

## PRESS RELEASE – July 2015

### Wiltshire's wildlife reserves get £270,000 funding boost from landfill tax

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is celebrating after receiving a generous donation of £270,000 from The Hills Group. Awarded under the Landfill Communities Fund, the funding will be used to help the Trust manage its 40 nature reserves across the county.

Dr Gary Mantle MBE, the CEO of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust said: "Wiltshire remains a national stronghold for both downland and lowland hay meadows. For 25 years The Hills Group has provided financial support for the Trust's nature conservation work. What started as a simple sponsorship agreement by a local company has matured into a unique relationship where the Wiltshire-based family-owned firm has provided support every year for 25 years to help protect, maintain and enhance Wiltshire's countryside and environment. Their generosity and consistent support has been hugely important in helping to keep Wiltshire special."

The funding from The Hills Group will be used by the Trust to care for its internationally important meadows and downland reserves like Morgan's Hill, between Calne and Devizes, Clattinger Farm near Malmesbury, and Coombe Bissett Down near Salisbury. Maintaining fences, hedges and ditches will also be achieved thanks to the support from Hills.

Over the past 70 years, a staggering 98 per cent of all meadows in Britain have lost their wildlife interest. Although most of the remaining meadows are now recognised as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, they need careful management to protect and maintain them.

Dr Mantle said: "This involves cutting for hay after the wild flowers have set seed and achieving just the right amount of grazing by livestock to keep the vigorous grasses at bay."



(l to r) Alan Pardoe, chairman, Mike Hill, CEO (both of The Hills Group) with Dr Gary Mantle MBE, CEO Wiltshire Wildlife Trust on a visit to Morgan's Hill Nature Reserve near Calne / Devizes, Wiltshire

At this time of year, the Trust's meadow reserves are at their best with many plants such as orchids in full flower and lots of butterflies feeding on the nectar. The Trust's nature reserves are some of the best examples in Britain of these wonderful havens for wildlife. Clattinger Farm was described by Prince Charles as "the most magical ancient series of wildflower meadows". Like all the Trust's nature reserves, Morgan's Hill is open all year round and there is free access to the reserve. Visit [wiltshirewildlife.org](http://wiltshirewildlife.org) for details. ENDS

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### **Notes to editors:**

**Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's** vision is to create a sustainable future for wildlife and people. We are unique in the county in combining the management of 40 nature reserves and working with local communities to promote sustainable living. The Trust is supported by 18,000 members and over 1,000 volunteers. For more information about the Trust please visit [www.wiltshirewildlife.org](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org)

**The Landfill Communities Fund** (LCF) is an innovative tax credit scheme that enables operators of landfill sites to contribute money to organisations enrolled with ENTRUST for use on projects that create significant environmental benefits, jobs and which improve the lives of communities living near landfill sites. [www.entrust.org.uk](http://www.entrust.org.uk)

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 £86 million and employs over 400 people at 28 sites. [www.hills-group.co.uk](http://www.hills-group.co.uk)



Common spotted orchid (left) and Fragrant orchid (right) are both abundant at Morgan's Hill Nature Reserve