

VWT Vincent Wildlife Trust

Registered Charity Number 1112100 (England and Wales),
SCO43066 (Scotland), 20100841 (Republic of Ireland)

www.vwt.org.uk

www.vincentwildlife.ie



Vincent Wildlife Trust was founded in 1975 by the late Hon Vincent Weir, and since then has been at the forefront of wildlife conservation in Britain and Ireland. Vincent was a highly accomplished naturalist and a philanthropist. He was devoted to the conservation of wildlife in Britain and Ireland and was determined to make a difference.

VWT is a charity working hard to safeguard the future of mammals in Britain and Ireland and has been at the forefront of wildlife conservation for 40 years. The charity has made major contributions to the conservation of the otter, dormouse, water vole, polecat, pine marten and bat species - especially the greater and lesser horseshoe bats. Today, it specialises in focused, long-term solutions for the conservation of rare or 'difficult to track' British and Irish mammals, through conservation-led research, practical field applications, surveying and monitoring, education, training. It focuses on and currently centres on the bats and members of the weasel family (the mustelids) of which the Pine Marten is a member.

VWT's specific niche is as an organisation that undertakes surveys to identify the current status of mammal species of concern, carries out pioneering conservation-led research, publishes the details of this work and offers expert advice to others through practical demonstration. Its innovative research has helped provide solutions to conservation issues locally and internationally. It is involved in both landscape scale delivery of conservation actions and with more local, small-scale initiatives, linking in with national and European initiatives, forums and partnerships as appropriate.

In 1983, VWT undertook the first survey of the pine marten in Britain, providing evidence that subsequently helped to achieve legal protection for the species. Today, VWT maintains its high profile involvement with conservation-led research and survey work on the pine marten and polecat in particular. In 2014, the Trust launched its Pine Marten Recovery Project with the aim of restoring viable pine marten populations to England and Wales.

The Trust has maintained a permanent presence in Ireland since 1995. VWT staff work independently but are in close liaison with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The majority of its work has been focussed on the bat species in Ireland and in particular the lesser horseshoe bat.