

Changes and developments at British and Irish Zoos

With thanks to Matt Von Wenden

Africa Alive	A name change - the place is now known as "Africa Alive Zoological Reserve".
Banham Zoo	A name change - the place is now known as "Banham Zoological Gardens". Proposed future developments remain vague, but have nonetheless excited a great deal of negative comment online from some. Others have chosen to wait to see what these plans will look like when they are fully published!
Belfast Zoo	The last Red-backed Sakis have departed (to Berlin Tierpark), and the zoo no longer holds Crowned Sifaka.
Bristol Zoo	In a much-publicised manner, the zoo closed its doors after over 180 years on September 3rd, 2022. Work continues on its sister site, due to become the 'new Bristol Zoo' in 2024.
Chester Zoo	A new house for Tamandua has been completed. Progress on a major African Grasslands exhibit continues; signage at the zoo indicates an estimated opening in 2025.
Crocodiles of the World	Two Galapagos Giant Tortoises have been hatched. Binturongs and Clouded Leopards have arrived at the zoo.
Drusillas	A large and attractive new exhibit for South American Coatis has been opened.
Dublin Zoo	A new exhibit for Snow Leopards and Red Pandas - "Himalayan Hills" - opened in April 2022. Ayes-ayes have arrived at the zoo, from Bristol, and a new house for them will hopefully open in the summer of 2023.
Dudley Zoo	Wolverine have come to the zoo, and are housed in one of the original Tecton exhibits. The zoo's penguin flock has been decimated by avian malaria. The massive extension to the Orangutan enclosure is now complete - and two youngsters have been born.
Exmoor Zoo	Smooth-coated Otter, Clouded Leopard and Wolverine are new arrivals at the zoo, expanding an already impressive carnivore collection. A Shoebill is currently to be seen at the zoo - a wonderful species to behold! The well-known Black Panther "Beast of Exmoor" of Exmoor Zoo has sadly died - its enclosure remains vacant, said by

	the zoo to, in the future, hold "a species of carnivore". An enclosure for Spotted Hyaena has also been constructed - as of yet, remains vacant.
Folly Farm	The zoo no longer maintains Cusimanse.
Hamerton Zoo	<p>Cacomistle, Striped Skunk and White-nosed Coati are all now to be seen at Hamerton, in new enclosures attached to a large house which is developing for possible future opening in late 2023.</p> <p>Both Aardwolves have, sadly, died; the zoo has also lost its last Tiger Quoll. More happily, Lesser Spot-nosed Guenons have arrived from the USA - the only ones in the UK, the species only being held elsewhere in Europe in Russia, Serbia, and Slovakia. Kirk's Dikdik and Anthill Pythons have also come to the zoo - with more newcomers promised for the year ahead. A tortoise house has been constructed, And a dinosaur-themed train track has opened with animatronic dinosaurs.</p>
Howletts	<p>Four female Cape Buffalo have arrived, from Austria. The elephants are being crate-trained - seemingly in preparation for their 'rewilding' to Africa. On said topic, no lions currently live at Howletts - both have themselves been 'rewilded' to South Africa. [This point being especially curious as during their time at Howletts they were signed as Barbary Lions,]</p> <p>Cape Hunting Dogs now inhabit where Iberian Wolves once did so.</p>
The International Centre for Birds of Prey (Newent)	In February 2022, the ICBP announced that it would be closing immediately - a real loss to the British zoo scene.
ZSL London Zoo	<p>Monkey Valley - the conversion of the Snowdon Aviary into a large exhibit for Colobus Monkeys - is now open; if the monkeys are active, it is a very impressive exhibit..</p> <p>A new Giant Tortoise House has opened - of simple structure, but quietly impressive nonetheless. Work is underway preparing for the construction of a new Reptile House.</p>
Marwell	<p>Clouded Leopards have replaced the Amur Leopards;</p> <p>Cheetahs are no longer here, their former space divided between Servals and an extension to the adjacent paddock.</p>
Newquay Zoo	<p>The zoo's African Lions - held in what has long been the zoo's most disappointing exhibit - will soon be heading to Paignton Zoo. As yet, there is no word on what will happen to their erstwhile home. Beisa Oryx have arrived, for Yorkshire; Nyala are no longer held, after many years as part of the Marwell collection. The old Tropical House will be reopened as "Thriving Through Nature" - hyraxes are among</p>

	the species promised.
Noah's Ark	Spectacled Bears have bred.
Paignton Zoo	The Brookside Aviary - once the first exhibit to which visitors would come - has now gone, with a pathway to the lion and tiger exhibits opening up instead.
Paradise Wildlife Park (Broxbourne)	A name change - the place will, from 2024, be known as "Hertfordshire Zool". Meanwhile, work continues on new exhibits for Sun Bears, Binturongs, Otters and Jaguars.
Twycross Zoo	A large area devoted to the children's book <i>The Gruffalo</i> has opened; animal exhibits are few within the space.