

## Press release



## Launch of the Wicksteed Park Nature Reserve

The 1<sup>st</sup> of April saw the launch of a partnership between the Wildlife Trust, Wicksteed Park and the Revital-ISE project to develop a nature reserve at Wicksteed Park. The areas under restoration are the Water meadow and Castle Field. This work and ongoing management has been funded for 10 years by Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship scheme. The sites, owned by Wicksteed Park, will be managed in the long term by the Wildlife Trust. The Revital-ISE project is leading on the restoration work and a series of events are planned over the next six to nine months. Dr Robin Field, the Revital-ISE Project Manager, said 'this a very exciting project restoring a very rare habitat at the Water meadow and protecting a important historic site such as Castle Field, a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The Wildlife Trust is in the process of producing site interpretation and two reserve leaflets, one for each area. Jane Pearman, Reserves Manager said 'Restoration and protection of such an important and rare habitat makes this project unique in Northamptonshire'. They will be looking for volunteers to help with the day to day management of the site and plan several volunteer days at the reserve in the near future. Please contact Jane for more details.

The Wicksteed Trust has owned the land since the early part of the last century but did not know how important the water meadow site was. The nearest other water meadow restoration project is near Worksop in North Nottinghamshire. Oliver Wicksteed, Chairman of the Trustees, was delighted with the prospect of this new nature reserve at Wicksteed Park and how well it tied in with their plans for developing environmental education as part of their Heritage Lottery bid for the restoration of the park.

The list of events and guided walks can be found at [www.mrp.org](http://www.mrp.org) and if you would like to be involved in this nationally important project please contact the Revital-ISE Project at either: [mrp@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:mrp@northamptonshire.gov.uk) or by telephoning 01604-236764.

ENDS

Contact details:

Dr Robin Field, Revital-ISE Project Manager, River Nene Regional Park  
Tel: 01604 237243 email: [rfield@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:rfield@northamptonshire.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.riverneneregionalpark.org](http://www.riverneneregionalpark.org)

Contact details:

Jane Pearman, Reserves Manager, Wildlife Trust for BCNP  
Tel: 01604 405285 email: [jane.pearman@wildlifebcnp.org](mailto:jane.pearman@wildlifebcnp.org)  
Website: [www.wildlifebcnp.org](http://www.wildlifebcnp.org)

**Notes to editors**

**Revital-ISE Project**

The Revital-ISE project provides an outstanding opportunity for partnership working between landowners, land managers, local authorities, Government Agencies, environmental groups, and local communities to re-establish a high quality environment throughout the Ise Valley that meets the needs of a 21<sup>st</sup> century community. The Revital-ISE Project Manager post is part funded for four years by the Environment Agency and hosted by the River Nene Regional Park.

**The River Nene Regional Park (RNRP)**

RNRP is a Community Investment Company that is hosted by Northamptonshire County Council and can hold assets and land on behalf of the community. It is an independent organisation that was constituted under the framework of the Treasury's Green Book and is recognised as a Treasury model for the environment in relation to sustainable growth area funding delivery.

**RNRP Vision**

"By 2016 the RNRP partnership will be an independent, inclusive, reciprocal and beneficial partnership of public, private and third sector members. It will be nationally and internationally recognised as the centre of excellence for the piloting, co-ordination and delivery of regional sustainable development, addressing strategic issues such as Climate Change, the enhancement of local biodiversity and the innovative development of the environment as an asset for social development, education, leisure & recreation, heritage and cultural activity, and as a primary vehicle of economic regeneration."

**The Wicksteed Trust**

The Wicksteed Trust was established by Charles Wicksteed in 1916 to carry out his work after his death and to keep his dream alive. The Wicksteed Trust's charitable objectives are for the benefit of people resident, but not exclusively, in Kettering and its neighbourhood, in particular the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare to improve the conditions of life of the users of such facilities. The Trust continues to achieve its objectives by providing free access to open spaces conducive to health. These open spaces comprise gardens, an arboretum and parkland at Wicksteed Park. The operation of a leisure park through its wholly owned subsidiary company Wicksteed Park Limited. The leisure park is situated within Wicksteed Park.

**Wicksteed Park**

Wicksteed Park is one of the oldest leisure parks in the UK having opened in 1921 and is owned by The Wicksteed Trust. Based in 147 acres of parkland and lakes, there are 35 rides and attractions, regular daytime and evening entertainment, plus a caravan and camping site during the summer months.

**The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough**

Bringing people together to take action for wildlife is the Trust's mission. We manage 126 nature reserves - all of them free to visit - and 95% of the population live within five miles of one of our reserves. We are working to make these wildlife havens bigger, better and more joined-up - vital to help wildlife to adapt to a changing climate. By gathering valuable information about wildlife and working with other landowners the Trust also monitors and safeguards wildlife beyond the boundary of its reserves. [www.wildlifebcnp.org](http://www.wildlifebcnp.org)

