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Hello

Welcome to the June edition of the Wildscapes newsletter. Read on for details on how we can help improve your green credentials at this time of year.

For more information on involving Wildscapes with your business call 0114 279 2667.

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## **UK Wildlife is worth billions**

*"The National Ecosystem Assessment will be a real help to businesses and developers who are trying to plan in a more 'future-proof' and sustainable way. The benefits of natural environment have been largely taken for granted and this report will help people to understand the environment's true value in economic terms". – Nicky Rivers, Biodiversity Co-ordinator for South Yorkshire.*



The UK NEA report states that the UK's parks, lakes, forests, and wildlife are worth billions of pounds to the economy. The report concludes that the health benefits of living close to a green space are worth up to £300 per person per year. **Read More**

Professor Watson, Director of Strategic Development and DEFRA Chief Scientific Advisor, emphasises that this report does not mark an end to development. 'Before you start converting green space into buildings, you need to think through what the economic value is of maintaining that green or blue space, the ponds and the rivers'.

Call us for an informal chat about how we can help your company reap the commercial benefits of improving our country's valuable green space on 0114 279 2667

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## Bat Surveys: A quick guide for developers and architects

If you fail to conduct the appropriate protected species survey at the right time, the timescale and costs of your planning application to develop or demolish a site could spiral out of control. Knowing when to conduct these surveys and understanding the process itself can often be confusing. So here is an outline of the stages of a bat survey.

### Stage 1: Scoping Survey

Our Ecologists look at the building and assess its potential as a habitat for roosting bats.

The survey includes: one site visit survey, one written report and a data search from the local records.

Scoping Surveys can be carried out at anytime of year.

### Stage 2: Field Surveys

Further surveys will be recommended only if evidence of bats, or potential for roosting bats, is found during the scoping survey.



The field survey stage includes: at least one dawn and one dusk survey. Usually three surveys are carried out, taking up to two hours each.

Field surveys can be carried between May and the end of September.

### Stage 3: Results

If roosting bats are identified on site, a European Protected Species Licence must be obtained from the relevant statutory body to allow the development to proceed. We can provide the mitigation design, such as creating new habitats and roosting opportunities on-site to enhance the bat potential to ensure the successful application of the licence.

Read about various example of **bat surveys** our ecologists have conducted or call the **Ecology team** on **0114 279 2667** to book a scoping survey or to discuss any of these stages in more detail.

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## Introducing our new Land Management Team Leader

Since our last e-newsletter Land Manager Jon Lewney has left Wildscapes and moved to the National Trust site at Hardwick Hall. We would all like to thank Jon for his hard work at Wildscapes and wish him the best of luck in his new position. We would also like to take this opportunity to introduce Tom Harman, our new Land Management Team Leader.

*"Having started work for Wildscapes I have been truly inspired by the level of commitment and professional standards of everyone in the team. I am looking forward to working with them on the many exciting projects we have lined up." – **Tom Harman**, Wildscapes*



Tom's passion for wildlife began at an early age. At 15, he began volunteering for the National Trust at Marsden Moor Estate and received many awards including Young Personality of the Year. In 2007 Tom established his own company and delivered land based services for clients in West Yorkshire.

Tom's knowledge of **land restoration**, and in **landscape creation** and **maintenance**, **access creation**, **boundary work**, **habitat and moorland management** and **invasive species control** make him a valuable addition to the Wildscapes team.

He has even had a tree planted in his name at Stange Visitor Centre ( British Waterways owned) in recognition of his work with the National Trust!

Call Tom on **0114 279 2667** to discuss any soft landscaping or maintenance work you are looking to carry out on your grounds. He can then arrange a meeting on your site to discuss your ideas further.

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## Working with Moors for the Future

The Wildscapes team has been involved in one of the biggest conservation projects ever undertaken in the UK, in one of the UK's most inaccessible workplaces - the moors of the Peak District National Park.

Since the Victorians first fired up their coal-powered engines, air pollution has been damaging the plants that keep these moors healthy. Overgrazing, summer wildfires and climate change have also contributed to a management problem that, in large moorland areas, cannot be tackled by one organisation alone.



Wildscapes were selected to deliver this phase of work because of their exceptional local knowledge of these delicate moorlands, as well as their expert heather and moorland restoration skills developed from past initiatives such as the Coalfield Heathlands project and work for the National Trust. Their efforts will help stabilise bare peat in some of the most damaged areas of moorland, including Kinder Scout, Saddleworth and Bleaklow.

**Read More** about the work we delivered or on the **Moors for the Future project**.

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**[Visit our events page where you can find out more about up and coming events](#)**

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**[www.wildscapes.co.uk](http://www.wildscapes.co.uk)**

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Wildscapes  
Victoria Hall, 37 Stafford Road  
Sheffield, S2 2SF  
Company number 5911369  
0114 2634345  
[info@wildscapes.co.uk](mailto:info@wildscapes.co.uk)



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Wildscapes  
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37 Stafford Road  
Sheffield, England S2 2SF  
United Kingdom