

## Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is the largest voluntary organisation in the two counties committed to improving conditions for all wildlife in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. As part of the UK Wildlife Trusts movement (a network of 47 local Trusts), they enjoy a collective national profile and influence, adding to their local strength. The Trust owns or leases 61 nature reserves, around 3000ha of land, and manages a further 3000 ha of mainly MOD land.

**The Trust's Vision is for living landscapes and seas, rich in wildlife and valued by everyone. Its Mission is to protect wildlife, restore biodiversity and to connect people with the natural world in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and its Aim to be recognised as the most active, inspirational, engaging, influential and authoritative local wildlife champion**

The Trust believes that achieving this requires a new approach to conservation, one that reconnects fragmented habitats and turns a landscape of isolated patches of natural habitat into one large area or network. The Trust will stand up for wildlife and the environment and inspire people about the natural world, encouraging people everywhere to take action for wildlife.

To bring the Trust's living landscapes vision to life involves managing not only its nature reserves, but working with others to restore, recreate and reconnect habitats. The Trust's experienced land advisers provide expert advice to farmers and land managers on wildlife friendly land management and its advocacy work promotes support for the Trust's vision through the planning system. In addition education, volunteering and community work helps to build support for the Trust's mission.

In response to the Estate's consultation, the Trust strongly believes that healthy ecosystems will deliver long-term viability of the countryside provided by land management and farming practices that protect and restore wildlife and habitat and ensure the sustainable use of water and soil resources. This needs to be supported by a society that fully rewards the delivery of environmental goods and services. The Trust recognises the steps that farming has taken to reduce its environmental impact and would like to see wide spread adoption of practices including integrated crop management and reduced cultivations that benefit farmland biodiversity. There needs to be an increased focus on local food and materials for local people, and a greater emphasis on the use of traditional and local livestock breeds. Managing for biodiversity should be an integral part of countryside management, allowing wildlife populations to recover and wildlife to spread into new areas and adapt to climate change

**We believe partnership working is essential to both the vision and mission and we want to fully engage with landowners and managers in achieving our goals. We want to see the countryside managed in such a way that it provides us with ecological security and the natural environment that we need for the 21st Century**