Bromsgrove and Northeast Worcestershire Local Group

Winter newsletter 2026

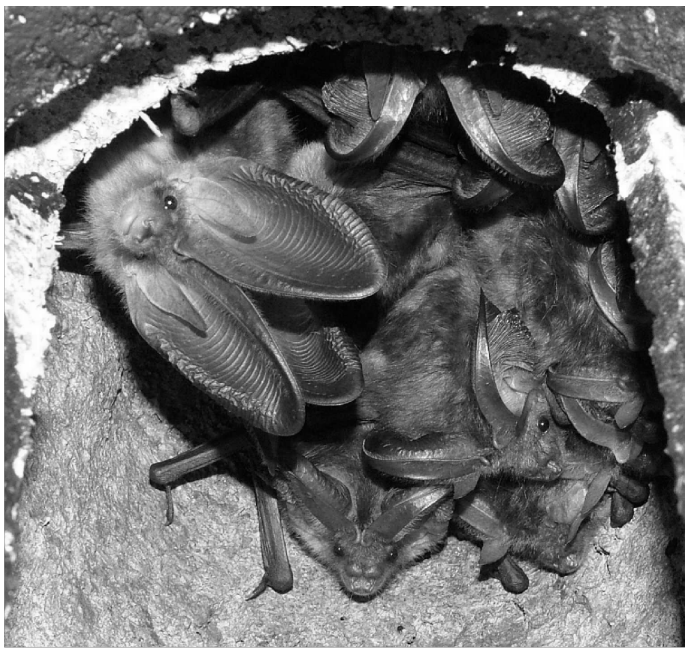
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Dear friend

This newsletter will reach you as Christmas is rapidly approaching so may I take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Happy Christmas and New Year for 2027.

I would also like to thank you for your continued support for Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and for supporting your local Bromsgrove and Northeast Worcestershire group. We really do value your support.

We have had another successful year with some excellent speakers at our meetings and several lovely wildlife walks. Our programme for the New Year and spring will include speakers on woodlands, on bats and on conservation. We'll also be joined by the Trust's CEO, Mike Perry, in February. We do hope that you 'll be able to join us at one or more of our interesting meetings. More information can be found over the page.



Brown long-eared bats (c) Dorset Wildlife Trust

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust has also had a remarkable year with major projects at some of the county's nature reserves. These include the substantial expansion of Monkwood, where tree planting is now complete; the fundraising appeal to buy more woodland and neighbouring land at Trench Wood, which will become the Trust's largest woodland reserve; and the purchase of more floodplain meadows on Longdon Marsh adjacent to Hill Court Farm and the Blacklands. As members and supporters of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust we should all be enormously proud of what has been achieved for wildlife here in our county. You can find information about these nature reserves on the Trust's website www.worcestershirewildlifetrust.org.uk



Trench Farm (c) Paul Lane

Once again, may I wish you all best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

With all best wishes

Viv Chandler

Chair, Bromsgrove and Northeast Worcestershire Local Group



Dates for your diary

Christmas get together - Wednesday 9th December
The Swan Inn at Upton Warren at 6.30pm.
An informal carvery meal (2 courses £19.95 - or carvery only £14.95, payable on the day at venue). To book your place/s please email Jamie Morris: wwtbromsgrovebranch@gmail.com

Meetings start at 7.30pm and cost £3 (cash) per person
Amphlett Hall, Crown Close, off Market Street, Bromsgrove B61 8DW

Monday 11th January
Worcestershire Woodlands with Ion Riley
Ion, a member of the Trust's engagement team, will tell us about what he loves about our Trust's woodlands. He'll focus on wildlife found in Tiddesley, Monkwood and Grafton woods and will explain how wildlife is under threat, how to visit reserves responsibly and how we can all support the Trust's work.

Monday 8 February
Past, present, future: nature recovery in Worcestershire with Mike Perry
Whilst Worcestershire has stunning countryside and fantastic wildlife, looks can be deceptive. 56% of UK species have declined over the past 50 years. Mike leads a team focused on saving wild places, managing land for wildlife and engaging with the natural world. He'll explore the challenges and the Trust's bold ambitions, including making nature reserves and greenspaces bigger, better, more and joined up and working with others to create green corridors.

Monday 8 March
Worcestershire's bats with Matthew Terry
Matthew is chair of Worcestershire Bat Group and vice chair of the Bat Conservation Trust. He will introduce us to the bats of Britain and the places to see them in Worcestershire.

Monday 12 April
Orchid conservation with Phillip Seaton
Philip is a retired biology lecturer and project manager for the Orchid Seed Stores at the Millenium Seed Bank. He is co-chair of the Ex-situ Conservation Group of the IUCN. Author of a number of books about orchids, he runs a voluntary orchid micro-propagation lab at King Charles School in Kidderminster.

Protecting Worcestershire's Wetlands

In 2025, the Trust raised £325,000 to protect a rare and precious wetland landscape; this special place was the subject of October's excellent talk to our group from the reserve officer, Tomos Holloway.

Tucked away in southwest Worcestershire lies a remarkable patch of land, a mosaic of willow-lined streams, veteran oaks, wildflower-rich fields and marshy grasslands. Nestled near to our existing nature reserve at Hill Court Farm and the Blacklands, this land forms part of the historic Longdon and Eldersfield Marshes. Already rich in wildlife, it needs only light-touch management and monitoring to keep it thriving. Securing this land has allowed the Trust to expand its network of nature reserves, contributing to the wider landscape of wildlife sites whilst helping to protect this valuable wetland and improving connectivity for species to move more freely between habitats.

The Longdon and Eldersfield Marshes were once the beating heart of Worcestershire's wetland wildlife. In the 19th century, this vast expanse of floodplain supported otters, bitterns, swallowtail butterflies and thousands of migrating birds. In Victorian times, much of the marsh was drained and large parts of this precious habitat were lost. Vital fragments still remain and the land we've purchased sits at the heart of what's left. It continues to flood regularly, creating the dynamic, seasonally wet conditions that support a wealth of wildlife.

In flood, Longdon Marsh can appear as an extensive lake and is inaccessible. At other times, the wintering geese and ducks can be seen from a viewing screen at Hill Court Farm...but make sure you wear wellies if you visit.