149. Puffins are also great divers and can dive down to 60m underwater to hunt for fish. 150. Puffins nest underground in burrows two to three feet long... which they dig with their feet and bills. 151. Puffins lay one single egg, which is incubated by both parents for 36-45 days until the puffling hatches. 152. Taunton has been designated a Garden Town, and Somerset Wildlife Trust will help maximise the impact for wildlife. 153. Outdoor learning sessions conducted in Sheffield will engage around 1,115 children and 380 adults during 2017. 154. In 2017, the Strategic Opportunity Fund provided over £280,000 for fifteen projects across twelve Wildlife Trusts. 155. The Strategic Opportunity Fund will enable Wildlife Trusts to engage with local politicians and stand up for nature in urban areas. 156. Players will support Staffordshire Wildlife Trust in placing the environment at the heart of Stoke-On-Trent culture for 2021. 157. The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales have used part of their funding to monitor moths at their flagship nature reserve at Parc Slip. 158. Parc Slip is a former coal mine and has been restored over recent decades to a wildlife haven. It's now a really important site for invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians, and breeding birds like lapwing. 159. Durham Wildlife Trust is raising awareness about wildlife in neighbourhoods across Sunderland, and empowering communities and businesses to play an active role in nature conservation. 160. Sheffield Wildlife Trust are providing expertise on problems of tree tree felling and flood protection in the area. 161. Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust are establishing relationships with grass root political parties and local MPs in the area. 162. Thanks to players of PPL, Durham Wildlife Trust was able to create a Wild Play area at their Rainton Meadows reserve! 163. Forest school sessions allow children to experience the outdoors when they may not get the opportunity to in their everyday life. 164. Players of PPL have supported The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales' nature reserve staff to make improvements and deliver vital maintenance work to footpaths on many of their nature reserves, which allows local communities to access and enjoy these wildlife havens. 165. Maintenance work supported by player of PPL includes clearing fallen trees, removing litter, cutting back encroaching bramble, and improving features like bird hides at the Teifi Marshes nature reserve in Cardigan. 166. Many teachers have reported that children who previously were quiet in class have become more confident since attending Forest School. 167. Forest Schools also give children confidence with hands on skills and tool maintenance, such as using a mallet, a bowsaw or drill. 168. Many Forest School sessions link directly to the curriculum, including subjects such as drama and history. 169. Wildlife Trusts have produced some inspiring videos showing the positive impact of Forest School sessions on the children and communities involved. 170. Avon Wildlife Trust's My Wild City project will reach around 500,000 people from diverse communities in urban centres across Bristol to mobilise support for nature. 171. Bristol is acknowledged as one of the best places in the UK to see urban wildlife, boasting highlights such as foxes, badgers, buzzards, ravens and peregrine falcons. 172. Red foxes have successfully colonised urban areas all over the world, and in Britain, foxes have been established in cities such as Bristol and London since the 1940s. 173. The support of players has given Warwickshire Wildlife Trust the opportunity to make sure all members of staff are trained in first aid and in working with children with Special Educational Needs. 174. To date, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust have delivered 187 sessions to schools, holiday groups and toddler groups providing 3,491 wildlife experiences - all thanks to players of PPL. 175. Forest Schools are engaging with our My Wild Life campaign to show the beneficial improvement the connection to nature has given to the children involved. 176. Thousands of children who are taking part in Forest School and outdoor learning sessions will receive an activity pack, to inspire them to carry on spending time in nature when they leave the sessions. 177. London Wildlife Trust are celebrating the one year anniversary of their Woodberry Wetlands reserve where their Forest School sessions take place. 178. Regular Forest School visitors from Jubilee Primary School created a beautiful mural at Woodberry Wetlands in celebration of nature and the importance of the environment. 179. Forest Schools supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery are targeted towards areas of high player numbers, meaning players can see what their support is achieving locally. 180. The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales has been supported by PPL players to remove scrub from valley mire habitat at Cors In nature reserve, which is a really important site for water voles. 181. Water voles are Wales' fastest declining mammal and improving habitat for them where they still survive is a very important part of their conservation. 182. There are over 330 politicians engaged with The Wildlife Trusts and the important work we deliver. 183. In January 2016, Wildlife Trust staff members and CEO Steph Hilborne visited Nick Gibb MP to discuss the importance of forest schools and how beneficial they have been for communities. 184. Through the Strategic Opportunity Fund, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust will ensure nature is high on the agenda with local politicians and MPs. 185. The Wildlife Trusts for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside is raising the profile of marine wildlife and changing public perceptions of Liverpool's marine environment. 186. The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country is mobilising public, private and environmental sector support for a shared ecological vision and strategy for the West Midlands. 187. The fried egg sea anemone, prawn cracker sponge, baked bean sea squirt and hot cross bun jellyfish are just a few of the many thousands of different animals and plants found in UK seas. 188. The average lifespan of a water vole in Britain is around 5 months. 189. London Wildlife Trust will work with the Greater London Authority on the development of the Mayor's Environment Strategy and the revised London Plan over 2017-18. 190. The Wildlife Trusts are working with the Institute of Education at University College London (UCL) to carry out rigorous academic research to demonstrate the impact of Forest School and outdoor learning sessions on the health, wellbeing, personal development, attitudes and behaviours of children and young people. 191. This will further develop a robust evidence base on the impact of Forest Schools and outdoor learning and help us build an even more powerful case for getting children outdoors and into nature. 192. In the long term, this research will contribute to society's understanding of the contribution made by nature to the health, wellbeing and personal development of children and young people in the U.K. 193. The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales is helping communities to create habitat for great crested newts in their own gardens in Cardiff, thanks to players of PPL. 194. The great crested newt is Britain's largest and most threatened newt, and has full protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. 195. Individual great crested newts can be recognised from the unique pattern of black markings on their bright orange tummies! 196. During the breeding season, male great crested newts develop a jagged crest along their back, and a silver streak along the middle of the tail. Their courtship display involves a male standing on his front legs in front of a female, arching his back and waving his tail around. 197. Great crested newts lay their eggs one at a time, carefully folding each egg inside the leaves of aquatic plants. 198. There are 47 Wildlife Trusts across the UK. 199. Every Wildlife Trust is run by and accountable to the local people passionate about the wildlife and wild places in their area. 200. Together we have a mission to create Living Landscapes, to secure Living Seas and to inspire people to value and take action for nature.

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