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Become a Bison Benefactor Your herd, supporting ours!

Help to solve conservation connectivity in the UK using bison as the flagship species

Wilder Blean is Kent Wildlife Trust's flagship wilding project. So far it has reached over 8 billion people worldwide. Stage one of the project in 2022 saw European bison introduced into a woodland in Canterbury, forming the first free-roaming herd in the UK. These bison have now been joined by longhorn cattle, Exmoor ponies, and Iron Age pigs.

This unique conservation grazing assemblage will create a more biologically diverse and abundant woodland landscape that is more resilient to our rapidly changing climate.



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Become a Bison Benefactor and help us deliver wilding at a greater scale.

Wilder Blean marks the beginning of a new era for conservation in the UK. It shows how we can revolutionise the way we restore natural landscapes, relying less on human intervention and more on natural engineers like bison and boar.

By becoming a Bison Benefactor and sponsoring one, or all of our herd, you will be helping us to deliver wilding on a greater scale. Your sponsorship will allow us to connect our landscapes, deliver education programmes and advocate for nature.

Sponsor the herd now to help us connect the landscape



Making space for biodiversity

Wilder Blean is bringing transformational change to West Blean woods, part of the largest area of ancient woodland in southern Britain, by introducing animals which interact with vegetation and soils to create biological abundance and diversity. Large grazing herbivores, including cattle, horses, pigs, and European bison have been introduced into the reserve, where they are beginning to take over the woodland's management.

These animals act as ecosystem engineers; their natural behaviours returning ecological processes that have been missing from UK woodlands for thousands of years, restoring a functional and thriving ecosystem and an abundance of wildlife. Close monitoring of habitats and species within the bison areas, domestic equivalent areas, and a 'control' area, managed using more traditional conservation activities, e.g., coppicing and scrub-clearance, is enabling us to track the impacts of the animals and pinpoint their specific effects on the ecosystem, as they revert the woodland back to its wilder state.

Over the coming years we expect to see significant increases in the diversity and numbers of species, from the smallest (invertebrates living in dead wood and rare butterflies like the Heath Fritillary) to the largest (buzzards and goshawks). We are already seeing structural changes to the woodland after a few short months of bison presence.

This can be a landscape where wildlife and people thrive; to manage the woodlands naturally on a landscape-scale, whilst maintaining public access, we will be creating crossing points – bison bridges – that will allow the project's large grazing animals to move between connected areas that would otherwise be fragmented by public rights of way.

The bridges provide a necessary way to reconnect the woodland where animals have the choice of where to go rather than by human intervention, therefore maximising their positive impact whilst maintaining safety.

The animals are already present, and all infrastructure is in place apart from the tunnels/crossing points. Therefore, currently the bison remain confined to one 50 hectare area of the woodland.

To achieve maximum biodiversity impact, we need to connect the Blean landscape and your sponsorship will help us do just that





Become a Bison Benefactor

We have a vision to restore nature at scale, and we need your help to turn that ambition into reality. In return for your generous sponsorship, packages are available with a raft of benefits, including your group's name on a plaque within the woodland, exclusive Wilder Blean experiences, and our sort-after bison cuddly toy, sustainably sourced and made from recycled materials of course.



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The calf £3,000

- Your name on our main sponsorship board of bison benefactors.
- Bison adoption pack.
- Personalised certificate of support.



The Bull £10,000

- Your name on our main sponsorship board of bison benefactors.
- An individual engraved letterbox plaque on a bison bridge.
- Bison adoption pack.
- Personalised certificate of support.
- An exclusive bison pin badge.



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The Matriarch £15,000

- Your name on our main sponsorship board of bison benefactors.
- An individual engraved small bison plaque on a bison bridge.
- Bison adoption pack.
- Personalised certificate of support.
- An exclusive bison pin badge.
- A bison safari for two.



The Herd £25,000

- Your name on our main sponsorship board of bison benefactors.
- An individual engraved large bison plaque on a bison bridge.
- Bison adoption pack.
- Personalised certificate of support.
- An exclusive bison pin badge.
- A bison safari for two.
- Joint gift membership.

Join the herd! Become a Bison Benefactor and help to support a new era of conservation