

## 1,000 trees need community help

**Photo opportunity:** Journalists are invited to attend on the day at Penn Wood, High Penn, off Oxford Road, Calne SN11 8RU.

The first tree will be planted at 11.00am by Michael Hill, chief executive of the Hills Group, the Town Mayor of Calne, Councillor Mrs Helen Plenty and Dr Gary Mantle MBE, director of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Green-fingered nature lovers, kids, adults, grandparents and anyone capable of planting a sapling are invited to help plant 1,000 trees on a new 24 acre nature reserve in Calne.

The community tree planting day will take place at Penn Wood, High Penn in Calne on Saturday 5 March from 10am to 2pm.

The event marks the final stage of the largest tree planting scheme of its type in Wiltshire that began in autumn 2009 when the Hills Group secured funding from the Forestry Commission to create a new nature reserve on a restored sandpit and inert tip.

Mike Hill, chief executive of the Hills Group, commented, "Everyone is welcome to come along and help create an English woodland and wildlife habitat for the whole community to enjoy."

So far 10,000 native trees including downy birch, oak, ash, blackthorn, lime and a few Norway spruce and Scots pine have been planted over 19 acres of the reserve.

Partners in the scheme, Southern Forestry and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, assisted Hills in planning the layout of the reserve to ensure a rich source of food for wildlife and insects and to improve the biodiversity of the area.

"As this woodland matures we would expect to find Nuthatches and Treecreepers in this newly created area," says John Rattray, head of adaptation at the Trust. "These shy birds will find this woodland a quiet haven

to develop and expand their numbers for the future. This new green corridor will enhance and secure the biodiversity of the area, helping to create a living landscape for the people and wildlife of Wiltshire.”

In addition to planting trees, visitors can explore the reserve and look out for signs of roe deer, badgers, kestrels, buzzards and owls - perhaps even spot a grass snake! There are hibernacula for slow worms, along with two ponds for frogs, toads, water living plants and creatures.

Southern Marsh Orchids and Common Spotted Orchids are flourishing on the site and wide rides (grass pathways) together with an area around the existing lake have been left unplanted to compliment the natural woodland habitat.

Once planting is completed, the nature reserve will be managed by the Trust.

Those interested in attending should contact Sue Wyatt on 01672 518918 or email [sue.wyatt@hills-group.co.uk](mailto:sue.wyatt@hills-group.co.uk)

## ENDS

### Additional information:

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult

Dogs are welcome but must be kept on a lead

There is limited wheelchair access (terrain is uneven and likely to be muddy)

### Notes to editors:

Established in 1900 The Hills Group Limited is a privately owned family company with a broad and successful portfolio of business activities which include recycling and waste management; quarrying of aggregates and production of ready-mixed concrete; and building new homes. It is a dynamic regional business which, while centred on Wiltshire, has stretched its boundaries into neighbouring areas. The Group has a turnover of £67 million and employs almost 400 people over 28 sites. [www.hills-group.co.uk](http://www.hills-group.co.uk)

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