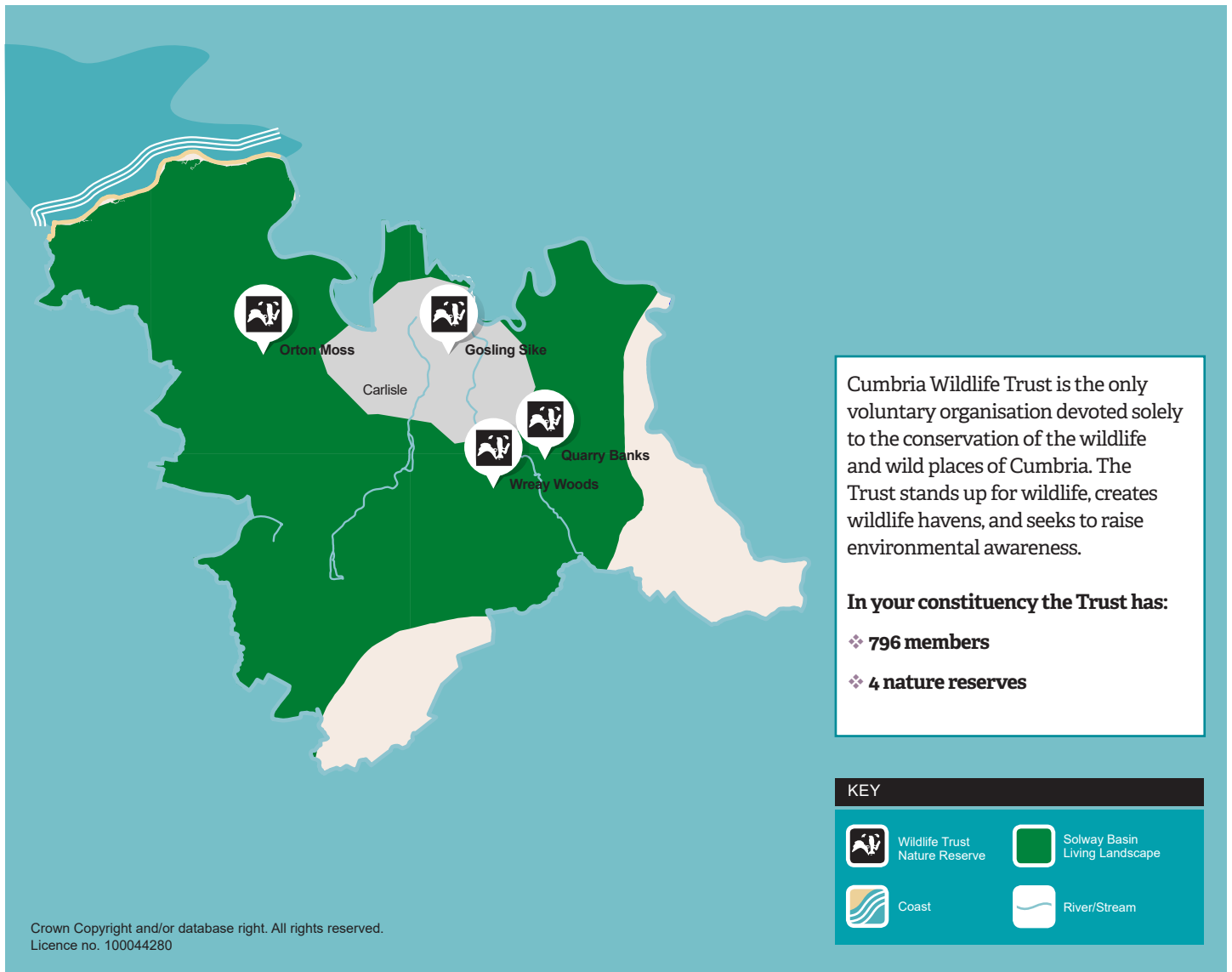


# Carlisle Constituency



**Cumbria**  
Wildlife Trust



## Nature in the constituency

Carlisle is situated in the lower floodplain of the River Eden. It is also bound on one side by the Solway Firth, which is an immeasurably important estuary for wildlife.

### River Eden

The River Eden is the longest river in Cumbria, flowing from its source in the Pennines to its mouth in the Solway Firth. It is also one of England's most valuable for wildlife with breeding salmon and trout.

This value is recognised through its classification as a Special Area of

Conservation, making it of European importance. The River Eden is home to many other species including otters, lamprey and the rare white-clawed crayfish.

### The Solway Firth

The Solway Firth – the third largest estuary in England and one of the most important for wildlife, borders the edge of your constituency. Internationally significant numbers of birds such as pink-footed geese and barnacle geese flock to feed in the estuary and surrounding salt marsh, making this a mecca for birdwatchers.

### Lowland raised bogs

These are formed on the low lying and flat floodplain of the Solway. These deep peat habitats are extremely important for a variety of wetland species, as well as being an important store of carbon.

There are 46 Wildlife Trusts across the UK working towards A Living Landscape and Living Seas. A Living Landscape is a recovery plan for nature to create a resilient and healthy environment rich in wildlife and provide ecological security for people. Within Living Seas wildlife thrives, from the depths of the ocean to the coastal shallows, wildlife and habitats are recovering, adapting to climate change, and inspiring people.

## A vision for your constituency



The longhorn cattle that graze at Gosling Sike are a traditional Cumbrian breed

### Nature's recovery in your constituency

Gosling Sike is a 36-acre organic farm situated at Houghton. The Trust has developed this site for the benefit of wildlife and for the community of Carlisle. While it stands just outside the constituency, the main users of the site (community groups and volunteers) are from Carlisle.

A new training and education hub opened here in 2018 and we are creating a community wildlife garden, with the

help of local groups. People of all ages and ability are getting involved, learning about planting and growing local and native species and exploring different habitats.

### Orton Moss Nature Reserve

Orton Moss Nature Reserve is a former basin mire much modified by human activity. It was historically important to local naturalists for its butterfly populations. An increase in woodland cover means it is now a great place to see woodcock and other woodland birds.

The River Eden has 184 recorded plant species – more than any other river in England. It supports large numbers of the endangered white-clawed crayfish as well as one of the largest populations of Atlantic salmon in northern England.

An area of the Solway Firth was designated a Marine Conservation Zone in 2019. This will help protect smelt, a species of conservation importance. It is also an important nursery ground for bass, pollack and some flatfish species.

Wreay Woods Nature Reserve follows the course of the River Petteril and hosts a wonderful array of flowers under a canopy of oak, ash and birch. Bluebells are a particularly fine sight in the spring.



Woodcock can be seen in the woodland at Orton Moss.  
Photo: Margaret Holland

## We are calling on the national parties to pledge to:

- ❖ **Back an ambitious Environment Act** with legally binding targets to restore nature, a powerful, independent environmental watchdog, and a Nature Recovery Network to protect and join-up important places for wildlife
- ❖ **Introduce an Agriculture Bill** that pays farmers for helping wildlife and for rebuilding our natural countryside, so that public money is used for the good of everyone and farmers help create a connected landscape
- ❖ **Revive our marine environment** through a network of Highly Protected Marine Areas and a new Marine Strategy to guide how we develop at sea, how we fish within environmental limits and how we restore our marine ecosystems to support plentiful fish and wildlife



Visitors look for butterflies at Orton Moss Nature Reserve



**Cumbria**  
Wildlife Trust

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All 46 Wildlife Trusts are members of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (Registered charity number 207238).