



**Hampshire &
Isle of Wight**
Wildlife Trust

Wilder Wight Communities

Tina Whitmore – Wilder Communities Officer (IW)



Wilder Communities (IW)

Encourage and support people in communities to come together to take action for nature and improve (for nature and people) the places that matter to them in ways they feel are important.





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How might this look?

- more wildlife friendly areas & small outdoor spaces created, enhanced & supported by the community
- shift in behaviours to reduce pressure on the environment
- 1 in 4 make a change, then we can help to tip the balance back in nature's favour

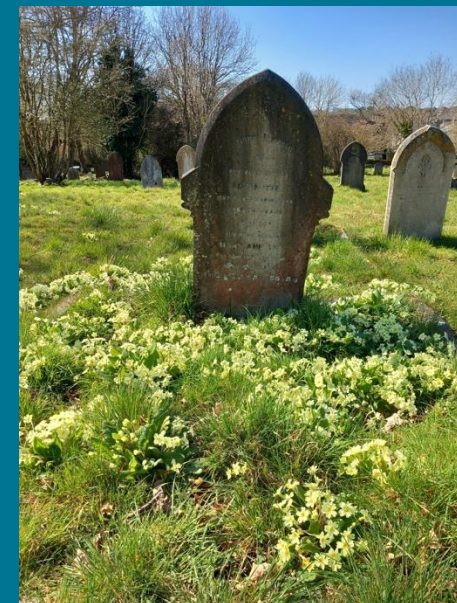




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Places of worship, churches, churchyards, burial grounds & nature

- Refuges for local nature and provide valuable greenspace (approx. 61 has / 151 acres IW)
- Churchyards often remnants of the older landscape (species rich grassland, veteran trees)
- Buildings can support important local species too e.g. bats, swifts, lichens.



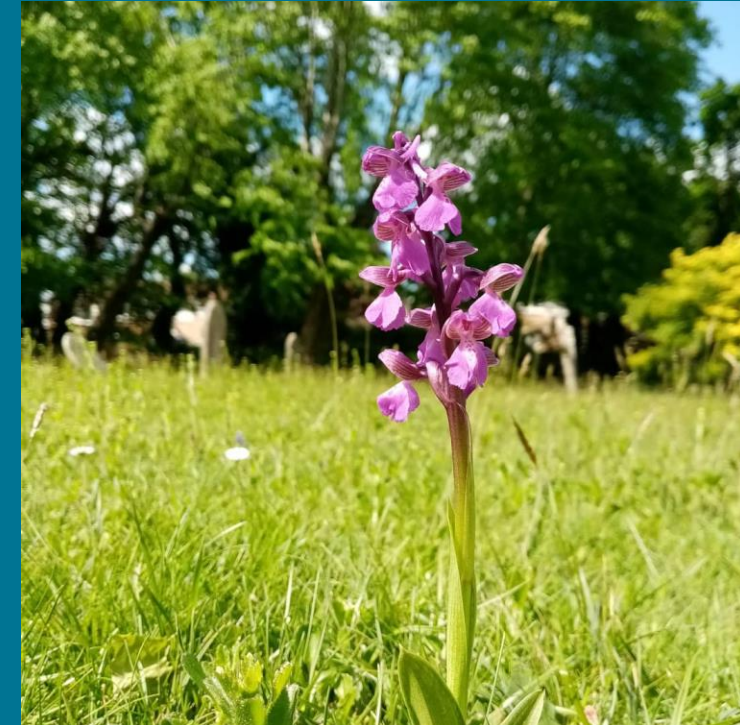


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How might this contribute to Net Zero?



- Enhancing local nature and boosting local biodiversity, supporting champion species and healthy ecosystems
- Carbon storing, urban cooling, flood mitigation
- Nature connection - mental health & physical benefits – strengthen community ties & build stronger links.

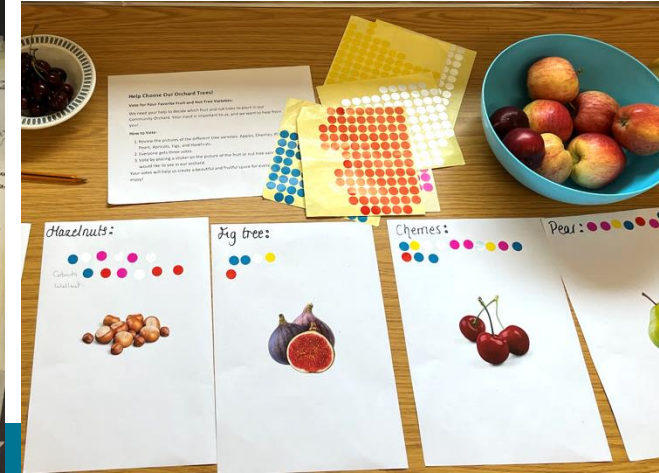




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We can help and support you with... for free!

- community listening / consultations
- species surveying and habitat mapping
- recommendations for enhancing your site
for people & nature
- planning and management for nature in your grounds
- connect and signpost e.g. to other groups / funding.





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Wilder Communities

Listen & help shape ideas

Support & empower

Take action for nature

Connect & collaborate





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Island Youth Nature Hub (IYNH)



Theo Vickers - Wilder Communities Super Champion (IW)

- new project seeking to support a new generation of Island naturalists and conservationists aged 12 - 16 years
- Sustainable, nature-focused platform led by young people for young people
- improve youth representation in island nature spaces
- develop regular opportunities to access and enjoy local nature
- help build networks, establish projects and make connections with professionals in the sector.





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