



**Leicestershire
& Rutland**
Wildlife Trust

World Osprey Week Day 5

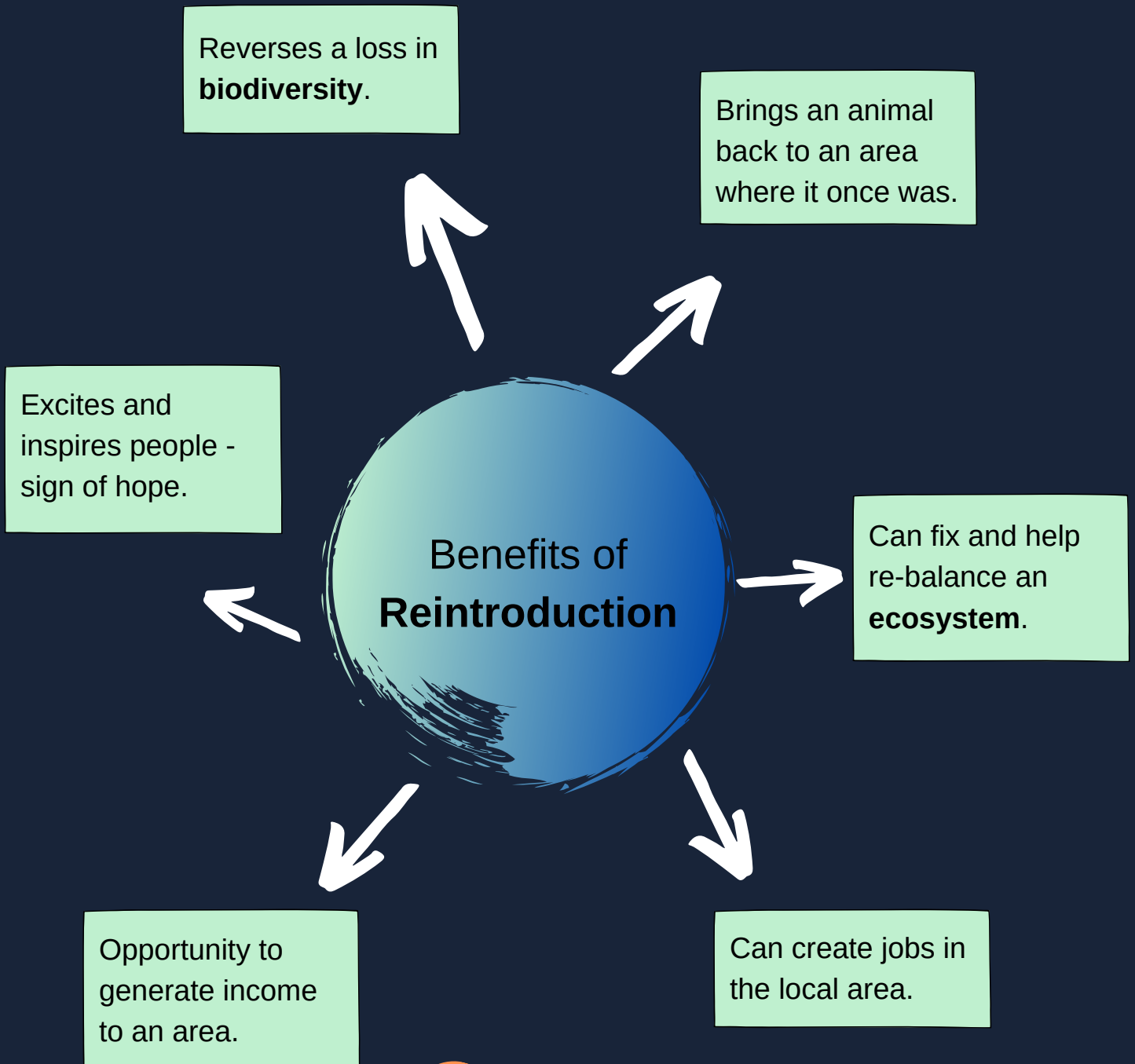


(C) Paul Baker

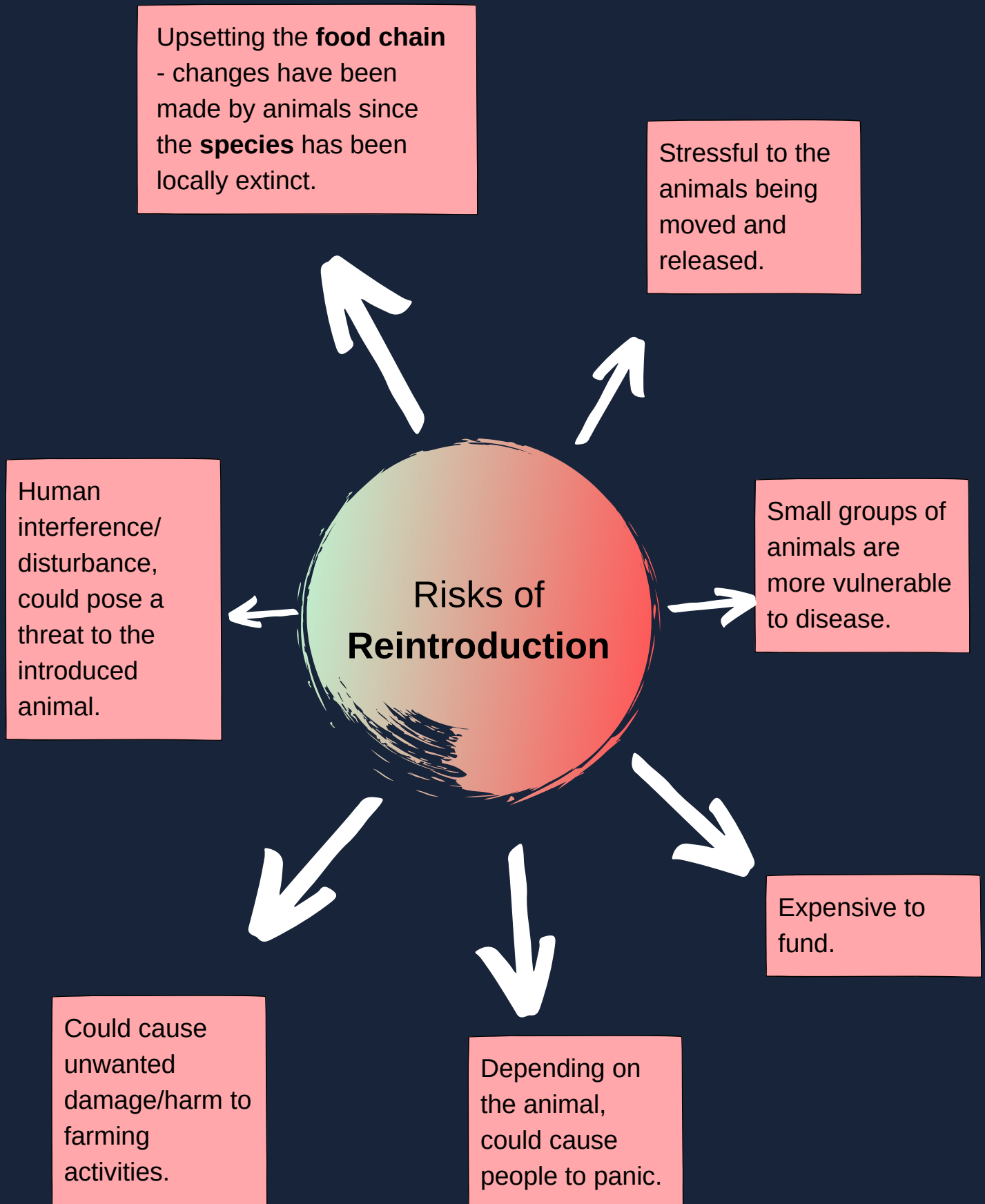
REINTRODUCTIONS: REWILDING THE UK

**Welcome to the final day of WOW! Ospreys
aren't the only species to be reintroduced in
the UK and today is all about delving deeper
into other exciting projects.**

Like the osprey, many other birds and animals have become or become close to **extinction** in the UK and have needed a helping hand to bring them back from the brink. But as with anything, there are benefits and risks involved.



Did you know: All reintroduction projects, have to go through a very intense process to ensure the safety of the animals being released, as well as making sure that any risks are minimised before any species can be released.





WHITE TAILED EAGLES: A FACTFILE

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

Haliaeetus albicilla



DESCRIPTION:

White tailed eagles are the UK's largest bird of prey and in fact are in the top four of the world's largest raptors. Their plumage is mostly brown, with paler feathers covering their head and neck. Adult eagles have white tail feathers. In flight it has massive long, broad wings with 'fingered' ends. Juvenile white tailed eagles lack the white tail feathers of the adults.

WINGSPAN: 2.0 to 2.4 m

WEIGHT: Males 3.5 to 5 kg and females 4 to 7 kg.

DIET: They are opportunistic hunters and will take anything from fish, other birds and hares to **carrion**. Their diet varies depending on the time of the year and what food source is most readily available. During the breeding season, they require 500 to 600 g of food a day!

HABITAT: Marine, intertidal, farmland, uplands, wetlands.

CLUTCH SIZE: 2 to 3 eggs

LIFESPAN: Average age of 21



Did you know: white tailed eagles form **monogamous** pairs.

WHITE TAILED EAGLES: UK

HISTORY

Like ospreys, white tailed eagles were once fairly common in the UK, but their population plummeted due to continual persecution by shepherds, gamekeepers, fishery collectors, skin collectors and egg collectors. As a result they became extinct in England by 1800, and hung on in Scotland until 1916.

1970s

In 1975, a reintroduction project started, run by the RSPB and what is today, Scottish Natural Heritage. Over 10 years, 82 young eagles from Norway, were released on the Isle of Rum.

The first pair of white tailed eagles successfully bred on the Isle of Rum.

1985

2019

ISLE OF WIGHT, WHITE TAILED EAGLE REINTRODUCTION:

- Reintroduction project started on the Isle of Wight, led by the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation in partnership with Forestry England.
- Start of a 5-year reintroduction project which will see max. 60 released.
- 6 young birds were released in August 2019 and a further 7 birds released in late July 2020.
- Some of the young birds have travelled up to 600 km from the release site, before returning to the Isle of Wight.



Did you know: white tailed eagles are the world's 4th largest eagle.



(C) Nick Upton / Cornwall Wildlife Trust

EURASIAN BEAVER: A FACTFILE

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Castor fiber*



DESCRIPTION:

Beavers are the UK's largest member of the **rodent** family, which includes mice, rats and voles, and second largest in the world. They are brown in colour, have small ears and eyes and their tails are famous for being flat and broad. They have very sharp teeth, which help them **coppice** trees for use in building their **dam**.

HABITAT: Fresh water ideally surrounded by woodland.

DIET: Aquatic plants, grasses, shrubs and woody plants

LENGTH: Up to 1 m plus a 30 cm tail.

LIFESPAN: 7 to 8 years

WEIGHT: 25 to 30 kg

OTHER:

Beavers are what we call a **keystone species** within the ecosystem, creating various wetland habitats for other species of wildlife.



Did you know:
baby beavers
are called kits.

EURASIAN BEAVERS: UK HISTORY

Like with many species that have been reintroduced to the UK, beavers were once a common sight. Beavers were killed for their soft fur which is also very thick and waterproof, and was used for clothing. Unfortunately, as a result beavers became extinct by the 16th century, around 400 years ago.



Thanks to some brilliant reintroduction projects, beavers are starting to make a comeback, not just in the UK, but in Europe where they were heavily persecuted too.

2008

THE RIVER OTTER BEAVER TRIAL, DORSET

- Beaver population of unknown origin on the River Otter since 2008.
- **2014** - UK Government planned for them to be removed.
- **2015** - Devon Wildlife Trust stepped in and after speaking with key people and groups offered an alternative.
- **2015** - start of a 5-year trial to monitor the beavers.
- **2016** - 2 adult beavers released.
- 6 beaver families in the area.

2009 – 2014

SCOTTISH BEAVER TRIAL

- 5-year reintroduction to Knapdale, Scotland.
- **2009** - first 11 beavers released.
- **2016** - Scottish Government said beavers can stay.
- **2017 - 2019** - a further 21 beavers released.
- **2019** - beavers granted legal protection.

2020

HATCHMERE NATURE RESERVE, CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

- A pair of beavers from Scotland released in 2020 as part of a 5 year project.

OTHER REINTRODUCTIONS IN THE UK



RED KITE

- **1989 - 1994:** reintroduced in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Brought over from Spain.
- **1995 - 1998:** 70 birds were reintroduced in Fineshade Wood, Northamptonshire.

PINE MARTEN

- **2015 - 2017:** 51 individuals translocated from Scotland to Wales.
- Managed by the Vincent Wildlife Trust.



(C) Mark Hamblin



(C) Amanda Fegan

BISON

- Wilder Blean Project - Kent Wildlife Trust.
- Lack of management in woodlands is causing species decline.
- Bison are a missing keystone species that is able to naturally manage woodlands.

COMMON CRANE

- Reintroduced between 2010 and 2015 to the Somerset Levels.
- 93 birds released.
- Over 50 pairs breeding there.



KEY WORDS

Carrion: dead animals which is an important food source for many species.

Biodiversity: the variety of animals and plants in an area.

Ecosystem: a group of animals and plants which interact with each other and where they live.

Coppice: to cut back a tree or shrub which will encourage new growth.

Keystone species: a species which has a particularly large effect on its ecosystem in comparison to how abundant they are. Another example of a keystone species is the African elephant.

ACTIVITIES

RECONNECT WITH NATURE

Reintroductions are all a part of restoring natural ecosystems, which are important not just for the wildlife within them but also for us as well. If you can, take a walk outside and soak up all the wonders of the natural world around you. What can you see? What can you hear? What can you smell? After your walk, note down your experience - how do you feel? What was your favourite moment? Etc. Get creative! If you don't fancy writing it down, try expressing yourself through artwork.

WORLD OSPREY WEEK QUIZ!

You have now completed all our WOW activity packs, well done! Now, using everything you have learned this week, have a go at the quiz on the next page...



**Leicestershire
& Rutland**
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QUIZ

Can you find all the answers to these questions using what you have learned this week?

1. Ospreys are the only birds of prey which eat just fish, but what is the special name we use to describe this?

2. The osprey is an excellent fisherman. Can you find out 3 adaptations that help them catch fish?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

3. What is the word used to describe an osprey's journey to and from the wintering grounds in West Africa?

4. Name 2 countries where Ospreys spend the winter months.

1. _____
2. _____

5. Which one is bigger - the male or female osprey?

6. Which of these is a reason ospreys became extinct in the UK?

- a) Shooting
- b) Lack of food
- c) Many successful breeding attempts

7. How many osprey chicks were translocated to Rutland Water Nature Reserve in total?

8. Where did ospreys first breed again in Wales and in what year?

9. The following are species of animals that have also been reintroduced to the UK. Can you unscramble the letters to work out what they are?

- a) REKNITTED _____
- b) BRAVEER _____
- c) AEDAELITEELGHTIW _____
- d) SNBIO _____

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Piscivorous
2. Any from: reversible toes, eyesight, sharp beak, sharp talons, spicules, powerful muscles
3. Migration
4. Gambia, Senegal, Guinea, southern Spain, other west African country
5. Female
6. a
7. 75
8. Glaslyn, 2004/2005
9. a) Red Kite
b) Beaver
c) White Tailed Eagle
d) Bison