



Radnorshire
Wildlife trust
Ymddiriedolaeth Natur
Sir Faesyfed

**A place of hope for
nature and people**

A wide-angle photograph of a lush green landscape. In the foreground, there's a field of tall grass. The middle ground shows rolling green hills with a line of trees and a flock of sheep grazing. The background features more hills and a sky filled with soft, white clouds.

Pentwyn Appeal

a vision for the future

Defining the future for nature

An introduction to Pentwyn



“

In Wales we've lost beautiful birds such as the nightingale and corn bunting – and the haunting call of curlew and purring of the turtle dove may soon disappear too. Much-loved animals such as red squirrels and water voles, which were once widespread in Wales, are now only found at a few sites and are threatened with extinction. Nature is in crisis, and we need to help wildlife fightback fast.” *Iolo Williams*



In 2021 Radnorshire Wildlife Trust was loaned £1.5 million by four generous individuals to buy Pentwyn – a 164-acre upland farm in the Welsh Marches. We now need to raise £1 million to secure the future of Pentwyn and continue the work to restore nature.

We will start with surveying the land for its wildlife, soil condition and carbon stores.

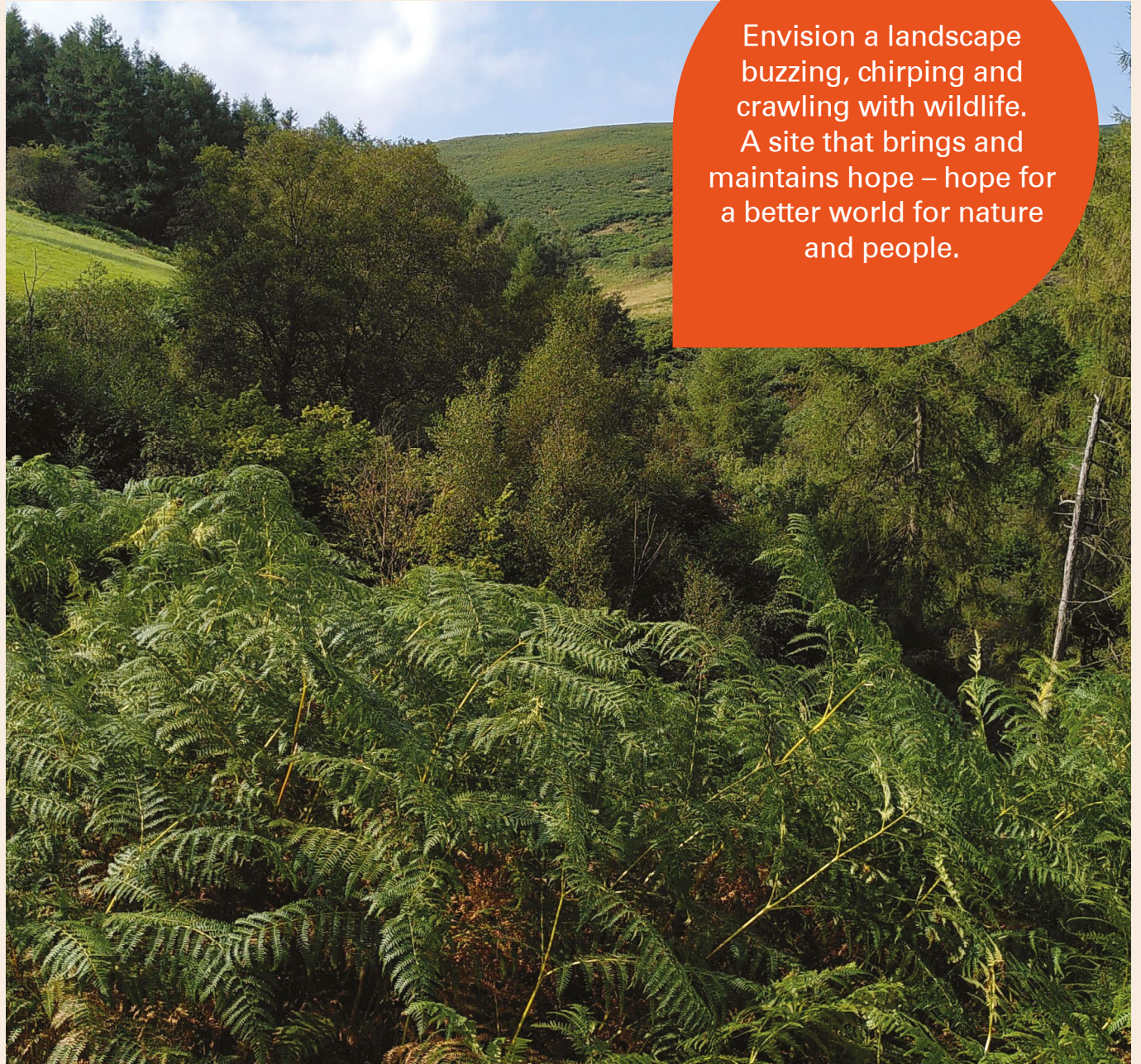
We will seek input from those that may have known the land previously and seek external expertise as required.

We will build relationships with academic and research bodies.

We represent a community of nature lovers and as such are not approaching farming the land in the current conventional manner.

We will be open about this, and for the need to find a way of putting nature into recovery, on a site that provides wider landscapes and community benefits, that exists alongside the future of farming, but also provides examples of what can be done within farm businesses for nature.

We will seek to create employment opportunities and bring funds in to the local economy using local contractors and suppliers.



Envision a landscape buzzing, chirping and crawling with wildlife. A site that brings and maintains hope – hope for a better world for nature and people.

Year 1 – 2022

Comprehensive baseline studies have been carried out so that future progress achieved on site can be clearly demonstrated, helping to make the case for nature generally and specifically – to assist with income-generating opportunities on site.

Comprehensive drone footage of the site has been recorded – so that transformation of the site over time can be clearly showcased.

Community engagement has commenced, making connections with neighbouring landowners, local schools and colleges and the parish council.



I think Pentwyn is a good idea because it tells everyone that we need to care for nature, and if we care for nature, it will fight climate change! *Local year 6 student*





In 5 years time...

By 2026 the loan has been paid off – helping to create a visitor and learning experience for a wide range of people, including land managers.

We have involved the local community and they feel welcome and included in the site. We are showcasing the future of land management where nature and its restoration is the driving force of management, along with climate change mitigation, adaption, and resilience.

We will have begun to model the economics of low input, low output, high quality food production through our grazing animals and, if possible, secured food production through small-scale fruit growing, market gardening or indoor food production. Wherever possible any product will be made available to the local supply chain.



Other Wildlife Trusts in Wales have been inspired to undertake similar endeavours and the movement has attracted the backing of major donors and funders leading to a step change in the level of finance for our work.

We will have begun to show what is possible if we are bold with how we approach funding nature's recovery. There will be a mosaic of habitats forming across the site, including: species-rich pasture, Ffridd, Scrub, regenerating woodland and then, around the farmstead, orchard and community food growing.

Grazing animals will be an important tool in the low maintenance management of the site, with cattle, ponies and perhaps even pigs being utilised. Some food production from the grazing animals will be achieved where possible. Extensive grazing techniques will be showcased to local farmers.

Having conducted baseline surveys and monitoring, we will be recording the changes to the land and the gains for wildlife, adapting management where necessary. We will use this data to promote the project and encourage others to undertake similar ventures.

Public access to the site will be facilitated and encouraged, with accessible signage seeking to engage people with the wildlife and inspire a love of nature in a fun and engaging way. The aim will be to attract new audiences to nature and so increase those inspired to protect it.

Messaging will be accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds including those with limited written English or Welsh language. The aim of our messaging will be to make visitors want to know more and want to take steps to help protect and restore nature in their own communities.





In 15 years time...

By 2036 natural processes are widely established, soil health improved and nutrient levels on the land reduced. Carbon will have been sequestered and protected through low input management achieving additionality which will contribute to our aim of achieving Net Zero by 2030 and showcasing the benefits of tackling both the climate and nature emergency in combination.

Low maintenance management continues, and the site is self-sufficient in terms of finance, covering its resource costs as a minimum. The site will contribute to water quality improvements, water retention and storm surge alleviation.

A mix of livestock will continue to play a role in the management of site and the community will continue to be actively engaged.

There will be public access allowing people to build a connection with nature rich landscapes across the wider Marches landscape.

Key habitats

Wetlands, Rhos, species-rich pasture and ffridd are restored and are managed extensively and dynamically without fixed and prescribed targets for structure and composition.

Pentwyn will function as part of a wider, connected, ecological unit within the Hills of East Radnor Living Landscape area. Wildlife in the area will have increased in both diversity and abundance because of our management.

The site will be widely known and will be seen as a place to visit not just for land managers and nature fans but also local families and tourists. We will have ties with the local community, schools, and businesses.



TERRY WHITTAKER 2020 DIVISION





In 30 years time...

In 2051 Pentwyn will have helped lead the way for Wales on showcasing and demonstrating how we can restore nature, address climate change, and revitalise the rural economy.

Visitors to the site are immersed in a nature-rich experience, walking over land where extensive natural processes and dynamic, shifting vegetation communities support abundant plants, insects and birds. 30 years ago, people considered this scruffy, but have now come to realise the cultural and economic value of such nature-rich places.

The site is wild but welcoming. People leave with a lasting memory of what we made possible for wildlife, community and people. We will have educated and inspired people to embrace the future of land management economics and put nature first, whilst still respecting the rich heritage of our rural communities.

The site will be widely known as a leader of change and a much-loved destination.



“Welsh wildlife is under a huge amount of pressure, but everyone can do their bit to help us restore nature to Pentwyn. This project will benefit us all – it’ll be somewhere to enjoy a wander through the wild, listen to the waterfall, see the flash of a wood warbler and watch butterflies flit across a wilder hillside.”

James Hitchcock RWT CEO







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We need your donations to secure the future of Pentwyn

We have made a great start to our fundraising as we have already secured grants and expect to receive a generous legacy.

We now need to raise £1 million to secure the future of Pentwyn, for nature and people.

Pentwyn is an exciting opportunity to do something really special for nature's recovery in Radnorshire – and we can't do that without your help

Get in touch if you can help us to realise our vision
James Hitchcock: james@rwtwales.org

**Donate today
to help us
restore nature
to Pentwyn**

