

Connecting with nature : students visit Wildwood

Between November 2021 and March 2022 students from across the University joined us on a visit to the Wildwood Trust to learn about conservation and to reconnect with nature and each other.



Image: Students learning about conservation efforts from a guide at the Wildwood Trust's wildlife park in Kent.

The aim of the visits was to provide an opportunity for students to connect with local wildlife and with their peers, strengthening their links with nature and their understanding of the positive conservation projects that Christ Church supports.

The visits were part of the Christ Church *Connect* project funded by Kent County Council to counteract the effects of isolation on young people resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, promoting social connection, sense of purpose, happiness and other wellbeing attributes.

20

students joined the Wildwood trips in 2021/22

200

native animals are cared for at the Kent Wildwood Trust site.

3200+

total student attendees across all Connect events

“I think it was one of the best days of the year. People were happy to see other people and it was such a feeling of, you know, being together ... and then to find out such an amazing place with such a natural way of conserving the natural habitat land was most incredible. It still brings me happiness just to think about it.”

— feedback from a student



Image: Students learning about the 'Wilder Blean' project to introduce bison to the local area from a guide at Wildwood.

“I enjoyed hearing, was it about the red choughs? And also the bison being released into Blean Forest, I thought that was all really exciting. And I think especially for students at the moment who have probably gone through quite a difficult time over the last couple of years, it's nice to have something really positive to get involved in.”

— feedback from a student

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