



Play your part in nature's recovery

Contribute to the Government's White Paper on the Natural Environment



Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future



PHOTO: KINGCOMBE MEADOW, WWW.COINMANBELL.CO.UK

An opportunity to make a difference

The background

In 1949 the Government accepted its responsibility for protecting nature through the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. Some wonderful places were saved but this has not been enough to stop the devastation of wildlife in the wider countryside. Now, in 2010, the Government needs to accept its responsibility to help restore nature and natural processes.

The Wildlife Trusts have ambitious visions for the restoration and recovery of the natural environment with communities at their heart – A Living Landscape and Living Seas. We have been calling on the Government to help us achieve these visions.

Play your part

In response to calls from The Wildlife Trusts, the Government will produce a White Paper on the Natural Environment in Spring 2011. They have invited the public to 'Shape the Nature of England' and want to hear your views by 30 October 2010.

You can help ensure that the Government receives a strong message about why the White Paper should:

- Provide a framework to restore the health of our wildlife and the natural processes upon which we depend eg for clean air and water;
- Ensure the protection and enhancement of our existing wildlife sites;
- Maintain momentum to implement the Marine Act and identify Marine Protected Areas;
- Support people and communities to value and take action for wildlife.



PHOTO: COMMON DOLPHIN, JANET BAXTER

Foundations for the future

The pioneers of the nature conservation movement identified and secured oases of wildlife-rich land in an otherwise inhospitable environment. But these were emergency measures: refuges from which it was always hoped that nature would re-emerge when the time was right. At sea those areas are not yet protected and it is urgent that we do so.

We need a fundamental change in the way we manage the natural environment to make that happen. Now is the time to make that change. We look to Government to show leadership, take bold steps, make brave decisions and invest in the long-term to help society create A Living Landscape and secure Living Seas. We have the opportunity to lead the world in restoring our natural environment. Everyone has a fundamental right to a healthy natural environment.

A recovery plan for nature

- Our wildlife sites are nature's cathedrals. We must secure future protection for these precious places.

The Wildlife Trusts manage 2,300 nature reserves covering more than 90,000 hectares and attracting around 6.5 million visitors each year.

- As well as protection, these sites need to be expanded and buffered, with connections and stepping stones created between them. This will enable species to adapt to a changing climate.

The Wildlife Trusts have more than 100 Living Landscape schemes covering at least 1.7 million hectares.

- Natural processes also need to be restored so they can operate to their full potential for our benefit and so wildlife can thrive.

In 2007/08, The Wildlife Trusts restored more than 550 hectares of wetland habitat and 27 kilometres of watercourses.

Imagine...

- ... the sights and sounds of nature are part of your everyday life—wherever you live
- ... children are free to roam through rich landscapes with endless wildlife treasures to discover
- ... our seas are bursting with life and recovering from past declines.

Act now...and make a difference

- 1 Complete the Government's online survey** – make sure you, your family and friends complete the Government's online survey and comment on 'An invitation to shape the nature of England' (<http://www2.defra.gov.uk/our-responsibilities/nat-environment/>) by 30 October 2010.
- 2 Contact your MP** – ask them to champion an ambitious White Paper to restore nature. Keep your local Wildlife Trust in the loop.
- 3 Be part of the debate** – ask your local Wildlife Trust how you can get involved.
- 4 Support us** – join your local Wildlife Trust or make a donation to help us restore the natural environment.

For more information: www.playourpart4nature.org.uk



A Living Landscape is a recovery plan for nature championed by The Wildlife Trusts since 2006 to help create a resilient and healthy environment rich in wildlife and provide ecological security for people.



Living Seas is The Wildlife Trusts' vision for the future of the UK's seas. Within Living Seas, marine wildlife thrives, from the ocean depths to the coastal shallows.

