

PRESS RELEASE – July 2015

Visits to Langford Lakes Nature Reserve now more convenient.

On Saturday 25th July 2015, the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust celebrated the opening of new public toilets at their Langford Lakes Nature Reserve. The new facilities have been built as an extension to the existing lakeside building and are funded by The Hills Group through the Landfill Tax Communities Fund, the new toilets are a welcome addition to the facilities available at the reserve. These include five bird hides that offer stunning views over the lakes.

The toilets were formally opened by the Chairman of The Hills Group, Mr Alan Pardoe and the Chairman of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Mr Mike Hodgkins.

Speaking at the opening, Dr Gary Mantle, Chief Executive of the Trust said: “Building new toilets is not the most glamorous project for a company to sponsor, but these new facilities will make a big difference to the comfort of people visiting the reserve. We are very grateful to the Hills Group for their support.”



(l to r) Mr Mike Hodgkins, Chairman of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Mr Ian Burfitt, Director of Burfitt and Garrett Ltd, Mr Richard Coward, Chair of Steeple Langford Parish Council, Dr Gary Mantle, CEO Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, and Mr Alan Pardoe, Chairman of The Hills Group.

The opening of the toilets coincided with a public event at the nature reserve organised as part of the Trust's Wild Connections. The purpose of the project is to enable people of all

ages from a variety of different backgrounds to enjoy, connect with, learn about, and care for their local natural heritage.

The Hills Group are one of the sponsors of the Wild Connections Project. Mr Alan Pardoe, Chairman of the Hills Group said “ Hills is pleased to support the Trust in making its reserves more accessible. For many people, knowing that there are toilets at the reserve will make a big difference in encouraging them to visit and enjoy the extra ordinary wildlife and beauty of this site”.

Mr Hodgkin added: “the nature reserve is much loved by local people and regularly visited. As a Trustee it has been a delight to see how the site continues to be enhanced for both wildlife and people.”

The toilet block was designed by Wiltshire architect, Mr Derek Webb and built by Burfitt and Garrett Ltd of Shaftesbury. ENDS

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Notes to editors:

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust was set up in 1962 to campaign and take action to protect the natural environment. Since then the Trust has grown to become one of the UK’s leading environmental charities, working to create a sustainable future for wildlife and people. We are, moreover, the only organisation in Wiltshire which is concerned with all aspects of the environment. We are creating Living Landscapes by restoring, reconnecting and recreating wildlife habitats for both wildlife and people. We inspire and support people to live more sustainably and to improve health and wellbeing through contact with nature. We are supported by 18,000 members and over 1,000 volunteers. For more information please visit www.wiltshirewildlife.org

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Nestled in the Wylde Valley between Salisbury and Warminster, **Langford Lakes** is an ideal place for bird watching. The four lakes provide a vital stopping off point and resident habitat for about 150 different bird species. Since we acquired the lakes in 2001, we have created islands, ponds and wader scrapes that provide habitat for birds such as redshank and sandpiper that probe the mud for food. We have improved the 800m stretch of Wylde River for fish, designated a Special Area of Conservation. And we have transformed a neighbouring field into the Great Meadow wetland, which opened in September 2012.

www.wiltshirewildlife.org/Reserves/langfordlakes

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