

NEWS RELEASE – 16 May 2011

WOODLAND PRESERVED IN HEART OF VILLAGE

A tranquil woodland in the heart of South Marston village has been preserved as a natural environment and nature reserve for the local community to enjoy. Hills Homes has gifted the 1.55 hectares of woodland to the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust following the house builder's completion of a small development of five individual detached homes in St Julian's Close next to the reserve.

"This gift of the woodlands on the edge of our small development at St Julian's Close continues our close association with the Trust," said Nick King, group director of Hills Homes. "Natural spaces can be eroded by the development of our towns and villages but sympathetic development is key to our ethos and Hills Homes is keen to ensure that these special places are protected for future generations."

A gravel path laid along the perimeter of the woodland lets walkers explore the natural green space and a car park gives easy public access. The woodland is home to many indigenous plants and trees together with deer, foxes and other small mammals. It provides a haven for birds and butterflies and a boundary stream provides a ready source of water for resident wildlife.

Last year children from South Marston C of E School visited the woodland to discover what wildlife lives there and then use this knowledge to create drawings to inspire pieces of art. These will be interpreted by a blacksmith and mosaic artist with the resulting artwork installed along the pathway in the nature reserve. Five brass rubbings have also been created and these will be inlaid into oak posts and placed around the site.

The official opening of the woodland will take place this summer when the artwork has been completed.

ENDS



Image 1: Visiting the woodland are (l to r) Neil Pullen – senior community wildlife officer Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Dr Gary Mantle MBE - director Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Jan Pearce - site manager Hills Homes and Nick King - group director Hills Property



Image 2: The entrance gate to the woodlands with car park in foreground

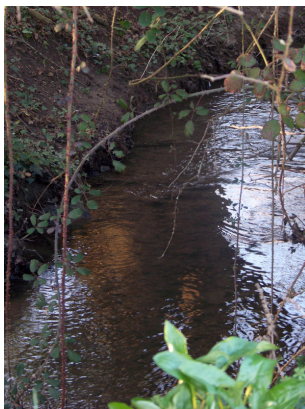


Image 3: A stream runs along the boundary of the woodland providing a source of water for wildlife

Notes to editors:

- Hills Property Limited, through its popular Hills Homes brand, has established a strong reputation for building high quality homes on carefully selected sites in Wiltshire and neighbouring areas – from major developments in large towns to smaller ones in rural towns and villages. www.hills-homes.co.uk
- The company is a recent winner of the 2010 LABC National 'Best small housing development' Award for its development The Old Dairy at Castle Combe .
- In addition to its own developments, Hills Property is also a successful contract builder.
- Hills Property Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Hills Group Limited, a privately owned family company established in 1900
- More information on the Hills Group is available at www.hills-group.co.uk
- The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is one of the UK's leading environmental charities, which recognises that the conservation of wildlife and preservation of the planet are inextricably linked, and works to promote a sustainable future for wildlife and people www.wiltshirewildlife.org

Media contact:

Monique Hayes, Communications Officer, The Hills Group Limited

Tel: 01672 518941 mhayes@hills-group.co.uk

FOLLOW US ON 

@HillsHomes