



**Hampshire &
Isle of Wight**
Wildlife Trust



Arcadian

NATURE- BASED SOLUTIONS

Registered Charity Number 201081
Aerial photo Fishlake Meadows
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NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is a longstanding and active champion of our world-class wildlife heritage. We have over 25,000 members and supporters and have been in existence for nearly 60 years. We also have an established track record of managing and influencing land and have a large and growing estate – nearly 11,000 acres – which achieves multiple objectives for wildlife, people and the wider environment, in line with our charitable aims.

We have taken our land-based work to a new level and offer solutions for a range of environmental issues such as reducing pollution, ensuring net gains for biodiversity and tackling climate change. The game is changing and so is the Trust's approach. This prospectus sets-out our offer: practical solutions to the challenges faced by a multitude of partners, including developers and business. Land has multiple values and conventional approaches to land-use are being radically revised – we are ready to unlock that potential.

Together with our ecological consultancy, Arcadian, the Trust offers opportunities for a range of individuals, projects and businesses to deliver nature-based solutions which positively address their issues and aspirations and in so doing create a better place for nature and for people. This is part of our overall Wilder strategy to create a wilder Hampshire and Isle of Wight by 2030.



OUR OFFER

Rather than buying-into remote or generic projects, we are offering a local, meaningful set of solutions which enhance the environment and benefit communities as well as help ensure policy and legislative compliance. As long as your project adheres to the principles outlined below, our 'red-lines', the Trust can work with you to make it a reality in the following ways:

- Ecological Survey*
- Green Infrastructure & Masterplanning*
- The Building With Nature standard*
- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Local Carbon Offsetting
- Solutions for nutrient-neutrality
- Natural Flood Management

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is becoming the new norm for housing and other developments and is expected to be a legal requirement in the near future. BNG means not only avoiding losses of wildlife, it is about the industry doing its part to reverse continuing losses of wildlife to a level of at least 10% net gain. We have the skills to do this effectively and in addition to other statutory requirements.

Our approach is based on the government metric and complements the Nature Recovery Network. Most BNG can be delivered on-site and we can advise on the most effective way to achieve that. We are also leading the way in providing strategic off-site solutions to BNG – not simply offsetting in another region, but making enhancements locally and grounded in our nearly 60 years of managing land for wildlife. We have strong links with landowners and land managers in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and are well placed to deliver BNG both strategically and on a bespoke basis.



LOCAL CARBON OFFSETTING

If our nation is to realise its goal of being carbon neutral by 2050 (or sooner) we need to work at all levels to preserve existing stores of carbon in soils and natural habitats as well as capturing additional carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. We know which habitats are best at doing this and locally we need land and sea to play its part. By protecting, restoring and creating these habitats, while at the same time helping wildlife recover in the best locations, we offer carbon offsets – so called Natural Climate Solutions.

Land for Natural Climate Solutions needs to be secured for the long-term and appropriately managed – by working at scale, costs are significantly alleviated. We seek to work strategically and combine the impact of a range of projects to provide best value for money whilst providing an alternative to schemes which have little local benefit. We offer targeted solutions in the most beneficial locations, prioritising added value as standard, with an estimate for the carbon offset provided.

NUTRIENT NEUTRALITY

The Solent is failing its water quality standards and suffering the environmental consequences; as a result there are now statutorily binding requirements for new housing to be nutrient-neutral. We have launched a ground-breaking scheme to offset the nutrient pollution arising from new development, an issue which has led to a number of permissions for otherwise acceptable developments not being granted. The scheme, approved by Natural England and subscribed to by a growing number of Local Planning Authorities and developers, will provide a strategic and accountable land-based solution to reducing nutrients while at the same time providing multiple benefits for wildlife, people and the wider environment in perpetuity.

Through this scheme the Trust can acquire low-grade agricultural land within the catchment of the Solent and create natural habitats in these areas, immediately halting and reversing nutrient inputs. Development schemes which are otherwise acceptable, as well as Local Planning Authorities, are offered credits to ensure environmental compliance through the scheme. The calculations are transparent and based on standard government metrics. For enquires contact nitrates@hiwwt.org.uk



Lymington & Keyhaven Marshes

NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT

We are set to experience more flooding as the impacts of climate change take hold. In river valleys this can be avoided by slowing the flow of floodwater from land so as to prevent flooding to people and property downstream. There are different approaches to doing this, and in our chalk-dominated areas the impacts and potential solutions will differ from areas with clay for example. But the principles are the same: restoring natural habitats upstream of flood-prone communities can slow the flow of flood water and reduce flood risk, as well as avoiding pollution runoff, at the same time creating habitats for wildlife.

The Trust's land has already helped provide Natural Flood Management and where there is a market we are also keen to acquire and / or manage new land, or provide advice to landowners, to provide benefits downstream by slowing the flow.



OUR RED LINES

Working with the Trust on any of these schemes is not compatible with continuing harmful activities. Our Nature-Based Solutions are only a part of a journey towards increased sustainability, which we must all subscribe to.

Housing development is one area where there is especially intense pressure. We remain absolutely committed to the defence of the statutory conservation designations as a bare-minimum in the route to securing nature's recovery. In our two counties there are many highly designated sites for conservation and the unassailable first principle is that harm to these sites must be avoided. This is not just avoiding building on protected sites; it is the avoidance of indirect, off-site impacts too. Where a project cannot avoid impacts, it must mitigate or, as a last resort, compensate for them. Only once these steps have been satisfied can a project deliver true – and soon to be mandatory – Biodiversity Net Gain which is additional to this statutory approach. We subscribe to the industry-standard understanding of Biodiversity Net Gain which is underpinned by the mitigation hierarchy and accompanied by a set of robust guiding principles.

Furthermore we embrace the science which says that this is just the start – we also need to collectively invest in a Nature Recovery Network to enable wildlife to thrive once again. The Trust is calling for the space for nature to be trebled in our counties in the next decade, and we have mapped not just the areas that must be protected but key areas to invest in and secure opportunities within, creating a better future for the next generation.





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Getting in Touch

Our schemes can match the scale of your interest and we are able to work with everyone from individuals and communities, to projects that demonstrate Corporate Social Responsibility, through to bespoke major schemes for business.

If you would like to explore opportunities for Nature-Based Solutions, please contact Martin de Retuerto, Director of Projects & Services on 01489 774432 or martin.deretuerto@hiwwt.org.uk