Friday 11March 2022

## Win for woodland mammal thanks to National Lottery

**Vincent Wildlife Trust is awarded a £93,273 grant by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to help the rare pine marten become a more common sight across Britain.**

Mammal conservation charity, Vincent Wildlife Trust (VWT), has been awarded a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for the ‘Martens on the Move’ project, it was announced today. Made possible by National Lottery players, the project will work with local communities to help pine martens thrive once again in woodlands across Britain.

Pine martens were once widespread throughout Britain but were almost extinct by the beginning of the 20th century. Populations have slowly made a comeback in most of Scotland and more recently in parts of Wales and England, thanks to VWT’s successful Pine Marten Recovery Project and the subsequent partnership with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust on its Pine Marten Project. The Martens on the Move project will build on that success by helping pine martens to spread further in key recovery areas – Northumberland, Cumbria and the Scottish borders, and the Welsh/English border through collaboration with local communities and working with volunteers.

Development funding of £93,273 has been awarded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund for one year to help Vincent Wildlife Trust prepare detailed plans for the next stage.

The project will work with landowners and a range of partners to improve habitats and other conditions for pine martens, recruit and train volunteers to monitor pine martens as they move into new areas, and provide opportunities for a diverse range of communities to find out more about the species and its role within woodlands.

## The pine marten is an iconic native British mammal but is now Critically Endangered in England and Wales and its range in Scotland is still limited. A joined-up, community led, habitat focused approach will help to enhance our woodlands and secure pine marten recovery in key areas.

Dr Lucy Rogers from Vincent Wildlife Trust said, “Now is a critical time for pine marten conservation and we’re delighted that this funding will enable more people to learn about and help conserve this wonderful animal, thanks to National Lottery Players.”

## Notes to editors

### About Vincent Wildlife Trust

Established in 1975, Vincent Wildlife Trust (VWT) is an independent charity and a leading mammal conservation organisation with a track record of delivering high quality wildlife interventions, based on scientific evidence. We are respected internationally for our mammal research and our innovative evidence-based ways of halting and reversing declines in mammal populations. We are currently leading the reversal of the pine marten decline in England and Wales through programmes such as the successful Pine Marten Recovery Project and in collaboration with key partners and organisations.

Follow @vincentwildlife on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/vincentwildlife), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/VincentWildlifeTrust) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/vincentwildlifetrust/).

### About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

The National Lottery Heritage Fund grant applications over £250,000 are assessed in two rounds. The Martens on the Move project has initially been granted round one development funding of £93,272 by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, allowing it to progress with its plans. Detailed proposals are then considered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund at second round, where a final decision is made on the full funding award of £1,068,028.

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we  **inspire, lead** and **resource** the UK’s heritage to create **positive and lasting change** for people and communities, now and in the future. [www.heritagefund.org.uk](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk).

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Since the National Lottery began in 1994, National Lottery players have raised over £43 billion for projects and more than 635,000 grants have been awarded across the UK.

Each week, thanks to National Lottery players, £30 million is raised for good causes across the UK.

### Further information

For further information, images and interviews, please contact Dr Jenny MacPherson at Vincent Wildlife Trust on 01531 636441 and jennymacpherson@vwt.org.uk.