

Media Release from Alderney Wildlife Trust

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Alderney's community asked to identify the island's most important wildlife and places

The Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT) is inviting members of Alderney's community to share their thoughts on which of the island's animals, plants and places are important to them.

The questionnaire will launch on April 15th, and the AWT are hoping to hear from as broad a range of individuals and organisations as possible, both on and off island. The results of the questionnaire will feed into the AWT's Alderney State of Nature project.

This three-year project, launched in 2023 and funded by the Social Investment Fund Guernsey, aims to determine how key species and habitats on Alderney, and within its territorial waters have changed over time. The results of the project will be made available to anyone interested in the natural world. The assessment will also help ensure the AWT's conservation management is best targeted to the most important and effective actions in its reserves.

"Input we receive from the community is invaluable in guiding our research and conservation work" said Dr. Tara Cox, Senior Ecologist at the AWT. "Whether you're a seasoned naturalist or simply have a love for Alderney's natural beauty, we want to hear from you."

The questionnaire will be available for submissions from April 15^{th} to May 31^{st} . Participants can fill out the questionnaire online via **https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PNGTQMN**, or collect a paper copy from the AWT's information centre. The Alderney State of Nature team will also be hosting a drop-in session on the 27^{th} of April between 10am - 12pm at the Orangery at the Georgian House, where members of the community will have the opportunity to chat about the Alderney State of Nature project and can answer the questionnaire in person.

Background

About the Alderney State of Nature project

The Alderney State of Nature Project is a three-year project funded by the Social Investment Fund (SIF) Guernsey. The project provides funding for one full-time and one part-time member of staff until August 2026, as well as for hosting events and training for members of Alderney's community to help them get involved with biological recording.

This project marks a significant milestone in the AWT's continued work to study, champion, and protect Alderney's wildlife. You can read more about the project at <u>https://www.alderneywildlife.org/current-projects/alderney-state-of-nature</u>.

About the Alderney Wildlife Trust

The Alderney Wildlife Trust is one of the 46 <u>Wildlife Trusts</u> working across the British Isles. We are the youngest of the Wildlife Trust, forming 21 years ago and since then the AWT has received incredible support from a dedicated team of wildlife enthusiasts, what we like to think of as the 'TeamWilder'. This team isn't just limited to residents and AWT members, it includes people from all walks of life who have an interest in our island's wildlife, as well as supporters and organizations from around the world. We work with the local community to engage them with their natural environment in order to protect Alderney's wildlife for the future.

Our mission is to study, protect and champion Alderney's wildlife. We wish to see a thriving natural island where wildlife and natural habitats play a valued role in addressing our island's future and the climate and ecological emergencies that face us.

Alderney is a very special place and by helping the work of the Alderney Wildlife Trust you can make a difference. After all, if you love where you live, you'll want to look after it - Dr. George McGavin, Patron AWT

Notes to Media

For further information, please contact:

Tara Cox, Senior Ecologist ecology@alderneywildlife.org