

NGOs working within the wider context

A look at the way Alderney Wildlife Trust fits into the national Wildlife Trust format

Claire Thorpe & Roland Gauvain, Alderney Wildlife Trust.

Email: peopleandwildlife@alderneywildlife.org



THE WILDLIFE TRUSTS

In 1912 Charles Rothschild set up a society to protect the best of Britain's wildlife and promote nature reserves. Of the 248 sites deemed most important, all of those that survive today are designated SSIs or nature reserves including some that are still very well-known such as Wicken Fen and Bass Rock.

In the late 1950s the society Rothschild had formed took on the role of The Wildlife Trusts, in order to represent the numerous local environmental organisations starting to appear (with Norfolk coming first in 1926). After the formation of the Scottish Wildlife Trust in 1964, they covered the whole of Britain.

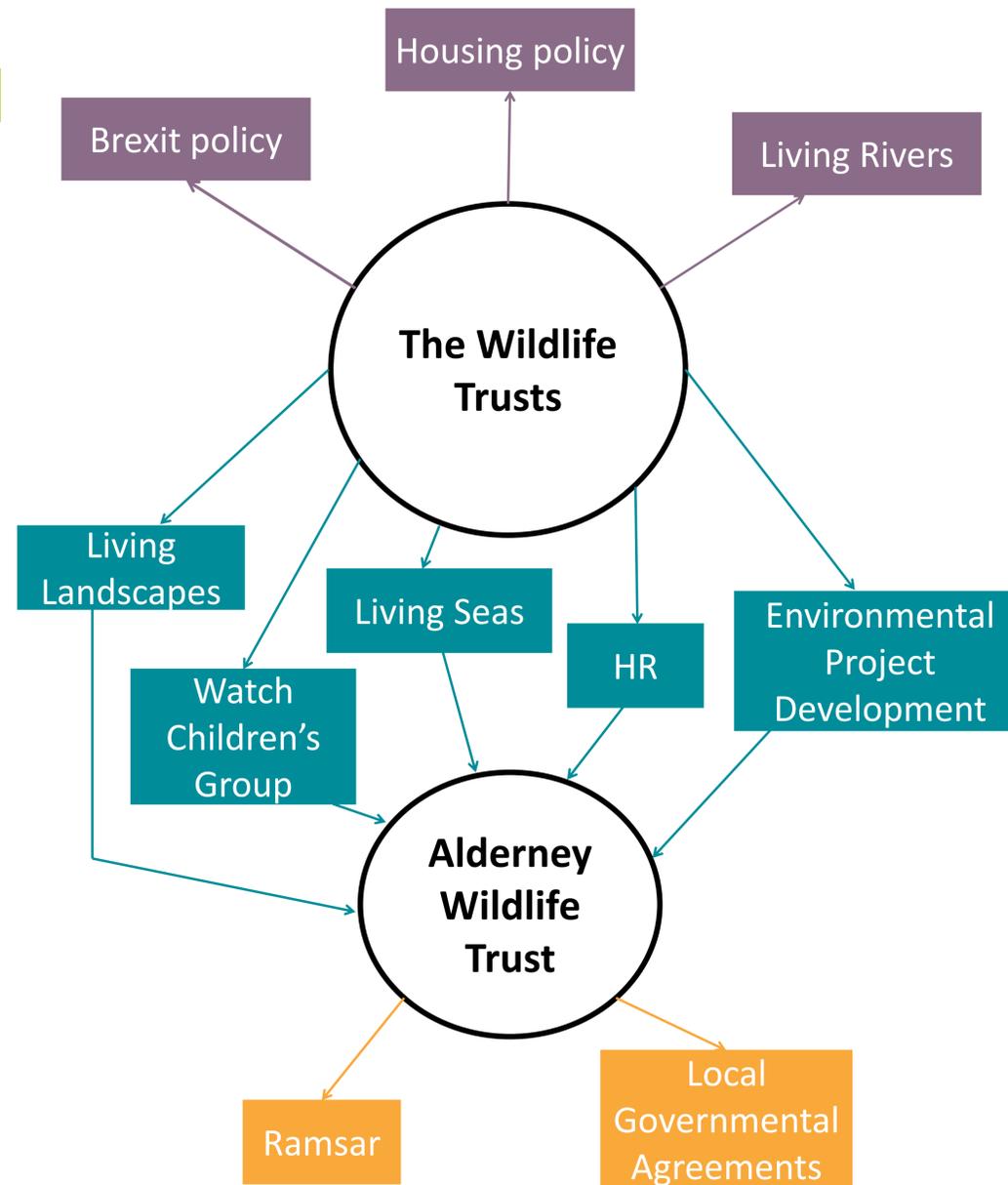
Alderney Wildlife Trust is the newest of the Trusts, formed in 2002 in response to the growing need to conserve the island's biodiversity.

MAP OF ALL WILDLIFE TRUSTS



Today there are 46 Wildlife Trusts which cover the whole of the UK, the Isle of Man and Alderney, with some counties merged as one charity (for example, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire for BCN WT).

Each Wildlife Trust is independent but work together under certain joint national projects with the other Trusts, see right.



SHARED PROJECTS

Many AWT projects receive direction from the Wildlife Trust movement, particularly large-scale conservation work on Alderney's terrestrial reserves and systematic surveys of the island's marine environment. AWT can seek advice and guidance on a range of topics.

There are some projects which are not appropriate for Alderney, such as works relating to Brexit and national governmental campaigns, e.g. housing.

There are many pros and cons to working as part of a large national organisation, some of which are summarised below

RELATIONSHIP PROS

- Policies are given direction to fit with national movements and enable the AWT to feedback into national campaigns
- Campaigns like Living Seas show the wider impact of conservation work on the island
- The volunteer internship structure AWT uses to supply staff is greatly helped by the name recognition that comes with being part of TWT

RELATIONSHIP CONS

- Some general policies and guidance lack local applicability
- Difficulties in maintaining local identity and explaining to people that all resources stay on the island
- Funding available to other Trusts (e.g. Heritage Lottery Funding and local council grants) unavailable in the Channel Islands



“ People across the UK benefit from the work The Wildlife Trusts do –the thousands of wild places we care for and our work bringing back wildlife and natural processes to landscapes. ”

Simon King, OBE – The Wildlife Trusts' President