

SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL

Announcement



Churchtown Farm Community Nature Reserve Secures It's Future with Saltash Town Council's Support



Nestled within the stunning Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve is a much-loved green space in Saltash, Cornwall, spanning over 150 acres of rich and varied habitats, including hay meadows, arable fields, woodland, wetland, scrub, rocky shoreline, mudflats, and a network of hedgerows that support a wide variety of wildlife.

Owned by Antony Estate and managed by Cornwall Wildlife Trust for the past 25 years, the reserve is farmed using traditional Cornish methods that support biodiversity and preserve the landscape's natural character. Since 2001, the site has also been supported by the Friends of Churchtown Farm, a dedicated local volunteer group working in close association with Cornwall Wildlife Trust and its Reserves Officer.

Following Cornwall Wildlife Trust's difficult decision to end their farm tenancy on 29 September, a new partnership between Antony Estate, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Saltash Town Council, and Friends of Churchtown Farm has been approved to ensure this important reserve is protected for future generations.

Callum Deveney, Director of Nature Recovery at Cornwall Wildlife Trust, reflected on the organisation's involvement, saying:

“Over the last 25 years, it's been inspiring to see Churchtown Farm grow into a vibrant greenspace at the heart of the Saltash community, and we are proud of the role Cornwall Wildlife Trust have played in its care. When we first began managing the site it had been used as a working farm, and over time we have restored its meadows, hedgerows and creeks into thriving habitats for a wide variety of species. It has been a privilege to witness this transformation into both a much-loved community space and a haven for nature.

While our formal management ends later this year, we are certain that the future of this special site is in safe hands, and we look forward to supporting the Friends of Churchtown Farm as they carry on this important work at the heart of their community.”

The Friends of Churchtown Farm is a community group of volunteers set up in 2001, who help protect and enhance the reserve's diverse habitats, supporting conservation efforts through regular volunteer activities and community engagement.

Bob Austin, Chair of Friends of Churchtown Farm, said:

“We are delighted to have worked alongside Cornwall Wildlife Trust for the past 25 years and pay tribute to their dedication to nurturing biodiversity, which has allowed the habitat to mature so richly.

An exciting new chapter is beginning, and the Friends of Churchtown Farm are looking forward to working with Antony Estate and Saltash Town Council. If you love Churchtown Farm too, please join the Friends and help us keep this special place a thriving haven for wildlife and a welcoming space for people to enjoy.”

Saltash Town Council is proud to play a key role in supporting the future of Churchtown Farm Community Nature Reserve, working closely with Antony Estate, Friends of Churchtown Farm, and wider stakeholders to protect and enhance this much-loved landscape.

Saltash Town Council working group shared their thoughts:

“The members of the working group for Saltash Town Council all understand how important Churchtown Farm is to our local community. We are pleased that we have been able to be part of shaping the future of the area and continued public access for our local residents working alongside Anthony Estate and Friends of Churchtown Farm.”

Mayor Cllr Rachel Bullock, who is also part of the Churchtown Farm working group says:

“Churchtown Farm is a cherished part of Saltash—both a sanctuary for wildlife and a place where our community comes together to connect with nature. This new partnership marks a significant step forward in securing the long-term future of the reserve, and Saltash Town Council is proud to be playing an active role. By working closely with Antony Estate, the Friends of Churchtown Farm, and Cornwall Wildlife Trust, we are ensuring that this extraordinary landscape remains protected, accessible, and thriving for generations to come.”

This collaboration reflects the community’s deep connection to the reserve and reinforces shared ambitions to restore its rich natural habitats, maintain its historic character, and ensure it remains a peaceful, thriving space for residents, visitors, and wildlife alike.

Please see below for some comments from Churchtown Farm visitors:

“No photo will do it justice, but just to say what a beautiful place Churchtown is both for dogs and owners. And anyone using this wonderful green space.”

“Never fails to impress me in all the years I have lived in Saltash, such beauty on our doorstep, well may it continue”

“Beautiful sky over the estuary, Churchtown always gives you something different like unveiling a new canvas each day”

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“Love my morning puppy walks up here in the morning. Always grateful for the abundance of nature around us!”

End.



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