

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

www.pine-marten-recovery-project.org.uk



The Pine Marten Recovery Project is a ground-breaking project to translocate pine martens to Wales from Scotland. This is part of the Vincent Wildlife Trust's plans to restore a healthy self-sustaining pine marten population to the rural landscape of Wales and England.

"Having searched high and low for years for pine martens in Wales and without success, it is so heartening to know that these animals are back in their former haunts once more. The work the VWT is doing is absolutely brilliant."

Iolo Williams, naturalist, TV presenter and patron of the Pine Marten Recovery Project

The pine marten was once the second most common carnivore in Britain during the Mesolithic era. The clearance of woodlands, together with predator control, had a devastating effect on the pine marten population and by 1915 this species was confined to just a few of the more remote areas across Britain and Ireland. Small populations survived in Wales and the Marches and in areas of northern England, with relatively strong populations still present in parts of the Scottish Highlands.

Today, populations are expanding in number and range in Scotland and Ireland. In Wales, VWT recently carried out a pine marten population reinforcement, by translocating pine martens to mid-Wales from Scotland, resulting in the re-establishment of a viable marten population. In England, pine martens are still scarce and have a very restricted distribution. Martens are spreading from southern Scotland and naturally re-colonising parts of Northumberland and Cumbria. Elsewhere in England, pine martens have been recorded in Shropshire and Hampshire (the New Forest).

VWT has been studying the pine marten for more than 30 years and in 2011, the Trust developed a long-term Pine Marten Conservation Strategy in collaboration with other voluntary and statutory conservation bodies. In 2014, the VWT in consultation with and support from various conservation bodies launched its Pine Marten Recovery Project. Between 2015 and 2017, the Trust carried out a pine marten population reinforcement in Wales, whereby 51 pine martens were translocated to mid-Wales from Scotland, resulting in the re-establishment of a viable marten population. In 2017, the Trust started its Back from the Brink project, which is monitoring and paving the way for the recovery of the pine marten in northern England as the population spreads south from Scotland.

VWT is currently working with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and Forestry Commission to reintroduce pine martens to the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire. This reintroduction is planned to begin in autumn 2019.