

The Gowy and Mersey Washlands Living Landscape

Dear Cheshire Wildlife Trust Supporter,

I'm asking for your help with our major new plan, **The Gowy and Mersey Washlands Living Landscape**. We want to **restore, recreate and reconnect** floodplain grazing marsh in the River Gowy and River Mersey corridors.

Properly managed grazing marsh supports a wide variety of plants and animals and is especially important for over-wintering birds. We already manage some of the land but we want to link this up with more sites to create a major **'wildlife highway'**.

Our goal is to create a landscape where a resilient network of floodplain grazing marsh provides flood storage and control, together with high quality nature conservation which will be of benefit to wildlife, people and the economy.

If we're successful, The Gowy and Mersey Washlands **Living Landscape** could extend to over **2,500 acres** and become a model for natural flood management.

A Living Landscape for Cheshire

The Gowy and Mersey Washlands initiative marks the first stage in creating **A Living Landscape** for Cheshire. We have applied for grant funding for part of this scheme but in order to succeed we must raise the rest from private donations. This is where I'm hoping that you, our members and supporters, will help us.

Funding targets:

- **£25,000** – will **restore** 500 acres of natural floodplain
- **£50,000** - will **recreate** a further 500 acres of natural habitat as stepping stones for wildlife
- **£100,000** – will **reconnect** the rivers and their floodplains, providing a 2,500 acre wildlife highway.

What is A Living Landscape?

The main objective of **A Living Landscape** is to help wildlife to adapt to the threat of climate change, by connecting up existing natural habitats and developing new ones to create more robust wildlife havens. If we don't give our wildlife room to move around, a collapse in the diversity of species is inevitable.

A Living Landscape Benefits Us All

A Living Landscape will reconnect people with the natural environment. Schemes like The Gowy and Mersey Washlands initiative will reduce the frequency and severity of flooding incidents, protecting homes and businesses, while providing high quality nature conservation.

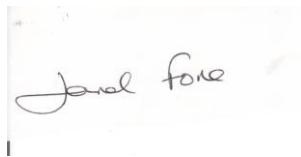
Good wildlife networks will also benefit our health and wellbeing. They will bring us closer to those things that are important to our welfare such as woodlands and wild flowers, butterflies and bees, the uplifting sound of birdsong, and the sight of hedgerows laden with blossom and berries.

Can You Help?

A Living Landscape is a long term plan but, as the saying goes, every journey starts with a single footstep. Can you help us to make a start? If so, you can use the secure **Donate Now** button to make your gift for **A Living Landscape** in Cheshire or, if you prefer, you can print off the form below and send a cheque.

Thank you so much.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janel Fone". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned on a light-colored background, possibly a piece of paper or a card.

Janel Fone

Chief Executive

PS: Creating **A Living Landscape** is a huge task – the biggest in the history of Cheshire Wildlife Trust – and it cannot be achieved without **your** help.

- For more information about **A Living Landscape** click on this link
http://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/documents/CWT_Conservation_Strategy.pdf
- To join Cheshire Wildlife Trust click here
http://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/join_now.html

I want to help create A Living Landscape in Cheshire and wish to give:

£10 £25 £50 £100 My preferred amount

Full Name.....

Address

.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....Email.....

Please return with your cheque to: Freepost RRZR-SJSX-RSGR, Cheshire Wildlife Trust, Bickley Hall Farm, Bickley, Malpas SY14 8EF. Please make cheques payable to Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

Gift Aid increases your donation at no extra cost to you

I am a UK taxpayer. I would like the Cheshire Wildlife Trust to reclaim the tax (currently 28 pence for every pound I give) on all my donations since 6 April 2000 and until further notice. I pay income tax at least equal to the tax the charity reclaims on my donation.

SignedDate.....

We will not give your details to any other organisations. The information will be held on our database so that we can keep you updated about aspects of our work that may interest you. If you do not wish to receive such information please tick this box.