



Municipal Association

A summary of some of the key areas covered by Manx Wildlife Trust
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Introduction

Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT) have been the leading conservation charity on the Isle of Man since 1973. Our purpose is to protect Manx wildlife for the future, and we do this through saving our wild places and species (our nature reserves and working with others), increasing all our understanding and value for the environment, and undertaking survey and monitoring to support decision making and our work.

I. Benefits

Many of us care about our wildlife, and many people we should help to make sure it survives. This doesn't always help it be considered in major decisions. It is increasingly being proven just how important our wildlife is to us, whether that's pollination, our health or flood management. That means there are direct benefits of making sure we work with nature and have policies that are good for nature.

Different aspects of conservation work have shown that action benefiting our wildlife can have a return in public benefits that creates NINE to SEVENTEEN times the value. Protected areas return £9 for every £1 spent.

II. We work with people

Whether as partners in our work, or getting the public involved, we always work with people. From our education work to planning how people understand more about our nature reserves, we want to make sure people see that Manx wildlife is important.

We involved people and try to make sure that people can discover nature on the Isle of Man so that they can better appreciate and protect it. We can also offer advice on site interpretation and want to see better Nature Tourism on Island.

III. Nature and Openspace

One of the common concerns of the public and our members is that our countryside is being eroded through development and a loss of quality. We would like to see better provision of space for nature and amenity so that land can be secured for people and wildlife into the future. This can fit with some of the discussion within the planning system consultation that started in January 2018.

An effective system protecting our most important habitats and species is vital and has been very slow growing. We would like more support to be given so that our special places can be protected. This includes our work on Wildlife Sites and statutory sites such as ASSIs.

IV. Consultancy

We can offer professional consultancy services, including habitat management and site planning. Importantly we try to raise the standards of ecological considerations within the planning system.

V. UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man

This is a real chance to make sure we make the most of our special Island, but also to make sure that we can keep it a Special Place for People and Nature. One idea we want your feedback on is Local Nature Reserves. Do you have sites that support important wildlife, or do you want to create one?

VI. Planning and having your say

We want to make sure that planning policy is good for nature. It benefits us all that way. We've mentioned concerns about the loss of our wild spaces. There were also mentions in the national consultation about:

- Village Plans
- Using Section 13 agreements differently
- Introducing a Community Infrastructure Levy
- Better strategic planning and master-planning

We would like the system to support real gains for people and nature, so that land can be secured and managed for both wildlife and wider amenity. This will become increasingly more important if we are to meet population needs in the future, but it needs to be planned for now.

VII. Wave Goodbye to Plastics

#ManxPlasticPledge MWT have actually been campaigning on plastics and their impact for over three years. This year we planned to do a more coordinated campaign and luckily Blue Planet II happened.

- Can you pledge to remove one single use plastic out of your life?
- Always carry a reusable shopping bag
- Refuse plastic drinking straws in pubs and bars
- Don't buy bottled water, instead get a refillable bottle and fill up from the tap
- Shop at local markets for unwrapped fruit and veg
- Look for plastic-free products like cardboard cotton buds & bamboo toothbrushes

VIII. Other Areas

There are probably endless areas we could discuss, but some clear topics that have been covered previously are:

- Hedgerow management
- Sensitive road verges
- Dog fouling