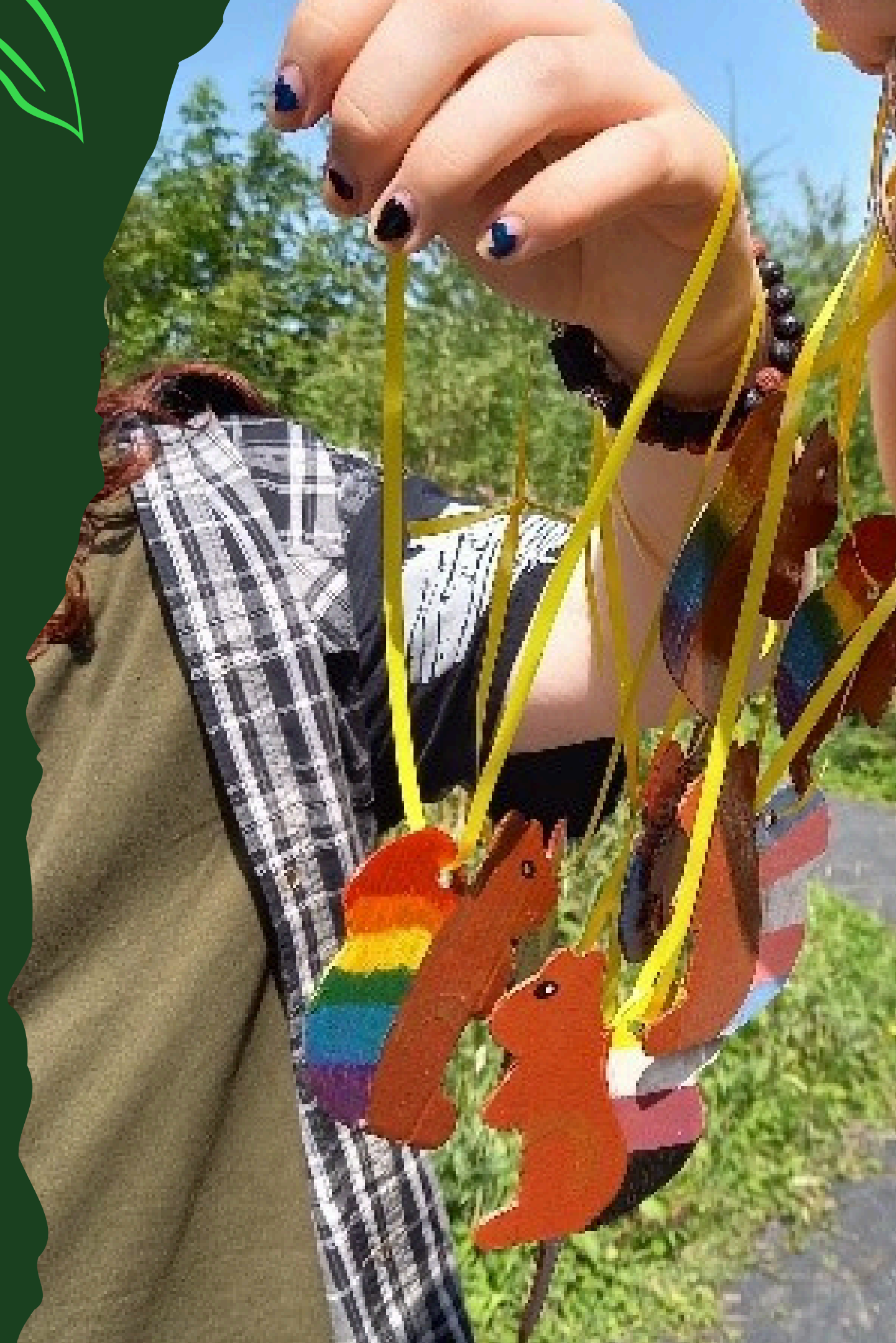




Bright **Green** Nature

Review 2024

Dr Karen Blackport, CEO



What we do

We restore and protect the health and resilience of natural ecosystems, by:

- Restoring, protecting and connecting habitats to conserve and **improve abundance and resilience of native biodiversity**
- Restoring and protecting **ecosystem function, health and resilience**
- Supporting and conducting **research into ecosystem restoration practices**; dissemination and interpretation of results to benefit nature and people

We connect and engage people with Nature, by:

- Improving the **connectivity of people with Nature** so that they are motivated to protect it
- **Making Nature accessible to all**; reaching new audiences through using Nature to connect with people in innovative ways
- **Connecting people with their natural and cultural heritage** to understand its importance in shaping how we understand Nature and how we live with Nature in the future
- Empowering communities and individuals to learn new **Nature based skills and knowledge**, to improve wellbeing and employability



How we work...

We restore nature at micro to medium scale

- We believe that to truly engage people, ALL people with rewilding and nature restoration, we must support people in their own spaces

Our work is embedded within communities

- We live and work here, we are part of the community. People are central to our work, right down to gathering the data we need

We build in an understanding of local heritage and culture in our efforts to recover nature

- We believe in the importance of sense of place in connecting with nature and the desire to protect and restore it

Our work is based on rigorous scientific evidence and best practice

- We strive to extend our understanding through research partnerships and always taking an innovative approach



We welcomed new Team members...

In 2024 we were joined by four new team members:

- **Lisa McLeish** joined us as Biodiversity Officer
- **Jenny Gries** joined us as Nature Restoration Officer
- **Fraser Murray** joined us as YRF Convenor
- **Beccy Angus** joined as Trustee

BGN are delighted to welcome all four team members!



We continued the restoration of our rare calcareous grassland site...

- We commenced the **long term restoration and conservation plan** for the Deer Park, Selkirk, our rare calcareous grassland site, aiming to restore natural processes on site, such as structural diversity (through native herbivore grazing, wetland restoration, creation of habitat) and promoting dead wood on site to boost invertebrate diversity
- We started to explore the potential for **reintroduction/translocation of native invertebrates**, such as the Yellow Meadow Ant, a grassland keystone species and other vulnerable invertebrate species
- We connected with the neighbouring site, the 160 acre Haining site and are **working with stakeholders to jointly work towards nature recovery** on both sites, building in **local culture and heritage**
- **Community engagement, training and skills development** underpin these programmes

These projects are enabled by generous funding from the Rewilding Britain Innovation Fund, the Swire Charitable Trust and the Fallago Environment Fund



and restored a wetland on this site.....



We completed our wetland restoration programme in July, successfully **restoring three ponds and surrounding landscape** across the Deer Park and Haining sites. This project had an **immediate impact on the biodiversity and species abundance** on the sites, with species such as little egret, lapwing and Great crested newt observed.

Surveying, both routine and specific, will continue during 2025 to understand the impact of the restoration of this wetland area.

This project was enabled by funding from the Nature Restoration Fund, managed by NatureScot



We launched the Young Rewilders Forum....

In 2024 we launched our Young Rewilders Forum, a place for young people, aged 15-24 and based in the Scottish Borders, to learn broad skills to equip them for a nature based career, such as: Content creation, Advocacy, Communications and Media and Education and learning

Recruitment for the YRF is underway and we aim to be commencing the forum in Q2 2025

We expanded our unique Wild Your Space Programme and Microgrant...

- Now entering its third year, our unique **Wild Your Space** programme and microgrant provide advice and support for communities, schools and families who wish to restore nature in their spaces.
- With the appointment of Jenny, our Nature Restoration Officer, we have been able to expand our **in-person outreach efforts** across the Scottish Borders region, particularly schools and community groups
- We also commenced development of our **WYS Community Ambassador programme**, a community led initiative to promote and support small scale and community nature restoration
- This programme remains funded by one donor and we are **seeking additional funding to expand impact further** to reach more people and more communities



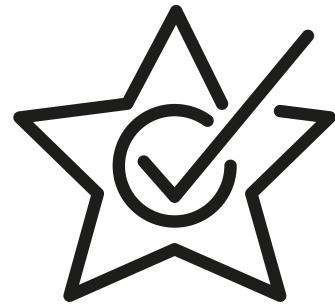


And had a huge impact...

Wild Your Space Microgrant: IMPACT



98 applications



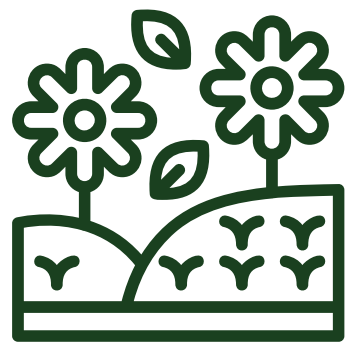
55 applications funded



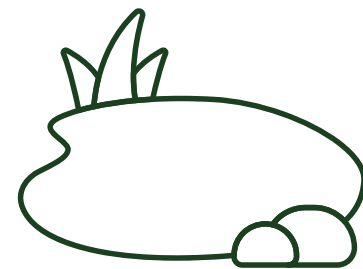
14 schools funded



Hundreds of children engaged*



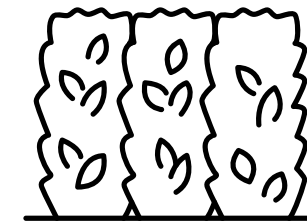
36 wildflower meadows created



5 ponds/bogs created



6 tree planting areas



4 hedgerows planted

We also started a new cross-border partnership in Red Squirrel recovery...

- In 2024 we started a cross-border partnership with Northumberland Wildlife Trust and four other organisations, to work towards **red squirrel recovery** across Northern England and southern Scotland
- BGN are the Delivery partner for **community engagement in the Scottish Borders** in the Development phase of the project and worked during the early autumn to engage with schools and communities underrepresented in environmental/nature activities
- Funding-dependent, this work will continue and expand further over a 5 year period.





Funding and Sponsorship

2024 saw great success in fundraising for new and current projects. We are extremely grateful to the Trusts and organisations who enable us to continue our work



Garfield Weston
FOUNDATION





Bright **Green** Nature

Thank you

Dr Karen Blackport, CEO

