

**NEWS RELEASE – Monday 22 October 2012**

**21 year partnership in print**

A 21 year partnership between The Hills Group and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust has been captured in a stylish new 12 page brochure.

‘Celebrating a unique partnership’ highlights the support Hills has provided to the Trust including the £6 million from the Landfill Communities Fund used to ensure that wildlife habitats are created and protected for future generations to enjoy in Wiltshire.



Children enjoy an educational field trip at Ravensroost Meadows, North Wiltshire, one of the reserves that have benefitted from Hills funding. Image credit: Steve Day WWT

Mike Hill, chief executive of The Hills Group, said: “Hills’ support of the Trust is driven by our commitment to give something back to the areas in which we operate. This unique partnership has ensured that communities throughout the county are able to enjoy beautiful open spaces and gain a better understanding of the natural world that surrounds them.”

Some examples of what has been achieved include:

- The return of otters to Wiltshire
- Funding for a project officer in the Braydon Forest area to the west of Swindon which has one of the richest wildlife areas in the UK
- Restoration of stretches of the River Ray in Swindon and River Avon in Salisbury to encourage greater diversity
- Conservation and restoration of 750 acres of chalk grassland – Wiltshire hosts 40% of the world’s resource
- Planting of over 10,000 trees to create a new nature reserve at High Penn Wood in Calne



- Thousands of children learn how to recycle and protect their environment whilst also experiencing the natural environment through visitor centres at Lower Moor Farm, Somerford Keynes and Langford Lakes, Salisbury
- Recognition of environmental commitment from local businesses through the annual Corporate Green Awards

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Director, Gary Mantle, commented: "Wiltshire is very fortunate to have a company like Hills operating in the county. Not only do they take their ecological responsibilities seriously but they are also generous in contributing to the protection and enhancement of the county's natural environment. Working together, we have been able to achieve a great deal in caring for our county; benefiting both wildlife and people. Vital funding from The Hills Group has helped to create eight new nature reserves which is a significant achievement."

A copy of the brochure can be downloaded from the Hills website [www.hills-group.co.uk](http://www.hills-group.co.uk) or printed copies can be requested through [www.facebook.com/HillsGroup](https://www.facebook.com/HillsGroup)

Notes to editors:

**The Hills Group Limited**

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 £76 million and employs almost 400 people over 28 sites.

[www.hills-group.co.uk](http://www.hills-group.co.uk)

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