

Tracking Wild Britain

Watching wildlife by train



National Rail
Britain's train companies working together



National Rail

Britain's National Rail system is the easy way to travel the length and breadth of the country in speed and comfort.

Our fast and frequent trains allow you to relax and watch the world drift by, free from road congestion or gridlocked motorways. We offer a wide range of services linking our bustling towns and cities with the heart of the countryside.

Appetising meals and snacks are available on many long distance trains and you can often reserve seats to travel together with family and friends. We offer many different fares to suit your pocket, from special bargain tickets to First Class on many routes for that added touch of luxury.

More than one billion passenger journeys were made on Britain's railway last year making us the fastest growing railway in Europe. We carry nearly 3 million passengers every day on nearly 20,000 services between more than 2,500 stations.

National Rail is delighted to have secured the support of the RSPB and the Mammals Trust UK in producing 'Tracking Wild Britain'.

RSPB

The RSPB is the largest wildlife conservation organisation in Europe with over one million members. Wildlife and the environment face many threats. The RSPB focuses its work on the species and habitats that are in the greatest danger.

The RSPB exists to conserve wild birds and the environment. Our work is driven by a passionate belief that:

- birds and other wildlife enrich people's lives.
- bird populations reflect the health of the planet, on which our future depends.
- we all have a responsibility to protect wildlife.

The RSPB is the UK charity working to secure a healthy environment for birds and other wildlife, helping to create a better world for us all.

MTUK

Mammals Trust UK is the only charity dedicated solely to conserving our native wild mammals, raising money to fund essential research and taking action to help them. The organisation was founded in 2001 in response to dramatic declines in numbers of mammals in the UK and the very real possibility that some, including water voles and red squirrels, would become extinct within a very few years, if concerted action was not taken to save them.

Mammals Trust UK aims to ensure that our mammal species have a secure future so that future generations may enjoy them.

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Humans are mammals, too; what is good for wildlife
is good for us.

Mammal populations give early warning about the health of our environment and the implications of change for our own health. Native mammals such as water voles and dormice are deeply rooted in our culture; Ratty in 'Wind in the Willows' (actually a water vole, and not a rat at all) and the sleepy dormouse in 'Alice in Wonderland' are key figures in some of our most popular children's literature.

We need to protect our islands' unique heritage.

Tracking Wild Britain – Introduction

If you're travelling on one of Britain's busy rail routes, this might not be the first place you'd think of for spotting wildlife but take a look out of the train window and you could be in for a pleasant surprise! Britain has a wealth of wildlife with 220 species of bird and 65 species of mammal. Many of these can be seen from key routes such as the common buzzard on the East Coast main line and fallow deer on the Exeter-Penzance route.

To get you on track to watching wildlife by train, National Rail has joined forces with the RSPB and Mammals Trust UK to produce "Tracking Wild Britain". We've selected ten of the most popular rail routes - whether they go through gently rolling countryside or busy urban landscapes - and listed some of the birds and mammals you are most likely to see.

Remember that while you're travelling by train and spotting wildlife you are also helping to conserve it! Rail routes can provide green corridors for wildlife - taking the train is environmentally friendly and reduces road congestion.

So, whether you are commuting to work in town or going further afield for business or pleasure, take a look at the page showing your particular route and discover some of the more interesting species you might be lucky enough to see. Identifying a bird or mammal you haven't seen before can be a rewarding experience. And if you see something that you can't put a name to, or just want to know more about wildlife, why not get in touch? (See back page for further information).

We hope you enjoy Tracking Wild Britain!



Front Cover:

Roe Deer Buck (© Colin Carver/NPL)
Kestrel (© Philip Newman/NPL)