

Blackpool Council

CORPORATE PRINT SERVICES

The Woodland Trust is delighted to be one of four partners to support a project to bring back pine martens.

The Pine Marten Recovery Project, established by The Vincent Wildlife Trust (VWT) is looking to bring back the pine marten to England and Wales.

This autumn will see the first pine martens brought from Scotland, where they are thriving, to an area of mid Wales that still retains a tiny but struggling pine marten population. This is the culmination of almost two years of feasibility research, careful groundwork and community liaison. Over time it is hoped that a viable, thriving pine marten population will once again flourish in the woodlands of mid Wales.

The project has secured a total of £200,000 from four partners: Woodland Trust, People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES), a private company called POLECAT

More at: <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blogs/woodland-trust/2015/06/pine-martens/>

Woodland Trust backs project to bring back pine martens

and including £100,000 over six years from Chester Zoo. This is a significant proportion of the £800,000 match funding needed to finance the project.

Natalie Buttriss, Chief Executive of the WWT, said:

"We are delighted to have these four new partners on board. Not only have they provided a welcome early financial boost to the project, but will also bring with them additional expertise and resources.

"Initially this much-needed funding will be used towards community engagement, the transporting and releasing of the animals to Wales and on-going research to monitor the animals' movements."

Becky Speight, Chief Executive of the Woodland Trust added:

"Pine martens are an iconic woodland species, once common throughout the UK. Successful reinforcement of pine marten

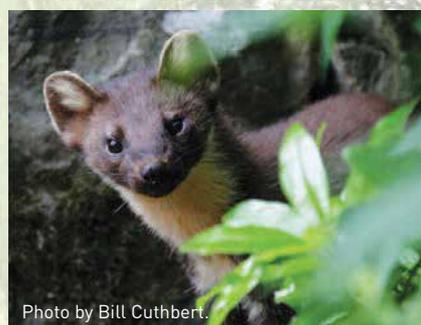


Photo by Bill Cuthbert.

populations in previously occupied areas will be a major step towards improving the conservation status and genetic diversity of pine marten in England and Wales.

"The protection and expansion of woodland and trees outside woods will be an important consideration to ensure pine martens, which need a diverse woodland habitat, survive and flourish."

Tree of the Month: Juniper

Common juniper is an evergreen conifer native to the UK, Europe and much of the northern hemisphere.

It thrives on chalk downland, moorland, in rocky areas and old native pine woodland, when crushed the leaves smell of apples or lemons. Juniper populations in the UK are shrinking, and the species is a priority under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Common juniper provides dense cover for nesting birds such as the goldcrest and firecrest and, in northern upland areas, the black grouse. It is the food plant for caterpillars of many species of moth, including the juniper carpet moth, juniper pug and chestnut-coloured carpet, and a number of birds eat the berries, including the fieldfare, song thrush, mistle thrush and the ring ouzel.

Did You Know?

The speed of spring moves at the average speed of a hedgehog.

The passage of spring across the UK appears to be speeding up according to analysis of over 20,000 public records in a collaboration between the Woodland Trust, British Science Association and BBC Springwatch.

Records of seven spring events submitted to Nature's Calendar over the last four months have been analysed by Professor Tim Sparks from Coventry University to track the rate of progress up the country.

The average speed of the passage of spring this year to be roughly 1.9mph, taking nearly three weeks to cover the length of the country from south to north. An average of 1.2mph was recorded using data between 1891 and 1947 and 1.8mph using data recorded between 1998 and 2014.

The research also found that the passage of spring is not directly south to north but is aligned southwest to northeast, as are early spring temperatures.

Professor Sparks said: "Some of these events appear to be more reliable than others in determining the speed of the progress of spring. Comparison with previous years does suggest that spring may be moving faster now than it did in the past."

Dr Kate Lewthwaite, Woodland Trust Citizen Science Manager, added: "The timing of the seasons is hugely important for wildlife and any long term changes could have implications on the success or failure of a particular species."