

## Durham Wildlife Trust receive much needed equipment from Social Value offers.

Durham Wildlife Trust (DWLT) is a charitable organisation that was founded in 1971, initially known as the Durham County Conservation Trust, it adopted its current name in 1988.

It is part of a federation of 46 charities throughout the U.K. Each Wildlife Trust operates independently, focusing on the conservation of local wildlife. These Trusts are built on a strong foundation of membership and volunteering.

The Trust has successfully protected some of the North East's most treasured landscapes, including ancient woodlands, heathlands, meadows, and wetlands, from destruction. DWLT remains committed to acquiring new reserves, fostering nature recovery across the region, and integrating wildlife into the heart of urban areas.

J.C. Maintenance Services, one the North East's leading companies for commercial repairs, servicing and installation of automatic doors and roller shutters. Offered to provide their services as part of their Social Value commitment to deliver added value to local voluntary and community sector organisations and improve outcomes for local communities.



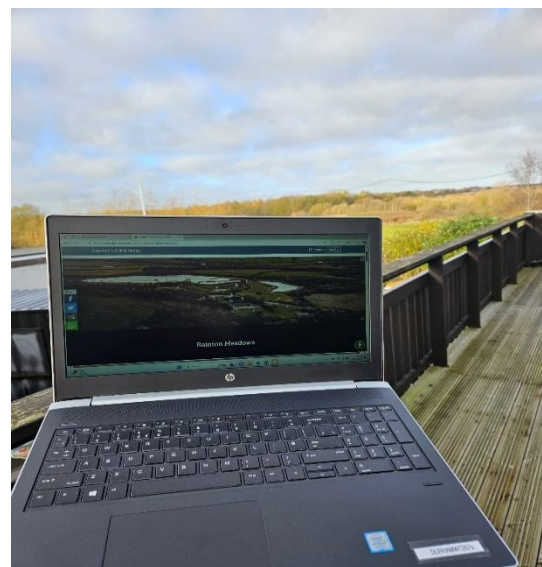
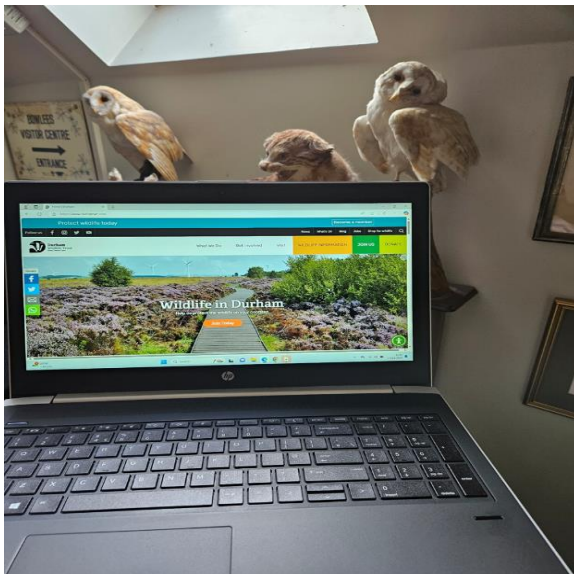
An advert was circulated to Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance members and DWLT were successful in securing the offer. DWLT's main concern was that valuable equipment, and resources could be at risk if the two roller shutters on the upstairs balcony of their visitor centre were not replaced. The existing shutters were unsafe and presented a security risk. J C. Maintenance contacted DWLT surveyed the premises and agreed to manufacture and replace the old Roller Shutters. The work has now been completed and DWLT are extremely pleased with the upgrade.



Dr Harriet Palin, Development Officer: Grants & Trusts at DWLT said: *"The new roller shutters will provide robust security, protecting our equipment, and resources from theft and vandalism. This is crucial for maintaining the integrity of our centre and ensuring that we can continue to offer high-quality services and experiences to our visitors"*

A user of the centre said: *"The Roller Shutters are fantastic; we are so grateful for this support; we feel this has increased our level of protection at the reserve which is cherished by the community."*

DWLT also successfully secured two refurbished laptops from Softcat an IT infrastructure company, who provided the laptops as their commitment to social value. The laptops have enabled DWLT to enhance IT capacity which supports the organisation's activities, contributing to their conservation efforts and community engagement.



The laptops have also provided other numerous benefits which include:

- Enhanced Training Opportunities:
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Capabilities
- Communication

DWLT also support several paid trainees who will benefit from the increased laptop capacity which will contribute to their future careers in the environment sector.

**Quote from User:** *“Although much of our work is based on interacting with nature and wildlife outdoors, digital tools have become increasingly important to developing strong conservation strategies. For this reason, the laptops have been a great addition to our work and have helped to increase our IT capacity. Thank You!”*