

NEWS RELEASE

19 October 2010
For immediate use

Play your part in nature's recovery

Hertfordshire residents are being encouraged to tell the government how important nature is to them, as politicians start to contemplate what could be the most important legislation on the subject for decades.

The government will publish its Natural Environment White Paper in Spring 2011 and views are invited until 30th October through an online survey. In order for wildlife to adapt to climate change and other pressures, the Wildlife Trusts want the government to ensure that this White Paper:

- Provides a framework to restore the health of wildlife and the natural processes upon which both wildlife and people depend, such as clean air and water
- Secures protection and enhances existing wildlife sites, both now and in the future
- Maintains momentum to implement the Marine & Coastal Access Act and identify Marine Protected Areas
- Supports people and communities to value, and take action for, wildlife

Judy Adams, chief executive, Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust said:
"We believe nature conservation is entering a pivotal time and we want the government to feel the weight of public support for more action, to put nature on a path to recovery.

"Everyone has a fundamental right to a healthy natural environment. We know many people within Hertfordshire beyond our 22,000 members have a passion for wildlife and so we want to encourage them to have their say too. This is an opportunity to make a real difference and help lay solid foundations for the future."



Herts & Middlesex

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How to help:

1. **Complete the Government's online survey:** '*An invitation to shape the nature of England*' by **30 October 2010**. Log on to <http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/our-responsibilities/nat-environment/>
2. **Contact your MP**—ask them to champion an ambitious White Paper to restore nature. Keep Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust in the loop.

For more information about why The Wildlife Trusts believe the White Paper is important and how individuals can make a difference, go to www.playyourpart4nature.org.uk

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Notes for Editors

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust

We are the leading voice for wildlife conservation in Hertfordshire and neighbouring areas. With 43 nature reserves spanning 1,900 acres, from beautiful woodlands and wetlands to rare patches of heath and orchard, we take practical action every day to help wildlife to flourish. The Wildlife Trusts are unique in being the only organisations that work to protect the full range of UK habitats and species, at a local level. <http://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/>

A Living Landscape is a recovery plan for nature, championed by The Wildlife Trusts since 2006, to help create a resilient and healthy environment rich in wildlife and provide ecological security for people. Living Seas is The Wildlife Trusts' vision for the future of the UK's seas. Within Living Seas, marine wildlife thrives, from the ocean depths to the coastal shallows. The Wildlife Trusts have more than 100 Living Landscape schemes covering at least 1.7 million hectares.

The Wildlife Trusts

We collectively manage 2,300 nature reserves across the UK covering more than 90,000 hectares, attracting around 6.5 million visitors each year. As well as protection, these sites need to be expanded and buffered, with connections and stepping stones created between them. This will enable species to adapt to a changing climate.

Contact for further information and high res images:

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